LONG WAIT OVER FOR FAMILIES OF MISSING SOLDIERS

Family members of two soldiers of the 10th Mtn. Div. (LI) met with President George W. Bush on Memorial Day, 2008, to note the men’s status as the only ones “Missing-Casualties” in the war in Iraq (they had been listed as Missing in Action until earlier in the year when some of their possessions were found). On July 10 the long wait came to an end when the families received official notice from the Dept. of Defense that the bodies of the two men had been located.

Sgt. Alex R. Jimenez and PFC Byron J. Fouty had been missing since May 12, 2007, when their patrol was ambushed south of Baghdad. They were assigned to Company D, 4th Bn., 31st Inf. Rgt., 2nd Brigade Combat Team (BCT) and were kidnapped along with PFC Joseph Anzack Jr., whose body was found later in the Euphrates River.

During the past year, several family members have been involved in rallies and have visited others in the unit, which has now returned to Ft. Drum, to talk about their sons with their comrades-at-arms (“Blizzard” Edition # 1, 2008).

Among others who have worked to give hope to the relatives, Jim Waring of the family support group New England Care for Our Military said his members had a banner for the missing soldiers that read “Together they serve our nation and to-”

“They did come home together,” he said at the news, “just not the way we wanted.”

Dear Jeanie ...  
I t hasn’t been tough for me ...  
but rough on the boys”
Jean Shepard Mano (85-HQ-2)

I recently received a large box of letters written by my father, Captain William M. Shepard, to my mother, Jean Anger Shepard McGuire. They had been found hidden in the house in Oshkosh, Wisconsin, where she lived with my stepfather, Robert McGuire until his death in 1994 and then hers in 1996. The information, which I have summarized here, helps fill in details of the story told me by my mother and some of “Shep’s” fellow 10th Mountainiers, especially Marty Daneman, who were gracious in sharing their memories with me.

My parents met in 1941 in Niagara, Wisconsin, up near the Michigan border. He was from St. Paul, Minnesota, and she from Oshkosh, Wisconsin. He had a degree in mechanical engineering from M.I.T. and was working for the Kimberly Clark paper company. Armed with a teaching degree from UM, she was doing her best to convince the tough miners’ kids of the value of high school history. They had a lot of fun skiing and the usual. After they got engaged she, not regretfully, resigned her teaching position after one semester. He was called to Fort Ord, California, as a 2nd Lieutenant with the 32nd Infantry. She returned to Oshkosh and frantic plans began for her to join him to get married.

He wrote at length of the military activities on Feb. 21, 1942, “It has been interesting for me since we are studying the mechanics of the new type of guns, explosives, gases, protective equipment, motor vehicles, etc. We’ll have a good army when

(Continued on Page 4)
Editorial material and photographs should be clearly marked with the sender’s name and address. No photographs will be returned unless specifically requested. All materials should be sent to Felicity Hallanan, Blizzard Editor, 95 Zahrer Tract, Sandy Creek, NY 13145, or by e-mail to blizzarded@gmail.com. Opinions expressed in this publication reflect those of the magnificent soldiers of the 10th and do not necessarily conform to accepted journalistic standards. Editor reserves the right to rewrite, renege or refuse materials submitted for publication. Questions? Contact the editor at 315-387-2929 or by e-mail. Members should also feel free to contact National President Mike Plummer at 315-782-4178 or e-mail plummike@aol.com. Subscription rates for non-members: $20. per year.

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President’s Report
Mike Plummer (10th Mountain Division LI)

The Association’s Executive Committee (EXCOM) you elected in 2007, held its first meeting on 1 March, 2008 in Watertown, NY. The next EXCOM is scheduled for 8 November, 2008 in Watertown as well.

During the EXCOM an initial draft of the Association’s Strategic Plan was reviewed and a final draft produced. That draft has been reviewed by the Association’s Board of Directors (BOD) and their comments incorporated. It was sent out in May for BOD approval. It has now been approved and becomes the roadmap to shape our future.

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In order to afford the costs of the marketing campaign, we have reduced the cost of the “Blizzard” by more than half. So far comments have been favorable. I believe that at some time in the future our “Blizzard” will be solely electronic.

Regrettably, the EXCOM approved the closure of the Road Runner Chapter. Current members will join nearby Chapters. Chapters are reminded that the Association’s By-laws require EXCOM approval prior to disbandment and that the remaining Chapter assets will be transferred to the Association treasurer, Dan Murphy.

The Descendants have the lead in developing a list of all 10th Mtn. Div. monuments/ memorials and their locations and all future trips to Italy. Val Rios and Steve Coffey are pulling together the 2009 trip already (see article, this Edition).

Death notification process (tailored from that used by the New England Chapter). Please use the following to disseminate information about deaths of members:

A. Information about the date and place of death should be sent to “Blizzard” Editor Felicity Hallanan using her email address (blizzarded@gmail.com) and the Executive Director, Craig Boss, at his email address (cbosses@gmail.com).

B. Use the geographic section of the 2007 National Roster (p. 126) to notify members in nearby towns/cities of the date and place of the memorial service.

C. Suggest that the funeral director request an honor guard by calling the National Guard in the appropriate State or, if in CT, MA, ME, NH, NY (most parts), RI or VT, you can request a 10th Mtn. Div. honor guard by calling the Fort Drum Cotton Guards at 315.772.6465/3930.

Charlson Hunt, the Association’s art director, is stepping down after many years of distinguished service (if you have been to a National reunion you have one of the pins he designed). If anyone is interested in the position, please let me know.

The Association’s website is being upgraded and should replace the existing site by 1 August (www.10thmtndivassoc.org). While all of the current components will be retained, it will have the capability to accept credit card membership applications and renewals, Quartermaster purchases and donations to the 10th Mtn. Div (LI) Scholarship and Wounded Warrior Funds. The current and one year’s back copies of the “Blizzard” will also be available as part of our transition to an electronic media.

The $15,000 the Tenth Mtn. Div. Foundation granted the Fort Drum Chapter, for the Dick Wilson Wounded Warrior Ski Clinic 2008, can be used for 10th Mtn. Div. (LI) Wounded Warriors in your Chapter area participating in Mountain or Winter Sports Clinics. Some of it has already been spent but some 2008 funds are left. Let me know the soldier’s name and unit, nature of wound(s) and what Mountain or Winter Sports Clinic you are considering and estimated costs, and we will try to support until our funds are exhausted.

An update on current activities in your Division:

A. The 1st Brigade Combat Team (BCT), 4th BCT and the 3rd of the 17th Air Cav are still in Iraq (about 8,000 soldiers).
Welcome Home, Daddy!

There are elements of sameness in every war. The matter of families, particularly children, is one of those. Every time war means separations, there are losses, and changes. It’s one thing for adults to try to understand all that. But it’s another thing to try and explain it to the children.

In this edition of “Blizzard” you’ll read an extraordinarily touching account of letters exchanged by parents, as skillfully related by their daughter Jean Shepard Mano. Her father didn’t come home. In my case he did return, on my second birthday. Because my mother and grandmother had talked and shown pictures, he loved to recount later memories of being greeted with open arms and an excited “Daddydaddydaddy!”

And in today’s war it seems that not only parents but also military support groups are realizing the importance of preparing both children — and the absent parent— for their reunions. We talked recently with a mother and grandmother who were part of a group waiting at the Syracuse airport when a unit of the 10th Mountain Division (LI) returned from Iraq. She spoke of a sensitivity she observed on the part of the fathers who were meeting children who’d been born while they were away. “They didn’t rush to grab the baby,” she said. “In fact, there seemed to be an effort to avoid direct eye contact at first, and then when they did begin to talk to the child, especially if it was a toddler they would kneel down to be at the same level, and let the child initiate hugs, for instance.”

She wondered whether that dad had been through some “training,” as it were, to make that first meeting go better — and she was right. Volunteers at Ft. Drum’s new USO center tell me there are extensive efforts both before deployments and before the soldiers return, to help all involved with the transitions brought about by long months apart. Specialists talk with groups and individuals, and agencies reach out with various forms of assistance.

One of the more-creative offerings at the USO is the opportunity for a deploying parent to read and record books for their children to listen to while they’re away—a child born during Dad’s absence will already know his voice when he returns.

This, in addition to the wonders of communication through computers and other electronic devices. If you want to get some sense of what information is available to today’s military family, check out the extensive website, www.MyArmyLifeto.com—it’s a different time!

So surely there are other stories of homecomings and the children, from fathers, mothers and descendants in any of the wars in which the Division has played a part—and we hope you’ll let us hear and share them. Welcome home, Daddy!

PRESIDENT’S REPORT, CONTINUED

(From Page 2)

B. In May the Division HQ (1,000 soldiers) deployed to Iraq. Under the command of Maj. Gen. Michael Oates, they have replaced the 3rd Infantry Division in South Baghdad for a 15-month tour. The 10th Combat Aviation Brigade and 10th Sustainment Brigade will follow in October for a 12-month deployment and I expect the 3rd BCT to deploy to Iraq in early 2009, followed by 2nd BCT later in the year. If you or some school, Scout troop, business or civic organization you know of is interested in adopting one of these platoons, please email me at plummike@aol.com and I’ll send you some information on the Adopt-a-10th Mtn.-Platoon program.

C. To date the Division has had 140 KIA and over 1,400 WIA. You can support families by supporting the 10th Mtn. Div. (LI) Scholarship Fund (www.10hmtndivassoc.org or www.10thmtndivscholarshipfund.org). You can also support the fund by purchasing an engraved brick to honor someone of your choice; it will be placed at the foot of the military Mountaineer statue at Fort Drum.

D. There are over 385 wounded and injured soldiers in the Warriors Transition Unit, 3rd Battalion, 85th Mountain Infantry. If you would like to help provide our Wounded Warriors with 10th Mtn. Div. logo items such as bathrobes, hats, tee shirts and tear-away jerseys, please send donations to: Fort Drum Chapter.

CLIMB TO GLORY!

10th MOUNTAIN DIVISION RESOURCE CENTER
CAMP HALE’S DEMISE CHRONICLED IN RECENT ACQUISITION

Dennis Hagen

Recently, our intrepid Webmaster, David Little, uncovered an extraordinary manuscript that describes the dismantling operations at Camp Hale. He graciously donated it to your Resource Center. While most 10th Mtn. Div. veterans know the story of the camp’s construction, the dismantling seems to be far less familiar. With this in mind, I’d like to explore this new acquisition. Here in the archives of the Denver Public Library, we call these finds “hidden treasures.”

I. Hunter Carroll, a safety and sanitation inspector at Camp Hale, created the dismantling report. We don’t know much about Carroll’s life, so we would welcome any biographical assistance or background information that our “Blizzard” readers might provide. Carroll’s papers deal primarily with safety and accident prevention measures taken during the dismantling process. Nevertheless, his report includes numerous excellent photographs and many interesting tidbits of trivia.

Early in 1945, the Army determined that it had no further use for Camp Hale. However, with the war still raging, and with construction materials in short supply, numerous other military installations throughout the country desperately needed the pieces and parts that the facility could supply.

Dismantling and salvage operations began on February 23, 1945, under the direction of the Army Corps of Engineers: 795 structures, including barracks, mess halls, storerooms, stables, warehouses, chapels and theaters were slated for salvage. Lumber, wallboards, electrical wiring, pipes and all manner of construction supplies were stripped and stacked for shipment to other military posts.

Interestingly, some 2,900 German prisoners of war performed most of the work. Carroll’s report details the almost insurmountable language barriers that civilian contractors faced in supervising the prisoners. He also laments that many of the prisoners knew nothing of construction work, and were “not considerate” of their fellow workmen, resulting in many accidents.

Dismantling operations began with the camp under three feet of snow. Temperatures ranged from 20 degrees above zero to 20 degrees below for the first several weeks. These conditions will, of course, come as no surprise to those who experienced the “D-Series.” Once the weather warmed, melting snows produced a sea of mud, which hampered the work almost as much as the cold.

Carroll’s report provides no details on the duration of the dismantling process. It also fails to indicate which military facilities received portions of Camp Hale’s legacy. Nevertheless, the report provides valuable insights into a sad chapter in Camp Hale’s history.

We are confident that many more “hidden treasures” remain to be unearthed. If you believe you have documents, photographs, reports, diaries, orders or anything else of potential historical value, please contact the 10th Mountain Division Resource Center. We would love to see what you have.

FORT DRUM HERITAGE CENTER
STAFF LIKE TO HAVE FUN AT WORK

Kent A. Bolke

One day during the long winter, the curator, soldiers, and volunteers from the 10th Mtn. Div. & Fort Drum Historical Collection along with their mascot Chuck the Museum Gopher, entered a cardboard sled in the 3rd Annual Snow Flake Rally race.

Inspiration for their sled came from the M-29 Cargo Carrier, Weasel, which is on display at the museum.

Awards were given in several categories, but unfortunately Team Weasel brought home none of them. Even with the disappointment of not winning a trophy and the fact that Team Weasel had problems making it to the bottom of the hill, fun was had by all and the team proved that just because you work in an Army Museum does not mean you can’t have fun.

Kent Bolke, Curator, Ft. Drum Heritage Center, Building 10502, South Riva Ridge Loop, Ft. Drum, NY 13602. kent.bolke@us.army.mil; 315.774.0355

VISIT THE 10TH WEBSITE

www.10thmtndivassoc.org
“Dear Jeanie...

Now if we could only start spending a bit of that life together.”

(From Page 1)

we get everybody trained and fully equipped like they should and soon will be. It is the general consensus here that it will be a long struggle... and people are going to have to give up a lot more than they ever thought possible..."

And on March 12, 1942, about the wedding, “I don’t know if everything has been covered or not. I certainly hope so and that you can get here on Friday in case of any contingency. I’ll bet you’re in a awful tizzy now with packing etc. etc. and imagine your mother is even worse off. I’m not much good right now thinking about it, but I’ll never be happier. You see I kind of love you, Jeanie, and right now you are just everything there is to me...”

My grandparents and my mother took the train to California, arrived on time and found the papers in order. The wedding took place on Saturday, March 21, 1942 in the chapel at Fort Ord. After a nice honeymoon in San Francisco, she settled in at San Luis Obispo while he engaged in desert maneuvers near Needles until Oct. 1942.

Then back to Fort Ord, and she made a home for them in nearby Carmel, evidently with other military personnel, some of whom became lifelong friends. This from Nov. 42 until March ’43. Then his APO address became Seattle; she was not to know where he was and his letters were censored. As careful as he was, some of them have words and phrases cut out. But she knew he was on Attu, where he would be until the end of August ’43, not so much fighting as cleaning up after the Japanese occupation there. “I’ve been very healthy except for skinned knuckles, cut hands and smashed fingers from fooling around with machines... I know now what I want to do after the war... the Shepard Construction Co. and others are just walking around with machines...”

... after D-Day.

My father and the 10th Mtn. Div., much to everyone’s dismay, were then sent to Camp Swift, Texas. “We were in the field Wed. and Thurs. and nearly everybody here has some poison oak. Some are in the hospital and others are just walking around all plastered up.” Aug. 25, ’44.

The long-awaited day finally came — my arrival on Oct. 19, 1944. “I’m so happy both of you are all right. I’m about ready to bust. I was out on a hike and a jeep came tearing up looking for ‘Lt. Shepard, an emergency call!’ That didn’t help me but tears were running down my face. ‘I’m happy to see you, sir,’ said the man’s voice, he guessed your dad, who was in the hospital and others are just walking around with machines...”

I spent a couple of hours waiting for my call to get through. Everybody got a big kick out of me except me.”

He got a leave to come to Oshkosh on Nov. 13 and it was quite an occasion. He later wondered why his daughter had found him so funny when we met. Dec. 2, ’44: “I received the pictures yesterday and they are wonderful. I didn’t think the joker was that good but Snooks really got a kick out of it. Guess it was just the sight of her old man.”

So much for jokes. He was promoted to Captain, something he had wanted for a long time, and by the end of December was on the USS West Point, headed for Italy. He was responsible for the morning reports on the ship, which arrived in Naples on Jan. 13, ’45. The troops boarded trucks on Jan. 16 for the Po Valley. About Italy, he wrote, “The Italian situation here is very pathetic. The countryside is beautiful but civilized places have suffered greatly from the horrors of war. Rubble is a new word that describes the condition of any man-made structure. The people were driven into a state of extreme poverty and they have lost any pride they may have had.”

He turned 26 on Jan. 21, 1945, and on the 27th, wrote of his situation, “My set-up is very comfortable now. I have a bed, air mattress, wash bowl, bath tub (no running water), heat sometimes, light sometimes, practically free from danger, and food is as good as can be expected.” My mother’s letters, of course, contained descriptions of my many exploits and he always reacted to these with gusto.

He later was awarded the Silver Star, according to General Order Number 74 of the Headquarters of the 10th Mtn. Div., “For gallantry in action on 21 February 1945, near Cappla di Ronchididos, Italy... Observing that his platoon was unable to beat off the (enemy) attack, he boldly made his way through the fire, at great risk to his own life, to go from foxhole to foxhole, rally the men, and literally push them into action. When the platoon leader was killed, Captain Shepard took over complete leadership of the group, aggressively fighting until the counter-attack was broken up...”

But his letter of 26 Feb. understates the situation: “I have been very healthy the last week or so. It hasn’t been tough for me, naturally, but rough on the boys. They did a grand job, however. I just climbed hills, went without sleep, went down hills, froze, and worried. Otherwise performed as a back seat driver adjutant should.”

Still busy on 12 March, “I got a job to keep me out of trouble, that of setting up a Battalion Rest Camp. I am trying to dig up things to improve their morale. I like anything that keeps me occupied outside... This is a beaten enemy and a weakened one that the Division is fighting.”

The previous December, his sister Elizabeth’s husband, Bill Perry (father of Toots), whose division was already in Italy, had been seriously injured, especially his face and jaw, in a jeep accident. First the family thought he would be sent home but he recovered enough to rejoin his unit. My father was keeping his eyes open hoping to see him. On 20 March, “I ran into Bill Perry under circumstances you write home about. We spent several hours talking, had supper together and made tentative plans for getting together again. He has two bottles for heroism on April 10 near Mt. Della Spe, one and one small. Tomorrow we hope to get ahold of two generators, one huge and one small. Tomorrow we hope to have electric lights in everybody’s room or fox hole.”

He later was awarded the Bronze Star for heroism on April 10 near Mt. Della Spe, but his letter of that date only talks of mundane matters, “My generator is running beautifully and with complete success. It kind of tickles me to see regiment operating by candle and lantern while we have flashy on-again off-again lights in every room — even for the GI’s in the company.”

Then, on 15 April, 1945, in the time it takes a bomb to explode, it was all over. No more generators, dirty hands, Shepard Construction Company, chortling over Snooks’ antics, making plans for the future. Heartbreakingly, nine letters my mother wrote to him, mostly full of news of me and her daily activities, were returned marked “Deceased.”

There follow numerous letters of condolence, many saying what a joy and comfort it will be for her to have me — a big responsibility for a six-month old! A letter from his friend, Major Wade Watson states, “Jean, I feel you will want to know all of the details so I will tell you as best I can. Our attack was spearheading the general offensive in Italy. We jumped off the morning of the 14th April in the area of Castel d’Aiano. Bill’s battalion had the objective of a hill north and west of there. The area was heavily mined and fortified. The attack progressed very slowly with the heaviest casualties of the division. When night came, Bill started moving the battalion up closer to the outfit. The trail he took was one used by other troops and mule trains. He stepped off the trail to help one of his men who had been injured by a mine. He stepped on a mine. He was killed instantly with wounds in the chest and abdomen. He suffered no pain and if he had to die, Jean, it was an easy way.”

I close with words from a letter written by another friend, Lt. John W. (Jesse) James, “I cannot hope to fully express my personal grief nor can I hope to relieve your own sorrow, yet I feel it my duty, since I was with Bill when he was killed, to write and tell you that Bill died quickly and without suffering... Bill’s death was a great shock to all the officers and men in the Regiment. His courage and bravery, exhibited in previous actions, were a constant source of admiration of all of his fellow soldiers.”
GREAT MANGART SKI RACE IS NOT FORGOTTEN

Brig (Ret.) Janez Kavar

After graduation at the U.S. Army War College in 1996, I visited Colorado and Ski Museum in Vail. There I found Flint Whitlock’s book *Soldiers on Skis*. With pleasant surprise I found in the book some pictures from Mount Mangart, mountain of my own country Slovenia. And there was a facsimile of *Blizzard’s* first page from June 10, 1945, too. I read a title “Prager Wins Division’s Giant Slalom.” With magnifying glass I recognized the date and place of 10th Mountain Division’s ski race – June 3, 1945, at Mount Mangart.

It was not easy to locate place of the race on the mountain. After decades of “green winters” there is no more snow on the slopes of Mangart mountain in June. There are many possible ski slopes on both Italian and Slovenian side of the mountain. People from the nearest Soča Valley still remember well 10th Mountaineers from the period after the end of WWII, but nobody still remembers such detail as if there was a ski race on Mont Mangart.

With the help of Mr. Dennis Hagen from Denver Public Library, few months ago I got a copy of mentioned *Blizzard* and some pictures in connection with the race. My little search turned to be much easier. I found the slope of 10th Mtn. Div. Ski Race from June, 1945, close to the peak of Mount Mangart (2679 m or 8927 feet) on the west waste of the mountain, with the altitude of about 2000 meters.

There are some details of the race in *Blizzard*: about 500, 10th Mountaineers watched the race which was very difficult; only 25 of 76 runners crossed the finish line. F/Sgt Walter Prager (Hq 3rd, 87th) won the race with 1:05.2, ahead of Capt Steve Krupa (Hq 80th) with 1:11.4 on second place and Pfc Sig Engl (G 87th) with 1:13.4 as a third.

Mangart’s race was some kind of fine selection for the contemporary American skiing competition on Austrian Mount Grossglockner, on June 24, 1945. Walter Prager was the winner of Grossglockner race, too.

Mount Mangart is located above the Slovenian village of Log pod Mangartom, close to Italian and Austrian border line. With the membership of all three countries in the European Union, the border is only a line on the maps now, with no more border checking points, etc. Log pod Mangartom was catastrophically destroyed on November 11, 2000, when a landslide stormed down from under Mount Mangart and buried 7 people, 5 houses, 4 farm buildings and damaged 9 buildings. The village is renewed now with real Slovenian Alpian spirit. With cooperation of local people from Log pod Mangartom Slovenian, IFMS is preparing a small exposition at village’s Community Centre on the 10th Mtn. Div. Ski Race from 1945 on Mount Mangar, opening in June, 2009.

So, the spirit of 10th skiers from Mount Mangart is still alive in Slovenia. I will be glad to get some contributions and memories from veterans — participants of the race.

Brig (Ret.) Janez Kavar, Slovenia
Pod slemenom 7, SI – 4294 KRIZE, Slovenia, E-mail: kavar@sid.net

Ed Note: Correspondence like this brightens the heart of an editor. We look forward to hearing from others who remember the Great Race!

INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS TRIP OFFERS CHANCE TO SEE SPAIN

John Duffy (86-HQ-2)

This Fall’s IFMS Congress in Jaca, Spain, will include the traditional gathering of international members. But much more is planned, and it is open to all interested members.

To date about 22 people have indicated interest in making the trip. Our tour company, InterTrav, has been doing our Italy tour to the battlefields for many years with the exception of the 2000 Italy trip. Their staff, both in the U.S. and Italy, know many of us and treat us well.

In September 2007, I asked them to arrange for my trip to the IFMS Congress meeting in Poland and also to the Town of Torbole, Italy, for the opening ceremonies of a 10th Mountain exhibit the town had planned. This-10 day tour developed into a small group of 15 and we had an enjoyable time visiting Tuscany and Poland—so much so that Gerry Nash convinced me that we should repeat it for the IFMS Congress that is being hosted by Spanish mountain soldiers.

This tour promises to be just as memorable, with a wide range of stops being considered including Madrid, Toledo, El Escorial and the Valley of the Fallen, Zaragoza near Jaca, and the possibility of side trips to Avila and Segovia.

The more Veterans and Descendants that join our 2008 Spain & IFMS Congress tour, the more the cost for a tour bus and other costs will be reduced. So I encourage more to join us! At this time InterTrav is unable to put a price on the package. We expect to have a better handle on the count and the price after August 1. Please contact me at 718.591.7775 or j.duffy@worldnet.att.net for details.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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<td>Luncheon</td>
<td>Seattle Yacht Club</td>
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MEMORIAL BRICKS SURROUND MOUNTAINEER STATUE

Memorial bricks sold by the Ft. Drum Chapter are laid around the Mountaineer statue in front of Division Hq. Last year a portion of profits provided 5 scholarships of $5,000 each to eligible soldiers and family members.

- Photo, Hannah M. Hayner

B. Dufresne
Barbara Hensley - Army Daughter - 1940 Pine Camp
LTG P G Cerjan - ADCS
10th Mt Div - Mar '85-
June '87
CPT R B Hensley - 45th INF
Div - 1940 Pine Camp
Hamblin Family - 1955-
1985 - 53 Years Mill Svc
Nate Nygaard - LTC (RET)

- U.S. Army, MSC
In Honor of Mrs. Judy Rose - 6-6-6FW Ladies
CSM Tony Aila - 1st BN
CSM - 277th ASB 05-07
GOD BLESS THE 10th MT
Div - CLIMB TO GLORY
COL F Monaco and Family
1986-1992
In Honor of Kyle Smith -
"THE PUNISHER!"
Mike & Judy Rose - 10th
CAB - Jul 05-Aug '07
LSG David Huban - HHC
1-87 OIF, OIF - & Nicole
Huban
Ted Beuchert - PFC Ordin-
nance - WWII 1944-1946
Jason E. Clark - SPC MP
GIMTO 2004/05
I John A. Clark - 1LT FA
- 2/116 FA BN
Ed. Richardson - MTG Coach,
Co - H - Kiska, Italy, 'Nam
Albert Coffey - 87F WWII
Coffey Family
UPSTATE NY CHAPTER,
10th Mtn A
LTC G Pearsall
BNO/BDE/OIG - So-
malia/Haiti
COL R R Babbitt - BDE &
2-14INF - Jul '95-Jul '92
In Memory of COL R E Bruch
- XO/2-14 90-91
O. Covington 10th Mt - B
Covington G son
COL (RET) & Mrs. Terence Roche
- GC 1984-1986
Bill Morrison - UPSTATE
NY - 10th Mtn Ass'n
BNQ - CPT Forsyth
- 2005-2007
Vernon Beatty - DCR
710BSB BN - 2004-07
OEVFV
David Bushey - 4-25FA BN
CDR - 2-14INF 07 OEVFI
NOT FORGOTTEN - LTC
Lee Grubbs & Family
CTG!
LTP C Wright - DIV Chap-
lain - 2004-2007
Liddell Family - Dave, Gre-
ta, Caitly & Amanda
The Serota Family - 10th
CCT AVN BAE
Edwin A. Smith - 2-15FA
HHR OF6-8 - LET'S GO!
LTC Impavido & Family
- 10th SSBB - CTG!
Coach, Co H - Kiska,
2/116 FA BN
CPT R B Hensley - 45th INF
Div - 1940 Pine Camp
Hamblin Family - 1955-
1985 - 53 Years Mill Svc
Nate Nygaard - LTC (RET)
In Memory of SPC Burkart
James Moudy, SFC (1-71
P AGE 6 BLIZZARD 2008 NUMBER 2
nance - Mtn Paymasters
1985-1987
- Ft. Drum 2007
geon - June '04-June '07
Pam
Recon! – CSM Morris &
2002-2004 – 1BCT 2006-
Mtn. - WWII 1942-1944
Adam G. Mooney
Mtn. – Iraq 2007
1985
10th
86-04 – 1BDE + HHC,
CG 97-99
MSGR Roeltgen –
1947-2002 – Washing-
ton, DC
Bob Sweeney - 1924-2007
Cleveland, OH
Evelyn O'Malley - 1903-
1944 – Cleveland, OH
Bob O'Malley - 85L 10th Mt
Div - Cleveland, OH
John Felice Sr. - 1909-
1983 – Cleveland, OH
Mary Felice - 1911-1963
- Cleveland, OH
Skip Felice - 1933-1993
- Cleveland, OH
Tony & Kim Crutchfield
Falcon 06 OEFIV
Georgia Hensley - Army
wife & Mom - 1940 Pine
Camp
CPT B Speakes - A TRP 1-
71 CAV - SCOUTS OUT
COL M T Plummer - CS,
CPT C Center – ATRP 1-
CAV - (PACK) VALOR
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71 CAV - SCOUTS OUT
COL M T Plummer - CS,
Bradley, SSGT Juantextarea Sr. “Trea”, 28, (7th Spec Trps Bn, 7th Sus Bde), March 12, 2008, Talil AB, Iraq. He is survived by his wife Ava Lanette, 3 sons, a daughter, his father, stepfather, one brother and 2 sisters. He was born in Pitt County near Greenville, NC, where he attended school and was a member of the Baptist Church. He entered the Army in 1999, completed basic training at Ft. Jackson, SC, and advanced individual training at Ft. Benning, GA. A career specialist, he served in Miesau Army Depot in Germany, Hunter Army Airfield, GA, and most-recently was assigned to Ft. Eustis, VA. He had served a tour in Iraq and in Kuwait, and had received several awards and decorations.

Duffy, SGT Shane Padraig, 22, (1-87 INF, 1st BCT), June 4, 2008, Hawaii, Iraq. He is survived by his wife Jamie L. (Plamondon), an infant daughter, his parents, 2 sisters and a brother, his grandparents and several aunts and uncles. Born in Pawtucket, RI, he grew up in Taunton, MA. He was assigned to Ft. Drum, NY, in 2004 and served his entire military career in the same unit. He was on his second tour of duty and had just returned to Iraq after visiting family in May when he was killed in a small-arms attack. He had received several awards and decorations.

Emard, SPC Jonathan David Arthur “JD”, 20, (1-87 INF, 1st BCT), June 4, 2008, Sharqat, Hawija, Iraq. He is survived by his parents, a sister, his paternal grandmother, and a niece. Born in Dallas, TX., he grew up in Garland and Terrell, playing football & soccer and participating in teen theater productions. He entered the Army in 2006 at the age of 17 and completed basic and advanced individual training at Ft. Benning, GA. An Airborne Ranger, he was assigned to Ft. Drum in 2006. When he visited his family in April his sister moved her wedding date so that he could participate. Awards and decorations included Purple Heart, National Defense Service Medal and Combat Infantryman Badge.

Huerta-Cruz, SPC Arturo, 23, (10th Bde Sup Bn, 1st BCT), April 14, 2008, Tuz, Iraq. He is survived by his parents, Maria del Carmen and Pascual, of Clearwater, FL., a younger brother, maternal grandparents and other family including nieces and nephews with whom he enjoyed playing soccer. He was born in Ixmiquilpan in the Mexican state of Hidalgo and died before being able to become a citizen of his adopted country. He entered the Army in 2006 and completed basic and advanced individual training at Ft. Leonard Wood, MO. He was on his first deployment from Ft. Drum, NY, to the Kirkuk area of northern Iraq; two other soldiers from his unit were also injured in the attack with an improvised explosive device (IED).

Fouty, PFC Byron J., 19 (D Co, 4th BN, 31 INF, 2 BCT), family notified of death July 10, 2008, Jurf as Sakhr, Maimoudiya, Iraq. He had been Missing in Action since his capture May 12, 2007; an Iraqi translator and 4 other Americans from the same unit were killed in the attack, and 2 others in the unit were also kidnapped. He is survived by his mother and stepfather of Walled Lake, TX, and his stepfather and a stepsister of Waterford, MI.

Hurst, SFC David Raymond, 31, (2-30 INF, 4th BCT), June 7, 2008, Baghdad, Iraq. He is survived by his father & stepmother of New Orleans, LA, 2 brothers, a sister-in-law, nieces and nephews. From Ft. Sill, OK, he enlisted in 1996, completed basic and advanced individual training at Ft. Benning, GA. Assigned first to 2nd Bn, 5th INF Rgt, Schofield Barracks, HI; also served with 82nd ABN Div. A basic training drill sergeant at Ft. Sill, he was reassigned to Ft. Polk, LA, in Dec. 2007. Deployments had included to Panama, and twice to Iraq. He had received numerous awards and decorations during his Army career.

Jimenez, SPC Alex R., 25 (D Co, 4th BN, 31 INF, 2 BCT), family notified of death July 10, 2008, Jurf as Sakhr, Maimoudiya, Iraq. He had been Missing Action since his capture May 12, 2007; an Iraqi translator and 4 other Americans from the same unit were killed in the attack, and 2 others in the unit were also kidnapped. He is survived by his parents and others. The family was originally from the Dominican Republic; he was born in Lawrence, MA, and had wanted to follow in the footsteps of family members who served in the military of his parent's home country.

Legg, SGT Cody R., 23, (1-87 INF, 1st BCT), June 4, 2008, Sharqat, Hawija, Iraq. He is survived by his father, mother and stepfather, and 5 stepbrothers. From Escondido, CA, he played on the baseball team; after graduating, he joined the Army in 2003 and completed basic and advanced individual training at Ft. Benning, GA. His first assignment was with 2nd INF Div. at Camp Casey, Korea. He was reassigned to Ft. Drum in 2004 and had served one tour in Iraq. He had received several awards and decorations, and had spent much of May home on leave with family and friends, going to Disneyland and Padres games. Flags at the state capitol were flown at half-mast in his honor by order of California Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger.

Matthews, SPC Marcus Cale, 26, (F-94th Bde Sup Bn, 4th BCT), April 28, 2008, Baghdad, Iraq. He is survived by his wife, Julia, parents and step-parents, brothers, a grandmother, and other family members. A native of Zephyrhills, FL, he was stationed at Ft. Polk, LA, had served one tour in Afghanistan and was serving his second tour of combat duty in Iraq. A brother-in-law, Bryan Harvey, was only a few trucks away when Mathes’ truck was hit by rocket fire; he retrieved the pieces of his friend’s Bible from the scene.

Pickett, SSGT Tyler E., 28, (2-22 INF, 1st BCT), June 8, 2008, Iraq. He is survived by his wife Kristy, a stepdaughter and stepson, his mother and father, a sister and a niece. From Saratoga, WY, he enlisted in 2001 and completed basic and advanced individual training at Ft. Benning, GA. He was assigned to 2-22 INF in 2005 and had earlier deployed to Afghanistan and Iraq. He was killed and 18 others injured when a suicide bomber attacked their convoy. He had received several awards and decorations during his Army career. His death came two days before he was scheduled to complete his tour.

Richards, Joseph A. III, 27, (4th BDE Spec Trps Bn, 4th BCT), Baghdad, Iraq. He is survived by his wife Monique (Green), parents, one sister, his maternal grandmother, 5 nieces and 3 nephews. A native of Grand Prairie, LA, he joined the Army in 2003 and completed basic and advanced infantry training at Ft. Leonard Wood, MO. He was a member of the 588th Combat Engr Bn, Ft. Hood, TX, and 1-67th Armor RGT until March, 2007. He had already served two tours in Iraq before joining 4th Brigade at Ft. Polk, LA. He had received several awards and decorations. He was active in the Roman Catholic Church, a member of the VFW, and was pursuing a degree from the University of Louisiana.

Samten, SPC Tenzin Lobsang, 33, (7th Spec Trps, 7th Sustainm Bde), March 12, 2008, Talil AB, Iraq. He is survived by his wife Rebecca and 2 children. A native of Prescott, AZ, he enlisted in the Army in 2006 and completed basic training at Ft. Jackson, SC, and advanced individual training at Ft. Leonard Wood, MO. He was assigned to the 7th Sustainm Bde in 2007; the 10th Mtn. Div. (LI) provides training and readiness oversight for the brigade.

Smith, Timothy Michael, 25, (Spec Trps Bn, 4th BCT), Baghdad, Iraq. He is survived by his wife Shayna, 22-month-old son Riley, his father and mother and a brother and sister. A native of South Lake Tahoe, CA, he had always been enthusiastic at meeting challenges, with family members remembering him rappelling from second-story windows at the age of 10. He joined the Army in 2004, completing basic and advanced individual training at Ft. Leonard Wood, MO. A combat engineer, he was assigned to Ft. Polk, LA, and had deployed earlier to Afghanistan, and to Iraq in late 2007. He had received several awards and decorations.

Stone, SGT Mark Allen, 22, (F-94th Bde Sup Bn, 4th BCT), April 28, 2008, Baghdad, Iraq. He is survived by his father and stepmother of Walled Lake, TX, and 1-67th Armor RGT before he was scheduled to complete his tour. He had received several awards and decorations. He had hoped to go on to become a chaplain.

Color guard at annual Memorial Day service, Tennessee Pass near Camp Hale, Colorado.
Gianfranco Dal Santo, M.D., graduated from the University of Padua (Italy) School of Medicine in 1950. Thereafter, he practiced and taught Anesthesiology at Wayne State University School of Medicine (Detroit, MI) and later at Texas Tech University School of Medicine (El Paso, TX). During a winter vacation in Vail, CO, on the slopes of Cooper Hill, he met a special group of skiers; veterans of the 10th Mtn. Div. Since Dr. Dal Santo had also fought (as part of the Italian Resistance) in the war, they had many common memories to share. “It was love at first sight,” says Dr. Dal Santo, “and I immediately became a friend of the 10th.” Here he tells us about those days during the war on the other side of the front line.

That night, end of February 1945, the screeching radio of our campsite, located at the foot of the Italian Alps, informed us that an Alpine Division of the American Army had broken through the frontlines of the Apennines (along the so-called Gothic Line) and that a massive allied offensive was imminent. The liberation of Northern Italy and the end of the war were forthcoming.

We were part of the Italian Resistance, a movement born after September 8, 1943, when Italy surrendered to the Allied forces and the majority of us refused to join the Germans and the Fascists.

My turn, however, came in June, 1944, at the age of 17, when I was drafted by the Germans who at that time ruled Northern Italy. Within 24 hours I had to appear before the German Kommandantur, dressed in warm clothes, heavy boots and two blankets. Rumor had it that I and many others would be sent to the Russian front as cannon fodder. Should we fail to appear, we would be considered deserters and, as such, likely to be shot on the spot or, if lucky, sent to a concentration camp. If we disappeared, the Germans would go after our fathers or any male member of the family.

What was I to do? Ever since I was a child I had dreamed of joining the Alpini in their newly created Corps of Alpine troops on ski. And now that my time had come, should I become a deserter? Many things had changed, however, since my childhood, when Benito Mussolini was our hero after promising to make Italy a great nation, to build a colonial empire, to establish in Northern Italy a puppet Fascist government under Mussolini, treating us as enemies. We, the young people, felt betrayed by “il Duce.” That’s when I decided to join the Resistance movement.

At nighttime, during curfew hours, I left the security of my family and hometown of Padua by bike, carrying a backpack and dressed in shorts (to appear as youthful as possible). While pedaling towards the mountains, I felt both calm and excited, certain that I had made the right decision.

Not far from Vicenza I had some relatives who were willing to take me in, but only for a few days. The head of the family and other male members had escaped from the Yugoslav front after the September 8th surrender and refused to join the Germans. Since the Fascists were looking for them, it wasn’t safe for me to stay there either. While there, I had been introduced to members of the Resistance, who arranged to find me a place to stay.

Meanwhile I met other “deserters,” older than I and who had already served in different Corps of the Italian Army. They considered me a city boy, totally lacking in war skills, and looked at me with contempt, even with certain distrust. Could I be a Fascist spy? (In those terrible days you never knew who was friend or foe.) I understood. One thing was certain: I had to prove myself.

In order to eat and have a roof over my head I started working for the peasants. It was summer and plenty of old farmers needed help, since their sons were either prisoners of war or never returned home. Americans! Of course, the best gift we ever received from them was freedom.

Winter soon came after a rainy fall. We had been promised by the Allied forces that the war would end by fall. A new order arrived: “Be patient and continue your guerilla warfare until spring of 1945.” Winter in the Alps was sheer misery. In addition, the Germans, aided by the Fascists, started burning houses and whole villages where they suspected we might be hiding. Their mopping-up operations became quite intense: if we were caught we ran the risk of being shot on the spot and our corpses hung from a tree.

Was I scared? No, that kind of life felt like a game of cat and mouse. I was worried, though, that I might be wasting my time. In fact, in June, 1944, I had already passed the “classic” subjects (Italian, Latin, Greek, history, and philosophy) of my baccalaureate exam and was expected to take the “scientific” part (trigonometry, physics, chemistry, and geography) at the end of the summer, before enrolling in Medical School at the University of Padua. Unfortunately, having been drafted by the Germans, my plans were disrupted. So through the CLN, an organization that was supporting us, I obtained all the necessary books from my family in Padua and started studying. Along with the hand grenades in my backpack, there were always books, and whenever possible I would study.

During winter things went along safely when, as I have said, our screeching radio announced in February, 1945, that the Gothic Line had been broken (Riva Ridge, Mt. Belvedere, Mt. della Spe, Mt. della Torlacchia). Finally, toward the end of April, 1945, we got orders to take arms and descend on Padua. Our task was to maintain law and order until the men of the U.S. Fifth Army arrived.

One night in the vicinity of Padua, we noticed from a distance a company of soldiers on the bank of the Bacchiglione River. We became quite apprehensive and wondered who they were — retreatting Germans? Americans? The night was quite cold and suddenly we saw that one of them poured a full tank of gasoline into a big drum and set fire to it, obviously to warm themselves. “Wasting gasoline to warm bodies? (At that time in Italy gasoline was more precious than gold.) They cannot possibly be Germans, they must be Americans!”

Boldly we moved in toward the group and were welcomed with open arms, offered hot tea, sandwiches with a strange “marmalade” (years later I found out that it was called “peanut butter”), as well as cigarettes and chocolate, things we hadn’t seen in ages. That’s how we got to know the Americans! Of course, the best gift we ever received from them was freedom.

Friendships formed in Italy in 1945 continue on the slopes of Vail, Colorado, in 2008, at the Great Ski-In. Dr. Gianfranco Dal Santo, far left, with men whose Division he first linked up with as a member of Resistance forces.

At the same time the Germans established in Northern Italy a puppet Fascist government under Mussolini, treating us as enemies. We, the young people, felt betrayed by “il Duce.” That’s when I decided to join the Resistance movement.

As a final test, the one that would prove that I was no longer just a city boy but a man of the Resistance, I had to show that I was able to crawl under a German truck, stretch out the gasoline cap on the other side, unscrew the cap and pee into the tank. Upon passing that test, I became an official member of a squad of “partigiani.”

Then one early morning we were patrolling the dirt road leading to the local German headquarters. A three-wheeled motorcycle driven by a German soldier approached. We emerged from behind the bushes and shouted: “Hands up!” What a satisfaction to see a German soldier with hands raised above his head, and scared stiff. One of us noticed that the motorcycle’s box was loaded with freshly baked, still-warm bread. We jumped on that bounty and started eating those warm, crunchy loaves voraciously, for to us it seemed like a gift from heaven. In the euphoria we let the German soldier escape into the woods. He ran like the wind while we ate like horses.

More demanding tasks awaited me the following nights: blasting bridges, taking German prisoners (to be exchanged for our men who were imprisoned), shooting at German convoys, etc. One of our specialties was shooting at German convoys and then quickly disappearing. This earned us the nickname Divisione lepre (wild rabbit division). At the snap of a
BEANIES FOR BAGHDAD
SPAN TWO CULTURES
Andrea Cappiello (Desc. Earl Norem, 85-L)

The Beanie's have left the building! Amid many happy smiling faces, there were over 1,000 Beanie Babies that left my classroom, finally, in 30 copy paper boxes. The PTO president, Trish and her son, Nick, along with friend Dan, put the last box in and closed the door before the wind could take another box top.

It was a windy January day when I headed off to the New Milford Post Office with my van full of presents for children I didn’t even know. My own parents met me and together we resealed, repacked and carried in all 30 boxes (of course if they ever see another Beanie Baby, it will be too soon).

Before each box was closed, the 58 children in my classes each wrote a letter to the soldiers, thanking them for how much they have done for our country, as well as the people of Iraq. They then put the letters in and closed the boxes. This was the last we would see of these Beanies, a project that had taken on a life of its own. In a community as loving and generous as Schaghticoke Middle School, I was still overwhelmed by the response. From bus drivers to teachers, they all joined the students in our venture to brighten up the lives of the far-less fortunate Iraqi children.

The Beanie's were delivered in February and I was notified that they had arrived to the waiting arms of the soldiers, eager to pass on the soft bundles in order to help make the children of Iraq a little more trusting.

When I received news that the Beanies had made it, my students and teachers alike were delighted. Our project was a success! It had touched all of our hearts. I felt that this should not stop with us, so I passed on the word to several of my good friends, who are also teachers, across the country. Before long, I was receiving all kinds of responses. Several of my friends took on the project as well, and were also able to “rally their troops” and send many packages of the soft bundles as well. What a feeling to be able to do so much for someone we’ll probably never meet.

So in the name of the 10th Mtn. Div., old and new, there are many children who have more joy in their lives, either from giving or receiving because of Beanies to Baghdad. It makes me even prouder to be a Descendant of this fine organization. My students and I thank you, 10th Mountain soldiers, for all you do, have done and continue to do to make this world a better place.

Ed. Note: The Adopt-a-Unit program which was the brainchild of Association President Mike Plummer has spread far and wide – in this case to a New Milford, Connecticut Middle School where an enthusiastic reading teacher and Descendant headed up a creative way of supporting the 1-87 Military Transition Team. To learn more about the “Vipers” and their activities, go to www.187mitt.com.
The Descendant Blizzard is edited by Bryan Pullen. Descendants: News, stories, announcements, letters, photos etc. are most welcome — this is your Blizzard! Contact Bryan Pullen at 708 S. 6th Street, Davis OK 73030 or email: bryanpullen@cableone.net.

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President’s Message
Val Rios (Desc. 87-K)

It has become a ritual now. Wednesday morning about 11:15, I drive the three blocks from work to pick up my dad and off we go to lunch. Costco is only seven minutes away and it has become a ritual ordering our two Polish dogs and sodas. You can’t beat the price, only a buck-fifty!

Dad almost always wears his 10th Mtn. Div. hat and it is unusual if someone doesn’t notice and comment about dad’s WWII service during our lunch. The young people who come up and talk to him go away with a deeper understanding and certainly a greater appreciation for our WWII veterans. And if we get into a conversation with another WWII veteran there is an immediate bond between the two and I find myself just listening to both of them share their experiences while helping my dad with questions in the conversation, as he is extremely hard of hearing.

On Wednesday, a special-needs adult having lunch at Costco came up to my dad and wanted to have his picture taken with him just because he had noticed my dad’s WWII hat. After the picture was taken the young man began rattling off a number of WWII battles and as he was about to leave he turned towards my father and gave him a salute. It wasn’t just a salute to my father but a salute to all those WWII veterans who served their country when needed most. This young man, a special needs person, understood this and happily joined his group talking loudly of his visit and picture with a WWII veteran.

I mention this anecdote for several reasons. First, I know how blessed I am to still have my father and mother. Dad will be 90 in December, and Mom just turned 88, and I am so thankful to be able to take Dad to various 10th events (above, at Tennessee Pass Memorial). I know that among our Descendants we have a number of Gold Star members, sons and daughters of WWII veterans, KIA. I can’t even begin to imagine what that would be like, to not know your father but to only know him through the memories of others. Thankfully, some of the Gold Star descendants have been able to hear stories of their fathers from fellow WWII 10th veterans who knew their dad.

Then there are so many Descendants who have recently lost their fathers, and I feel their pain as they share the emotional hardship in their loss. It is also difficult because I have come to know so many of the veterans through various 10th activities. I grieve a little every time I hear of another 10th veteran passing away. We are saying goodbye to our veterans far more quickly than I would like!

So when I see an elderly gentleman who I think might be a WWII veteran, I try to stop him and say hello. If I have the time I try to ask them about their times during WWII, where they were stationed and what were some of their memories. Then, I gracefully thank them for their service.

And finally, while I would like to attend many more 10th events with Dad, I know all too well that someday in the not-so-distant future, I too, will have to say goodbye to him. But in the meantime, I will continue to look forward to and treasure, Wednesdays with Dad.

Interview to Save a Piece of History and Get Free Descendant Membership

Efforts of Descendants like Abbie Kealy and many others who conducted interviews at the Denver National Reunion in 2007 and elsewhere are making a great contribution to saving the history of the 10th Mtn. Div.

Now everyone has been “captured” on tape yet! So here’s some incentive: Descendants who videotape a 10th Vet’s oral history can now earn a free, 2009 membership! Just send a 45-minute (or longer) interview to Abbie by Dec. 31, 2008, and it’s a done deal.

Check out our interview tips and techniques online at www.lastridge.com/share.php, and check in with Abbie before you start, at abbiekealy@comcast.net or #443.570.949. Mini-DV format desirable, but other formats possible.
CSI: 10th MOUNTAIN EDITION
HISTORY HUNTERS GET SMART, GO TO THE SOURCE
Abbie Kealy (Niece, Stuart Abbott, 86-L)

This just in: there’s a mole deep inside Denver Public Library’s 10th Mtn. Resource Center, revealing its treasures and gaining unprecedented access to the mountain men’s photos, letters, maps, journals, diaries and papers. Sound like a major security breach? Don’t worry, it’s just the growing numbers of 10th descendant detectives solving family history mysteries.

As this latest generation enthusiastically investigates their 10th roots, it’s also possible they have never had this much fun in a library. Descendant Kristin Kosley was elated to discover an in-depth video oral history recorded by her deceased grandpa, Victor Eklund (86-I). “My Grandpa spoke about things here and there, but this interview is more in-depth than anything we have. We’re thrilled!” With hundreds of recorded interviews already donated to the 10th Resource Center, and training to help descendants record more, future generations will have a tremendous video resource as near as their DVD player.

Ask descendant Myrna Hampton, whose father Lt. Col Hank Hampton (86 HQ) directed the Riva Ridge assault, before he was killed in action during the Korean War when she was a toddler. “I learned so much about my Dad in stories from vets. It made him more real and human to hear of my Dad’s thorough crash-and-burn face plant in front of an 87th ski class on Mt Rainier. The young guys thought this ancient 32-year-old guy would never be able to keep up, but during a Camp Hale maneuver he silently broke trail all night in waist-deep snow for the men behind him. That really brought him to life.”

Dennis Hagen, Resource Center archivist, is the touchstone. “It’s rewarding, whether I’m finding out who was where when, or providing family members with knowledge about an awarded medal. In one case, even the veteran was unaware of it! In another case, a widow learned of a Silver Star award and was able to order a replacement medal.” Just like those modest mountaineers to downplay their achievements.

But families aren’t alone in their information quest. What do Ken Burns, Tom Clancy, Stephen Ambrose and David McCullough have in common? These distinguished authors and filmmakers have all researched at the Resource Center. And with constant urging to 10th families to contribute personal materials, the Center hopes the collection will grow, not just to preserve the legacy but also to protect the materials from the mists of time.

The last time I was visiting, the Resource Center was unpacking the papers of Minnie Dole, the visionary advocate who practically willed the 10th into being. Mt Bellvedere Day was held February 16, 2008, in Bloomingdale, IL. A total of 26 Descendants attended.

Our May luncheon was held May 4, 2008, in Elmhurst, IL, with a total of 18 Descendants. We had give-aways at both luncheons. Janice Fuglsang (Desc. 126-A) donated a gas card, which was won by Ed Barys (604-C). We also had a 50/50 at both luncheons to raise money for our hospitality room at our upcoming reunion.

I went over some of the details for our 2008 reunion, which is being held in Carol Stream, IL, at the Holiday Inn from September 4 through 7, 2008. We are really hoping for a great turnout from our local Descendants. We are hosting it over the weekend so those working might be able to attend. We will be visiting Cantigny Park and Museum in Wheaton, IL, on Saturday. The day will include lunch followed by a memorial service. The park will be giving us tours and will also have a display of WWII vehicles and equipment.

ARMADILLO
Phebe Davol (Desc. 87-L, 86-HQ)

On March 25 and April 22, 2008, Phebe Davol joined three veterans residing at the Sun City community outside of Georgetown, Texas, for breakfast to discuss plans for next Chapter activities. Albert Dowden (86-E, 90-A) Clifford MacQueen (87-K) and Mogens Hallgren (85-C) provided Ms. Davol with ideas and encouragement in her new role as President.

Mr. Thomas Naquin, the special projects curator for the National World War II Museum located in New Orleans, Louisiana is preparing an exhibit highlighting the 10th Mtn. Div. Mr. Naquin visited Robert Hunter (10-HQ) and Norman Dorsey (87-HQ) in Houston, Texas, in April of this year to gather their oral histories regarding their roles during the campaign. Mr. Naquin also communicated with the Denver Library/10th Mtn. Div. Resource Center and received additional information. He indicated that they were most helpful. Information regarding when the exhibit will be completed and can be viewed was not available prior to this article’s publication.

Plans are underway for a weekend trip to Corpus Christi, Texas, September 12-14, 2008. Armadillo Chapter Veterans and Descendants and Friends, please save the date. We are planning a trip to the World War II Aircraft Carrier Lexington, the Aquarium and, of course, the Padre Island National Seashore. More information will follow soon.

Additional plans include traveling to Brooke Army Medical Center in San Antonio to visit wounded 10th Mtn. Div. (LI) wounded soldiers. If anyone in the Armadillo Chapter or who is traveling to Texas this summer, is also interested, please let me know.

ARIZONA
Mary Broughton (Desc. 126-A Eng.)

The February 12, 2008, luncheon was held at the Quilted Bear Restaurant in Scottsdale with 15 Veterans and eight wives plus seven Descendants and one guest in attendance. A new President and Secretary/Treasurer were elected – Don Kitzman (87-F) and Penny Keaton (Desc. 90-C) respectively. Robert Goyer (86-H) agreed to continue as Vice-President and was re-elected.

Ten veterans and four wives plus three Descendants and two guests attended the April 8, 2008, luncheon at the Luke Air Force Base Officer’s Club. Harry Bailey, former President of the Frank Luke Chapter of the Air Force Association, spoke about the jets based at Luke and the pilot training that takes place there. F-16 pilots and mechanics train at Luke. After the pilots complete training, they go directly to combat. After the luncheon, Harry and several Chapter members took a short tour of the base.

NORTH CENTRAL
Lou Anderson (87-A)

The North Central Chapter held its Spring Reunion on May 7th and 8th at the Grand Hinckley Inn in Hinckley, Minnesota. Many thanks to Alice and Don Olson (85-C) for doing all the planning after Marylyn Johnson had to drop out due to surgery. Get well soon, Marylyn. Word is that she is now on the mend.

We were happily surprised by having some people in attendance whom we have not seen in some time. Among them were Francis (Kuby) Kubiaski (86-D, B) from Wisconsin Rapids, Allien and Vern Cartner (87-L) from Ironwood, Michigan, Ray Polzin (87-L) from Superior, Wisconsin, and Don Rockenbach (85-HQ, K) along with his friend Shirley Becker from Roseville, Minnesota.

On Wednesday evening everyone went to the casino for dinner and some gambling, and then returned to the hospitality room for R&R. On Thursday we held our Chapter meeting in the afternoon, and then went to Cassidy’s Restaurant for dinner. Afterwards we returned to the hospitality room, where we shared an ice cream cake in honor of Myron Fahey’s (604-HQ) birthday.

It was agreed by all that we return in the Fall. I have made arrangements at the Grand Hinckley Inn again for the days of October 1st and 2nd (Wednesday and Thursday) with use of the hospitality room again from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. each day.
ROCKY MOUNTAIN

Dan Whittemore (Desc. 86-H)

The Rocky Mountain Chapter held a most successful hike and picnic May 17th. Fifteen active descendants participated on a hike into Roxborough State Park and viewed rock formations, mountain valleys, flowers, birds, a fox and deer. 10th Mountain Foundation President, Gary Burton (Desc. 87-L), led the hike.

Following the hike, our picnic at Chatfield State Park was a huge success with 25 Veterans, Descendants, and friends. Veteran Frank Romano (86-K) shared stories concerning wartime experiences in Italy.

Many Descendants joined the Veterans at the May 26th annual Memorial Day Service at the 10th Mountain Memorial at Tennessee Pass. Mike Plummer (10th LI), National President, Val Rios (Desc. 87-K), and Dan Whittemore (Desc. 86-H) as Chaplain participated in the service. David Little, President, 10th Mtn. Div. Living History Display Group, served as Master of Ceremonies.

Additional summer and fall activities will include sponsoring an annual Veterans/Descendants Breakfast Picnic on August 2, 2008, and supporting the Veterans’ Day parade being held on November 8, 2008.

HISTORY OF THE 10TH AS PEACEKEEPERS AT THE END OF WW II

On May 13, 1945—only five days after the German surrender in Europe—the 10th received orders to move from its positions near Lake Garda to new positions in northeast Italy, along the border of Yugoslavia. Its mission: to keep the peace by preventing a westward movement threatened by forces of the Yugoslav dictator Marshal Tito. In retrospect this confrontation—in which Tito’s territorial ambitions were supported by Stalin—can be seen as the start of the Cold War.

In 1997—52 years after the Old Tenth had left Italy for home—the New Tenth, the 10th Mountain Division (Light Infantry), would return to the former Yugoslavia in support of peacekeeping operations in Bosnia and Kosovo. Later, to keep the peace between Israel and Egypt, the New Tenth would provide soldiers for a Multinational Force in the Sinai Desert. Once again, fighters of the 10th were deployed as peacekeepers along the borders of belligerent nations.

In “Mission Udine: The 10th Mountain Division at the Yugoslav Border, May 19 to July 17, 1945,” Tom Brooks (85-G) and John Imbrie (85-C) tell the story of the 10th as peacekeepers in WW II. Originally published by the Association in 2005, this compact book of 35 pages (including four color maps and 26 photos) has recently been reprinted and is now available for purchase from Quartermaster Frank Thornton for $23 including postage. Write 112 Maple Avenue, Bala Cynwyd, PA, 19004, or email patfrank4@verizon.net.

TENTH MOUNTAIN DIVISION BIATHLON COMPLETES SKI SEASON

Chelton Leonard (86-E)

Under perfect weather conditions the 24th annual 10th Mtn. Div. Biathlon Memorial Race was held at the Auburn Ski Club Training Center on Donner Summit, California, on Sunday, April 13. Fifty-seven competitors—juniors, seniors and girls—completed the 5- and 9-K courses.

Jeff Schloss, the Far West and Auburn Ski Club coach, proved that age can be an advantage when it comes to rifle marksmanship and cross country skiing. He beat the second place finisher in the open class, Ben Grasseschi, by almost 2 minutes in the Men’s class. Jordan McElroy took first in the boys’ race, and Annika Taylor took first in the girls’ race.

The top 3 finishers in each class were presented 10th Mtn. Biathlon Medals, and every competitor that completed the race was presented with 10th Mtn. Div. Biathlon Caps. Chelton Leonard, who originated the race 24 years ago, presented the awards. Val Rios (Desc. 87-K), National President of the 10th Mtn. Descendants, also assisted and provided photographic coverage of the race and the award presentations.

Under the direction of Bill Clark, General Manager, and Sally Jones, Nordic Director, the tracks and rifle ranges for the competitors were in perfect condition. Volunteer helpers from the Auburn Ski Club continue to provide manpower and expertise to help stage this outstanding Biathlon competition, one of the few held in the Sierra Nevada Mountains.
HOW I GOT INTO THE SKI TROOPS

Levi W. “Lee” Fitterer (86-HQ)

How did I get into the 10th Mountain? On Nov. 24, 1943, I would turn 18, but rather than wait, I made a trip to Pittsburgh and joined the service on Nov. 23, 1943. The enlisting officer told me I would probably get my orders in about two weeks. Sure enough, I had orders to report to Indi-
ad in the hip. He was found alive the next morning by a lieutenant.

John H. Bostic (10-HQ)

I was assigned to Camp Hale, Colorado, in 1944 as a member of the Special Staff of the 10th Division. My assignment was in the capacity of Headquarters Commandant and Division Provost Marshall, responsible for training all headquarters personnel and directing military police activities including, in combat, the pro-
cressing of prisoners of war. I was with the Division for three years and served in Europe before rotating back to the States and being reassigned.

I continued serving my country with tours in the Philippines, Korea and Eu-
rope. I retired from Ft. Jackson, South Carolina, in 1961 as a Colonel. I settled in Columbia, South Carolina, and worked for Richland County with the Family and Juvenile Justice System. In May of this year I will be 96, living alone and enjoying my family which consists of two daughters, 7 grandchildren and 7 great-grandchildren.

Serving with the 10th Mountain Divi-
sion was one of the highlights of my ca-
reer!
At last - after writing, first the Utah then the Northwest Chapter columns for the “Blizzard” for the past decade or so, something which I had hoped, asked for occasionally, and prayed for once or twice, has happened. Received not just one but two written submissions of events. “Fairy tales can come true, it can happen to you, if you’re young at heart.” They were from Warren and Anne Craig (86-C) re: Oregon Military, and prayed for once or twice, has happened. Received not just one but two written

NORTHWEST
Frank Chuk (85-Med-2)

At last — after writing, first the Utah then the Northwest Chapter columns for the “Blizzard” for the past decade or so, something which I had hoped, asked for occasionally, and prayed for once or twice, has happened. Received not just one but two written submissions of events. “Fairy tales can come true, it can happen to you, if you’re young at heart.” They were from Warren and Anne Craig (86-C) re: Oregon Military Hall of Fame, and the second from Jim Bray (87-K) re: Pick and Plant. Thanks so much, guys! The two following events will read the same as they were presented to me, except where italicized.

Pick and Plant: Saturday, May 3rd was a good day to go for a walk along Hwy. 26. Nineteen of us took part in the “Picking and Planting.” Collecting McDonald’s bags and cups, various and sundry non-returnable bottles and cans has become routine. The next exciting gathering will be on August 2, 2008.

We had 5 trees to plant for some of our departed troopers and their wives. A few of us went to the tree-planting site, 10th Mtn. Memorial Grove, and planted two Douglas Firs, one for Allen Lord (10-Recon), and another for Jack Mitchell (126 Eng-D & 86-A), with the help of his son Steve and daughter Barbara. The next Saturday Joanne Fortiff came to help with the watering of her dad’s tree. That day, too, our energetic group planted the remaining three trees, an Oregon Maple for Mary Kramer, wife of Fritz (10-Recon), a Douglas Fir for Russ McJury (87-I &10 Recon), and a beautiful Sweet Gum tree that Bill Hamilton (86-F) donated for his wife, Ina Marie. Then 14 of us went to our usual Rock Creek tavern and had a fun lunch while the sky opened up with a downpour of rain. Good timing! This brings the number of trees planted at the Grove to 62. We have started the process of having the State Legislature dedication of the 10th Mtn. Memorial Grove, which will probably happen sometime mid-2009.

Induction: April 12, 2008, was a lovely sunny day when 17 proud men from Oregon were inducted into the Oregon Military Hall of Fame. They had served in the 10th Mtn. Div. and saw combat in Italy during WWII. Presentation of colors by the Patriot Guards was awesome, as was the whole program. Those inducted and receiving plaques were: Jim Bray, Dick Burling (86-C), Frank Chuk, Bob Cornell (86-HQ-1), Warren Craig, Bob Duckwall (86-I), Ed Flabetich (86-A) and Chapter President, Owen Johnstun (87-I), Fritz Kramer (10-Recon), Bob Labby (87-G), Hank Lewis (86-B), Dick Powers (87-D), Darrel Tarter (85-A, 10-Recon, MTG), Richard Updegraff (10-AT), Harvey Wieprecht (86-F), John Wilson (86-F), Ben Yett (85-G). Plaques were given posthumously to: Barney Becker (85-HQ&G), Bill Hackett (87-F), Gordon Tallman (604-A) and David Wagstaff (86-F).

Other groups honored were men of the 442 Regiment (Japanese American), the most-decorated group in WWII, which included Kennie Namba, an honorary member of the 10th Mtn. Div., and the 41st Division, the Sunshine Div. Four individuals were also honored. It was a most impressive ceremony.

Timberline Lodge: At Mt. Hood, a joint Northwest, Mt Rainier Chapter luncheon will be held August 20th.

At our monthly luncheon meeting (the last Wednesday of the month at the Elk’s Lodge, 13121 SE McLoughlin Blvd. Milwaukie. OR. 11:45 a.m., unless announced otherwise in advance), Herb & Linda Arnett (87-HQ-1), Eldon & Betty Baller (87-A), Paula Barnes (85-K), Marg Becker (85-Hq&G), John & Myrna Bell (85-L), Jim Bray & Lorraine Young (87-K), Dick & Pat Burling (86-C), Frank Chuk, Mary Churnside (Assoc), Robert Conroy (10-QM-HQ), Ross Coppel (86-HQ-3), Warren & Anne Craig (86-HQ), Gerry & Reba Dunlop (85-F), Harris Dusenberg (86-HQ-1&C), Bill & Donna Emmstad (86-C), Ryan Evans (10 Mtn. LI, 2/218-FA), Bob & Bobbie Emer (604-HQ), Ed & Connie Flabetich (86-A), Arnie & Merrie Gagnet (86-HQ-1), Elmer Griffin (87-HQ-2), Orval Herdon (85-E), Bob & Lore Labby (87-G), Hank Lewis & Susan Velikan (B-86), Mike & Connie Myers (Honorary), Kathy & Ruth Namba (442-Reg), Dick & Jean Powers (87-D), Frank Rillner (87-I), John Skillern’s wife Nadine (86-A&Svc), Bill Spavone (87-G), Lee Squier (Assoc), Ed Stowell (87-HQ-2), Vi Tallman (Assoc), Darrel & Nancy Tarter, Dick & Anna Marie Updegraff (10-AT), Harvey & Betty Wieprecht, David Wagstaff’s son Brian (86-C), Eleanor Wiese (Assoc), John Wilson (110-SIG), Eugene & Lee Winters (87-C&G), Maj. Devin & Sarah Wikenhagen (10 Mtn. LI), Ben & Bev Yett (85-G).

Never Stop Exploring and Enjoy the Journey!

MIDWEST
John LaRocca (86-HQ)

Our May luncheon was opened by Chapter President Jake Pollak (85-HQ-2). He welcomed everyone including the 10 Veterans present, along with 18 Descendants. Veteran Frank Rockaforte (85-MED-B) has had heart surgery. The last information received has Frank recovering nicely. We wish Frank a speedy recovery and hope he will be able to attend our annual reunion in September. We are very much looking forward to the event, hoping many will attend.

Descendants director Patty LaRocca (616-HQ) has been working diligently on planning for the reunion. This year it will be held at the Holiday Inn in Carol Stream, IL. Functions planned include an early bird dinner on Wednesday at Spavone’s Restaurant. Owner Tony Spavone usually serenades his guests with his wonderful voice — obviously his favorite songs are Italian. The opening banquet is Thursday and a pizza party is set for Friday followed by game night including a bingo contest. A trip to the Cantigny War Memorial and a golf outing are planned as well.

UPSTATE NY
Bill Morrison (86-L)

On April 25, 2008, a major ceremony took place at Ft. Drum as Division Headquar- ters of the 10th (LI) led by Maj. Gen. Mike Oates prepared for deployment to Iraq, scheduled for a 15-month tour of duty. The large assembled crowd included area leaders, Army “brass” and the new Governor of New York, David Paterson. In speeches offered, promises were made to uphold the honor of the 10th, successfully carry out the assigned mission, and to be supportive and protective of the military families left behind.

As we left the post, it was interesting to see hundreds of vehicles, from Hum-vees to armored tanks, being loaded on train cars at the rail sidings to be shipped to Iraq. Obviously deployment moves much more than just soldiers on planes. Our hopes and prayers go with them as they travel into harm’s way.

The Chapter’s last social event was a return to the Log Jam Restaurant in Lake George, which brought out some 16 veterans, spouses and friends. Howard Sebold (605-A) once again provided words of grace and blessing.

We were very pleased to welcome back Jean Vetter (86-MED-3) soon after the loss of her husband Fred. Included in our company were Stan Heidenreich (86-G) and De- loris Van Dewen, Bill Millette (605-A) and Beverly Forderman, Harold and Lorraine McAfee (85-L, 86-A), Don Stuart (87-L) and Joyce Gebhart, Bob Krause (87-G), Mike and Jane Melas (87-E), Bob and Rose Dakin (87-D) visiting from Vermont, and Bill Morrison. Phil and Margueritte Stevens (86-C, 85-E) had planned to attend but unfortunately had to cancel.

Until his recent death, the Chapter’s financial stewardship was long in the very capable hands of Russo Perkins (87-I). The Chapter is deeply indebted to him for his years of carefully monitoring our limited funds. We discovered his other claim to fame was that he held the record for 10 return trips to Italy with the Association by WWII veterans — surely a record not apt to be broken.

Sadly, our Chapter has also had to say so long to two of our other longtime and faithful members, Don Geurtze (616-A) and Al “Bert” Stoddard (86-HQ-1). Don kept careful monitoring our limited funds. We discovered his other claim to fame was that he held the record for 10 return trips to Italy with the Association by WWII veterans — surely a record not apt to be broken.

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We were proud to note that both also had long years of service in Scouting. We will miss them but hope their wives will join us in future Chapter events.
The annual Tenth Ski-In was from February 19 to 28. There were 70 or more for lunch on Cooper Hill Day on the 22nd. The skiing that day was as perfect as it ever gets. Our wonderful Breckenridge Ski-In guides led by Paul Stubbe contributed $150 to the Tenth Foundation. Their gift came from Tenth skier tips plus some of their own money.

Fifteen persons went on the March 16-18 Fowler/Hilliard Hut, 15-mile round-trip pack and ski tour. This year there was only one vet — yours truly — plus six Descendants, six ROTC types and two friends of the Tenth. It was a great trip.

Dan Whittomore (D 86-H), has taken over from Hugh Evans as the responsible party for the Tenth Resource Center. Be sure to send your old letters and/or artifacts to the Center. They are truly valuable and need to be properly kept for perpetuity.

Earl Clark (87-HQ-1), and Dick Over (110-SIG) are much in demand to give their talks on the Tenth. About twice a month they put on their slide-and-talk show in places up and down the front range and well into the mountains. It is always very well received.

Chapter President George Loudis (86-H) invites all to attend Chapter lunches the last Monday of the month at the Country Buffet in south Denver. If you are in town be sure to come by and see your buddies. We are trying to age gracefully, and it is a jolly bunch.

For those of you wondering about the 2007 Hale and Farewell Reunion Book status, you should have it for Thanksgiving, 2008. The work, which involved capturing a photo of each veteran that attended and telling the story of the Reunion, is both tremendous and proceeding very well. Chere Mitchell and Sally Oesterling (Sister, 87-HQ-3) and everyone else directly involved with completing this project are truly excited about the Reunion Book. It is going to be special.

Some 200 attended the May 26 Memorial Day Service, “A Tribute to Our Fallen Comrades,” at Tennessee Pass. David Little (HQN) of the 10th Mountain Division Living History Group was organizer and MC. LTC Richard G. Greene, Jr., 10 Mtn. Div. (LI), Ft. Drum, gave a fine address. Some 40 wreaths were laid at the Tenth and Living History Group was organizer and MC. LTC Richard G. Greene, Jr., 10 Mtn. Comrades,” at Tennessee Pass. David Little (HON) of the 10th Mountain Division the Reunion Book. It is going to be special.

and everyone else directly involved with completing this project are truly excited about the Reunion Book. It is going to be special.

For those of you wondering about the 2007 Hale and Farewell Reunion Book status, you should have it for Thanksgiving, 2008. The work, which involved capturing a photo of each veteran that attended and telling the story of the Reunion, is both tremendous and proceeding very well. Chere Mitchell and Sally Oesterling (Sister, 87-HQ-3) and everyone else directly involved with completing this project are truly excited about the Reunion Book. It is going to be special.

Seven veterans attended: Hassell Vass (10AT-A), John Duffy, Ed Doyle (85-M), Dale Alwine (86-HQ-1, A), Al Nencioni (85-I), George Welch (86-E), and Alan Lukens (86-HQ), plus 19 wives and Descendants.

Hassell Vass and Jack Barnes accompanied Abbie Kealy to the GI Film Festival held at the Carnegie Institute in Washington, D.C. on May 16th. Prior to the screening, Hassell charmed all the filmmakers and press in the Green Room (Andrew Carnegie’s study), and they all showed up at the screening of Abbie’s film The Last Ridge, which was followed by an enthusiastic Q&A session.

The Washington, D.C. Chapter continues to make periodic visits to wounded 10th (LI) soldiers at Walter Reed Army Medical Center whenever possible. Most recently, Hassell Vass, Bob O’Malley (85-L), Jack Barnes, Abbie Kealy and Pam Pikla visited Mologne House on Friday, May 23rd for a Memorial Day cookout. A great time was had by all, but especially the outpatient soldiers from various facilities on the Walter Reed campus. And, of course, the Hooters Girls (below) showed up with several trays of Hooters’ famous wings.

Thanks to Abbie, who is in charge of the monthly packages sent to our platoon in Iraq, and to Kim Hudyma for sending birthday cards to its members. The unit is halfway through deployment. Forward Operating Base McHenry is about 40 miles SW of Kierkuk in Iraq’s Diyala Province. Nearby is Hawijah, which has been one of the deadliest towns in Iraq, with daily roadside bombs. At night, FOB McHenry is dark to make it difficult for attackers. Following is an excerpt from a letter from the platoon leader:

“On behalf of 1st Platoon, thank you for the packages you so thoughtfully put together for us each month. Your effort and expense are very much appreciated. The guys in the platoon all miss home, but are doing the best they can to make FOB McHenry like home — your packages go a long way to help them do that. Our Iraqi interpreter “Butcher” took some of the toothpaste and soap that you sent us home to his family. He’s a great guy who shares all of our dangers. It’s still hard to get basic commodities here. He is truly grateful and asked me to send my thanks to your organization. If there’s anything we can do for you, let us know.”

2nd Lt. Judd Lienhard, 1st Platoon/ACO, 1-87 INF Platoon Leader
LOWER MICHIGAN

Art Schwartz (86-H)

Memorial Day, 2008, the Lower Michigan Chapter held its annual service at Michigan’s own Military Museum at Frankenmuth. It was a beautiful, sunny day—unusual but certainly welcome. Thirty-three vets and guests were in attendance including first-timers John Kruger and wife and Joe Cannon; both men are 10th Mtn. Div. (LI) veterans who had served in Iraq. The family of recently-deceased Al Lukowski (87-G) were also present in his honor.

The service began with a Pledge of Allegiance led by Harrison Coleman (86-B) followed by a prayer by The Reverend Philip Olson, pastor of Fort Street Presbyterian Church in Detroit. Harrison Coleman then delivered a moving and impressive speech honoring particularly our young men of the 10th Mtn. Div. who gave their lives during the Italian campaign. After that Roy Puckett (87-G) took the floor—actually we were outside on the grass—and introduced our two 10th Mtn. (LI) vets.

Memorial Day brought out Art Schwartz (86-H), kneeling; left, Floyd Erickson (87-H), Roy Puckett (87-G), Jim Baese (10-MED-C), Ray Pawlowski (86-B), Harrison Coleman (86-B), Howard Garland (87-E), Palmer Couillard (87-F), Bill Seaman (126-HQ-Eng), Fred Miner Jr. (10-HQ).

Roy also noted upcoming events of the Association including the trip to Italy in 2009 and the National Reunion at Ft. Drum in 2010. Names of recently-deceased members were read including Al Lukowski, Joe Mishler (87-F), George Motzenbeck- er (86-F) and our old friend “Speed” Murphy (85-G).

Howard Garland (87-E) reported on the status of our treasury, some-$1,000. Members agreed to grant $300 of that to the Military Museum. The group later adjourned to the Bavarian Inn for lunch and good fellowship. Our chaplain Floyd Erickson (87-H) led us in a prayer thanking the good Lord for our many gifts and our longevity.

The Chapter is planning a summer picnic at the estate of Howard Wohlischeid (85-L); call him at 517.647.6090 for reservations.

BIG SKY

Suz Rittenhouse (Desc. 87-HQ-2)

Big Sky Chapter will hold its annual meeting on September 12-14 in Great Falls, MT. The meeting will be held at the Townhouse Inn of Great Falls.

Registration and happy hour will start at noon on the 12th. On Saturday, September 13th, there will be a business meeting, White Elephant auction and banquet. On Sunday, September 14th, members will attend a memorial and brunch. The registration fee is $40 per person which includes the banquet and brunch. The fee is waved for 10th Mtn. Div. veterans and their spouses.

If you are interested in attending please send your registration and fee to Arlene Priest, Big Sky Chapter, 10th Mtn. Div. Assoc, PO Box 1335, Billings, MT, 59103. Make your check payable to Big Sky Chapter, 10th Mtn. Div. Assoc. A registration form has been included in the June issue of the Big Sky Chapter’s Mini Blizzard.

SOUTHEAST CHAPTER

Ray Zelina (605-A)

Belvedere Day with the Rosenfields: Once again, Carolyn and George Rosenfield (85-E) opened their home in Melbourne, Florida, on Sunday, February 19th, for Belvedere Day. The weather cooperated and 24 persons, including three present or former members of the modern Division and their wives, gathered for food and camaraderie. Infused by members of the 10th Mtn. Div. (LI) the stories were not only of Camp Hale, Camp Swift and Italy, but of Bosnia, Haiti, Somalia, Afghanistan and Iraq. The history of much of the Division could be discerned from the talk of the men.

As he has done for many years, Andy Rosenfield (Desc), traveled from Tennessee to help Mom and Dad. Grandson Adam Rosenfield came to help with the eating. Adam’s Dad (that’s what was written on his name tag) completed the family (research revealed his name is Kenneth).

Joe Badamo, who still checks on 86-B buddy Harry Coleman, brought daughter Teresa and son-in-law Ed Wacyk. Pat and John Benson (87-G) and Helen and Bud Wiley (85-C) shared a table and brought everyone up to date on their activities since last year. The group was pleased to see Vince Staknis (86-E), who lost his wife this past year. Vince, once an avid fisherman, told me he hasn’t wet a line in four years. A surprise to see Jeanne and Bob Strong (110-SIG). Bob and I couldn’t remember the last time we were at a 10th function together. It’s been awhile.

Chief Warrant Officer Thomas LeBrum (10th LI) had just returned from Iraq where he commanded General David H. Petraeus’ security detail. He served with the 10th in Afghanistan, Somalia and Haiti. Chief Warrant Officer (Ret) Bill Ward (10th LI) served in Haiti and now is a high school ROTC instructor in the Melbourne area. Sam Somers (10th LI) served in Bosnia and is a member of the Association. So the tales were told and the ladies listened. Carol Zelina advised Christina Somers, Lisa Le- Brum and Janice Ward that they would hear these stories over and over again through the years, but in return the friendships formed at reunions would last a lifetime.

Spring Break, 2008: On a stormy March day, 44 Chapter members trekked to Greenville, South Carolina, for the traditional Spring Break at the Embassy Hotel. The weather turned cold after the rain and few people ventured outdoors, opting to enjoy the warmth of the hotel and the ambiance of the hospitality room.

Chapter President Ed Van Romer (87-I), with the superb help of Conness Gillespie, arranged the affair. This year, Gerd and George DeSalvio (85-E), Mary and Glen Robinson (87-M) and Louise Conway (W) received either the Distinguished Service Award or the Meritorious Service Award. Elmo Harper (86-L) brought Martha, and his musical saw. The reunion was a tribute to Charlie Hunt, the Association’s Art Director since at least 1992. Designs for many of the pins, caps and other materials for reunions and Italian trips were Charlie’s designs. He has given freely of his time and talent through the years.

Jack Conway (85-A) passed away in November 2007, and in honor of Jack, Louise brought several of her family to the reunion: Clay Conway (Desc), Holly and Brent Conway (Desc) and granddaughters, Grace, Susanna and Alden from Atlanta, Georgia. Perhaps the Chapter’s most loyal members are Bernice Detwiler (W) and JoAnn Shahan who traveled from Ohio for the event, but people journey from many interesting places in the South to Greenville.

Mary and Glen Robinson come from Mooresville, North Carolina. Libby and Clyde Wall (87-H) from East Bend, North Carolina. Georgians are always well represented, with Ruth and Dan Kennerly (85-D) from Sautee Nacoochee in the northern part of the state.

Dick Hawkins (85-M) and Julia and Reuben Motley (87-G) are from Stone Mountain, Va. Appel (85-L) hails from Jasper, located in the northern part of the state. Representing the state of Alabama were Noco and Marion Howell (86-HQ). They journeyed from Chickasaw. “Speed” Murphy (85-G) and son Ed (Desc) came from Boynton Beach on South Florida’s East Coast. Don Montgomery (85-F) lives in Melbourne and has a shorter distance to travel. He brought his sister-in-law Irma Montgomery.

Dolores and Paul Gunderman (605-Med) logged many miles, coming from Ester, just south of Fort Myers. Phil Casale (86-H) and his companion Doris Bowles, journeyed from Summerfield in the middle of the state. Greenville, South Carolina, nestled in the foothills of the Blue Ridge Mountains is home not only to Ed Van Romer and Conness Gillespie, but also to Jewel and Chapter Treasurer Charlie Hunt (86-C). The Hunts brought Iris Evans to the final banquet. Gerd and George DeSalvio made the trip from Aiken, located near the Georgia border. Lorraine and Harry Conley (86-B) traveled from Detroit, with daughters Judy Depollo and Diana Hocking.

Due to scheduling conflicts, our next reunion will be October 24-25 in Greenville, South Carolina. Fall should be a great time. According to the Chamber of Commerce the trees should be displaying the fall colors and the weather mild.

“Y’all” come!
LIBERTY SHIPS CARRIED MEN—AND THEIR MULES

Just how did those mules make it from the mountains of Colorado to the heights of Northern Italy? George Haberer (Friend of the 10th) has sent along an article from the “Liberty Log” newsletter which follows their trails and trials across the ocean to war.

The publication shares activities of Project Liberty Ship, which has restored and maintains and operates the WWII ship “John W. Brown” in Baltimore Harbor, MD. The article, “Army Mule ‘Skinners’ and Civilian Sailors” by Robert McLaren, describes the fate of one of the more unusual supplies the Liberty Ships moved from the U.S. to North Africa, Europe and the China Burma India Theaters during the war. Thirteen Liberty ships and 5 cargo ships were converted for the purpose.

McLaren goes into detail about the movement of mules in both World Wars, and the debate over their use, as well as standards the animals had to meet to be accepted. In the area of “where did that word come from?” the reader learns that “shavetails” were new, untrained mules—a dubious distinction for the new Army officers given that label!

Just as they were for people, the voyages were filled with peril for the mules; for example, 317 of them were lost when the S.S. Jose Navarro was torpedoed in the Indian Ocean. But generally once the mules reached their destination and had a couple of weeks to recover, they were sent out to units where, the author says, the 10th Mountain Division shone above other pack outfits with its 558 American mules and others for a total of 5,028.

Unfortunately, the end of the story is not good reading, since it was decided that no American mules would be sent home and they were disposed of in various, often-heartless ways. Back in the States mules would continue to be used until Dec. 15, 1956, when like the Cavalry horses before them they were “deactivated” and replaced by machines.

HANDLING THE MULES

(From Page 5)

we spent all summer in the field. We learned to survive in 30-degree-below temperatures and deep snow. At one time someone from Washington, D.C., decreed that mules should be equipped with snow shoes. We fastened the devices that had been developed to the feet of the mules. This bewildered the mules who thought perhaps that snow had been caught up on their hooves, and their method of getting rid of this impediment was to hold up their legs and shake their feet until the snow fell out. Instead, the snow shoes got shaken off.

Our company’s demeanor was what you might call “route step.” The men often wore Levi’s and cowboy boots. When this was called to Col. Rolfe’s attention, he issued orders that only GI-issued boots and trousers were to be worn.

The level of humor of the company might be recognized in the treatment given officers such as a 1st Lt. from an elite unit of the New York National Guard. He was a stickler on stern military behavior and not a favorite of the men. One of his shortcomings was his inability to recognize his riding mule other than by the number on the halter. So quite often the men would put his halter on a working mule, and the officer was in for a rough ride until he fell off the mule—at the great pleasure of the men. He didn’t last long in the company.

One time when we were bivouacked on Gore Creek, down below what is now Vail, we had our 200 mules enclosed in a fenced-in area that the Forest Service used to count sheep or cattle. Three sides were protected by a barbed-wire fence; the upper end was open. We fenced off this upper end with ropes and our 3d Platoon made camp in that upper end among the Aspen trees.

We were nicely settled down in our double eider down sleeping bags when something that dark night snookied the mules, and they stampeded uphill. The ground seemed to shake like an earthquake and the pounding of 1,000 hooves made a terrific sound. When the mules easily breached the rope barrier and headed uphill, our men scrambled to avoid being trampled. Some clung to Aspen trees, others hid behind them. All the mules were gone and it took us a week to round them up.

Our mules from the USA were late in arriving, so on the assault on Riva Ridge we transported supplies, ammunition, ration and water with pack boards on our backs. We jumped off following the infantry at midnight and made many trips up and down Riva Ridge until several days after the initial assault when the engineers rigged a cable system to transport supplies and bring down wounded and dead soldiers. We helped transport this cable up Riva Ridge. (Ed. note: see Taps section for further stories about the “tramway” and others involved in its construction)

Before getting our American mules, we relaid on the Italian Alpini to pack supplies on their smaller, tough mules. The Alpini seemed to know where the mine fields were and were quick to scamper back down the ridge when artillery or small arms fire started. We had great respect for the skill and bravery of the Italian Alpini. We finally got our mules in time for the final push. The big American mules were unfamiliar with mines and on entering a mine field stampeded, set off all the mines in the area and attracted German mortar fire. All mules and four of our men were killed.

And, of course, there are many more tales to tell.

Clayton E. Anderson
PO Box 3067, Carmel, CA 93921
# 831.624.3208

DONORS LISTED FOR SCHOLARSHIP FUND AND WOUNDED WARRIOR FUND

 Ft. Drum Chapter members are focusing on help to soldiers and families through the Scholarship Fund and the Wounded Warrior Fund. In particular, donations of note include $25,000 to the Scholarship Fund from the 10th Mtn. Div. Foundation, a grant authorized by the Board of Directors of the Northern New York Community Foundation of $100,000 in matching funds, and a contribution from BAE Systems of Binghamton, NY, of $24,000 raised through a golf tournament and several raffles, to be divided equally between the two funds. Each of these is greatly appreciated, in addition to every dollar given by individuals.

10th MOUNTAIN DIVISION (LI) Scholarship Fund

Jones, Chris
Laabs, Steven, in honor of the U.S. Navy.
Morrison, William, in memory of Donald J. Guertz
BAE Systems, Johnson City, NY
BAE Systems Employees, Johnson City, NY, in honor of the U.S. Air Force.
Burke, Andrew
Chafin, Sandra
Walsh, Col. Milton
Community Service Fund
Crompton, Robert
Daimler, Greenboro, NC
Dynapower, S. Burlington, VT
Endicott Precision, Inc., Johnson City, NY
Fi. Drum Regional Liaison Org, Watertown, NY
Fi. Drum Chapter, 10th Mtn. Div Assn
Fi. Drum Chapter, National Assn. 10th Mtn Div
Gartenberg, Joel
George Industries, Endicott, NY
George Systems, Endicott, NY
Hill, Rober
Januzik, Joanne
Kealy, Abbie
M&T Bank, Binghamton, NY
Mace-Hagan, Karen in memory of Carlos Scuria
Marmon, Hermon
New England Chapter, 10th Mtn Div Assn
Nick’s Garage, Apalachin, NY
Nix, John in honor of 160 Spec Ops Avn Rgt
Para Digm Systems, Endwell, NY

10th MOUNTAIN DIVISION (LI) Wounded Warrior Fund

American Legion AEX 979 in memory of Elsie Acciavatti
BAE Systems, Johnson City, NY
BAE Systems Employees, Johnson City, NY, in honor of the U.S. Air Force
Barnett, Webster & Mary
Church, Betty
Craghe, John & Norma
Daimler Buses North America, Mississauga, Ontario
Dynapower, S. Burlington, VT
Winters, Eugene & Leona
Fi. Drum Chapter, National Assn. 10th Mtn Div
George Industries, Endicott, NY
Green, Sharon
Craghe, John & Norma
Laabs, Steven in honor of the U.S. Navy
M&T Bank, Binghamton, NY
Melford, Walter
Metropolitan NY Chapter, National Assn. 10th Mtn Div
Nick’s Garage, Apalachin, NY
Nix, John in honor of 160 Spec Ops Avn Rgt
Para Digm Systems, Endwell, NY
Plummer, Mike & Mirian
Roney, Julie
Schmidt, Nolan
Green, Sharon
Subway, Binghamton, NY
Tony B’s Tire & Auto, Johnson City, NY
Van Fosson, Marion
Williams, Mildred in memory of Carlos Scuria
WIPRO, Boston, MA
Bagshaw, Robert W. (110-SIG), April 14, 2008, Seattle, WA. He is survived by his wife Elizabeth, 3 daughters, a son and 4 grandchildren. After returning from service in Italy, he completed a degree in geology at the University of Washington. Following some years in oil exploration in the Midwest, he spent 32 years as buyer for the Boeing Company. He served for many years as Editor of the Mt. Rainier Chapter’s newsletter “The Avalanche,” and as membership chair.

Berry, Lester L. (86-MED-K), March 5, 2008, Portland, ME. He is survived by his wife Frances C., 3 sons and 2 daughters, 13 grandchildren and 7 great-grandchildren.

Bills, Robert Charles Sr. (86-B), March 31, 2008, Wills Point, TX. He is survived by his wife Joy M., one son, a granddaughter and several nieces and nephews. A mechanical engineer with Cities Service Oil Company, he was also a member of Roosevelt Masonic Lodge 716 F&AM, Dallas Scottish Rite, and a member of the Methodist Church. He and the family enjoyed skiing trips in the U.S. and Europe.

Brubaker, Glenn G. (85-HQ-1), April 25, 2008, Morris, PA. He is survived by a brother, 4 step-daughters and many nieces & nephews, and preceded in death by wives Pauline & Frances. He was a car dealer for 49 years and a mail contractor for 24 years. Many memberships included as Commander of the Campbellsport American Legion, the VFW, Lebanon County Firemen’s Assn., Lawn Fire Co., BPOE Elks #1057, Jersey Shore Moose, Auto Dealer’s Assn. and AAA since 1942. He attended the Oregon Hill Grace Chapel.

Ellison, Tustin (85-F), April, 2007, Applegate, OR. He is survived by his wife Gayle and 2 daughters.

Fein, Bert (86-E), December 27, 2007, Whiting, NJ. He was survived by his wife Edythe (Gordon), 2 sons and 4 grandchildren – 8-year-old Isaac played “Taps” at the funeral. He worked for numerous companies as a consultant, skied for many years in the East, West, and Vail, CO., with his wife and family.

Gore, Harold “Bob” Martin Jr. (86-F), March 15, 2008, Charlottesville, VA. He is survived by his wife Ruth (Britton), three sons, 3 grandchildren, one great-grandchild and a brother. He received a BS from Middlebury College, VT, and an MA from Harvard University, MA. He was a member of Elks lodges in North Carolina and New Hampshire.

Hug, Ralph (85-A), March 6, 2008, Tampa, FL. He is survived by one son. He was a loyal member of the Southeast Chapter.

Joy, Eben (87-B, D), May 5, 2008, New Philadelphia, OH. He is survived by his wife Eileen, a step-son and step-daughter, 4 step-grandchildren and 4 great-step-grandchildren. He bought the Dog Team Tavern near Middlebury, VT, with first wife Catherine, providing lodging and food for post-war immigrants and college students who needed help and jobs. Befriending the Von Trapp family when they came to the U.S., he helped them open their famous lodge. In 2003 he was inducted into the Vermont Ski Hall of Fame for his service in the 10th, his role in the development of the Vermont ski industry and his longtime association with many Olympic skiers. After retirement he and Eileen lived in Sanibel Island, FL, then moved to be near family in Ohio where they were active in church and communities and traveled extensively.

Kano, Nobi (Nobuyoshi) (10-HQ), April 10, 2008, Seattle, WA. He is survived by his wife Tamako, a son, a daughter and 2 younger brothers living in Japan. He studied photography on the G.I. Bill and combined his ability as photographer with a keen business sense, building a chain of 4 camera stores in the Seattle area. A well-known skier and ski instructor, in 2002 he was awarded the honor of being named a Professional Ski Instructors Association Legend.

Kohlmans, Leo J. “Olley” (87-K), March 31, 2008, Cheyenne, WY. He is survived by 3 grandchildren and one great-grandchild. A cowboy before the war, he returned to the ranges after, until it exploded. It took his hand. For this he was awarded the Soldier’s Medal for Exceptional Courage.

Lavigne, Larry (85-G), February 27, 2008. He is survived by his wife Betty (Gould), 7 sons and 1 daughter, 22 grandchildren and 26 great-grandchildren.

Lord, Allan R. (10-CAY), February 2008, Newberg, OR. He is survived by his wife Ardith Wise, 4 stepchildren and 2 step-grandchildren, great- and great-great nephews and nieces, and one brother. He worked at the Port of Portland and, as graduate of the Northwest School of Photography, became a Copyrighted Artist with work produced on note cards, calendars and pictures. He was a member of 5 car clubs and collector of miniature trains and old cars, and with his wife helped form a local disabled support group.

McQuary, Milton (Milt) Frederick (A-86), January 12, 2008, Delta, UT. He is survived by cousins. He worked as rancher, coyote trapper for the Federal government in Colorado and Utah, loved music, reading and the out-of-doors — hunting, fishing and skiing — and is remembered for his keen sense of humor.

Millpointor, Robert F. (87-I), February 18, 2008, Bellevue, WA. He is survived by 2 sons, 2 daughters and 3 grandchildren. He received a BSc from the University of Washington School of Forestry, and worked as logging engineer until he launched his own business as professional land surveyor. He was President of the local chapter of the American Congress of Mapping and Surveying. He loved forests and outdoors and spent weekends retracing government cadastral surveys (done for taxation) of 1860.

Nagel, Fred Arthur (126-D), May 22, 2008, Denver, CO. He is survived by his wife Lois (Corretorre), a daughter and 2 sons, 3 grandchildren, and one sister. A captain in the 126th Combat Engineer Battalion, he supervised the building of the first aerial tramway to be used in combat, during the battle of Riva Ridge. His career included work as mining engineer, general superintendent of a construction company that built bridges in Denver, engineer for the Bureau of Public Roads, and civil engineer with the Wastewater Management Div. of the City & County of Denver. The couple informally “adopted” many young people, and traveled extensively.

Parker, Rufus Sidney (616-B), March 18, 2008, Magee, MS. He is survived by 2 daughters, 4 grandchildren, 4 great-grandchildren, a brother and many nieces and nephews; his wife Mary Nell died 2 months earlier. He was vice president of State Guaranty Bank/Trustmark National Bank, an active member of First Baptist Church, member of the Board, Capital Area Regional Library and Copiah-Lincoln Community College, and of the Lions Club, Chamber of Commerce and 4-H Advisory Council.

Patauendau, Robert A. (87-HQ-3), October, 2007, Augusta, ME. He is survived by his wife Alice. He was a dentist by profession.

Parker, Scollay Cortlandt Sr. (85-C), April 3, 2008, Placerville, CA. He is survived by his wife Anna, 3 sons, 6 grandchildren, a great-granddaughter and a sister. He retired from the U.S. Forest Service as Placerville District Ranger. He enjoyed exploring wilderness country, keeping many pets and staying in touch with friends across the country.

(Continued on Page 15)
Partridge, Alfred (86-A), March 16, 2008, Port Charlotte, FL. He is survived by his wife Cindy, a daughter and a son, and several grandchildren, nieces and nephews. He was past president of the Southeast Chapter and former board member of the Metro NY Chapter. He was a much-loved elementary school teacher and an avid sailor and archer, active in the British Long Bow Society, Lee County Archers, American Legion Post 110, Port Charlotte Yacht Club and Traditional Small Craft Assn., as well as the Dudes and Dames Dance Team.

Perkins, Howard C. (110-SIG), May 6, 2008, Tacoma, WA. He is survived by 2 daughters, a son and 3 step-grandchildren. He is remembered as a devoted husband and father who loved to travel in his RV after retirement. Burial services were held in Willamette National Cemetery, Portland, OR.

Perkins, Ruso H. (87-I), July 2, 2008, New Berlin, NY. He is survived by his son and daughter, one grandson, several nieces and nephews and a cousin. He retired as vice president of Preferred Mutual Insurance Company, after 42 years. He had been a warden and vestryman of St. Andrew’s Episcopal Church, a member of Phoebus Lodge 82 of the Masons, Charter member of the Hard Core Ski Club and of the Leatherstocking and Riverbend Golf Clubs, as well as trustee of the New Berlin Library. He enjoyed skiing, golfing, gardening and extensive travels and was an enthusiastic member of the Upsters and Dames Dance Team.

Ply, Raymond J. (87-I), February 28, 2008, Virginia, MN. He is survived by his wife Virginia J. He was a member of the American Legion and VFW, and active in North Central Chapter. He left school at 16 to help support his family, and received his high school diploma in June, 2004, 62 years later.

Schram, John L. (87-B), May 9, 2008, LaVeta, CO. He is survived by his wife Berniece I., 3 daughters, 2 sons, 4 grandchildren and 3 sisters. He was a salesman all his life, and loved to fish and hunt. The couple spent the last 16 winters in Port Isabel, TX.

Simmons, Floyd M. ‘Chunk’ Jr. (85-E), April 1, 2008, Charlotte, NC. He is survived by a daughter and a grandson. At the Olympic Games in 1948 in London and in 1952 in Helsinki, he won bronze medals in the decathlon. An actor in California with a contract at Universal-International, his film roles included that of Cmdr. “Bill” Harrison in the 1958 musical “South Pacific.” He worked as a photographer in Charlotte and was especially known by friends for his sense of humor.

Stoddard, The Rev. Albert ‘Bert’ Jr. (86-HQ-1), May 22, 2008, Warren, PA. He is survived by his wife Alice (Walter), a daughter, 2 sons and 11 grandchildren. Ordained a Presbyterian minister in 1951, he retired in 1985; as he served as chaplain at West VA Hospital, a volunteer at the McKean Rehabilitation Center, Thailand, and supply pastor. Loved skiing, camping, canoeing, kayaking, hiking & biking; he was active in Boy Scouting, and gave away large amounts of produce from his bountiful garden.

Wallace, Walter C. (85-HQ, 86-M), November 27, 2007, Great Barrington, NY. He served as assistant secretary of labor and chairman of the National Mediation Board.

Wayman, Clair C. (87-L), February 8, 2008, Albany, MO. He is survived by his wife Jacqueline L., a son and daughter, 6 grandchildren and several nieces, nephews and cousins. A farmer and cattleman in the mountains, he was an enthusiastic member of the Upsters and Dames Dance Team.

Ed. Note: Naturally, we turned to John Imbrie, (85-C) who, with wife Barbara has and continues to devote numerous hours to preserving the history of the 10th in WWII, and here’s his response:

Dear Bernice:

Blizzard Editor Felicity Hallanan has asked me what information we have in our Association history files about your husband’s service during WWII in the 10th Mountain Division. It turns out that your husband, Robert K. Weldon, had a long, varied, and distinguished service, starting with the 87th Mountain Infantry Regiment. He was a much-loved elementary school teacher and an avid sailor and archer, active in the British Long Bow Society, Lee County Archers, American Legion Post 110, Port Charlotte Yacht Club and Traditional Small Craft Assn., as well as as the Dudes and Dames Dance Team.

To the Editor:

My husband (deceased) was in the 10th Mtn. Division (87-H) and my son now belongs as a Descendant.

Through the years, I have had some access to “Blizzard” and other articles. Nowhere have I ever seen anything relating to my husband’s service. While still stationed at Camp Hale, he was part of a “special detail” —5 officers and 5 enlisted men—sent to Italy to teach and work with the British 8th Army in Mt. Warfare and skiing. Officers consisted of a Capt. And 4 Lts. Names escape me but my husband, Robert Weldon, and Pat Patterson were 2nd Lts. They were stationed at Messoolin and an old ski area —Termineillo. I’m not sure of the spelling on these words.

They were in Italy for 2 years. The 10th was there in the war I think during the latter part of their duty. Could you please check this out to see if they are in the history of the 10th Mountain Division?

Mrs. Bernice Weldon
2101 S. Garfield Ave, Apt. 145
Loveland, CO 80537

Ed. Note: Naturally, we turned to John Imbrie, (85-C) who, with wife Barbara has and continues to devote numerous hours to preserving the history of the 10th in WWII, and here’s his response:

Dear Bernice:

Blizzard Editor Felicity Hallanan has asked me what information we have in our Association history files about your husband’s service during WWII in the 10th Mountain Division. It turns out that your husband, Robert K. Weldon, had a long, varied, and distinguished service, starting with the 87th Mountain Infantry Regiment. In June, 1943, he and his regiment were sent to California to join in a 30,000-man task force being organized to occupy the Aeolian island Kiska—which it did on August 15. On Kiska, Robert served in the Service Company of the 87th Regiment (87-SVC). After returning to Camp Hale, your husband transferred to the 10th Reconnaissance Troop—a unit of skilled mountain climbers whose task was to train the rest of the Division. (It is possible that, before this transfer, your husband served in other companies of the 87th.)

On December 7, 1943, Robert (along with four other officers and 15 enlisted men) was transferred to a special unit known as the 2662nd Mountain Warfare Training detachment, whose assignment was to give mountain training to soldiers in the British Army in Italy. Among his friends were 2nd Lt. Gordon Patterson of the 105th MT Robert Galaher, and Sgt. Jack Kappler (who is an active member of our Association living in Seattle). Other 10th Mountain members of the detachment included Maj. Hazel E. Link, Sgt. Paul Duke, TSGT Elden Metzger and Harold Sorensen, and SGT Clifford Schmidke. (In Italy, one of these officers, Lt. Clement, was replaced by Lt. Wiken.)

On January 19, 1944, the Special Training Detachment arrived at a training camp in Seprio, Italy, in the Apennine Mountains in the Province of Campobasso. In August, the unit moved to the Mountain School at Terminillo, 65 miles northeast of Rome. The assignment to the Mountain School was terminated late in March 1945, while the 10th was still fighting in the North Apennines. Members of the detachment were assigned to the 10th and sent to train replacements for the Division at the 24th Replacement Depot, near Florence.

It is nice to know you are remembering and honoring the service your husband gave to our great country.

John Imbrie

To the Editor:

Something happened recently that strongly suggests we WWII Veterans need to give/leave accurate information about our military history. My thought was an item in the “Blizzard” and Chapters efforts to get the word out before it is too late.

Not long ago I received a copy of an obituary of an Association member who was a rifleman in my company. Being his first sergeant I knew some of the information was incorrect. I reviewed my company roster and retrieved copies of morning reports, payrolls & regimental & division orders from the data base.

The obit read: “in the 10th 3 years” (truth: less than two years); “wounded” (didn’t happen); “awarded Purple Heart” (didn’t happen); “awarded Bronze Star” (didn’t happen); “earned Combat Infantry Badge” (didn’t happen).

In truth, he did not go to Italy and was not in combat. He went into the Station Hospital at Camp Patrick Henry, VA., where we were ready to embargo for Italy on Christmas Day, 1944. He was transferred from my company January 2, 1945, as being of limited service, to the Hampton Roads Casual Company.

After reading the obit I thought about the more than 32 killed in action, the 107 wounded in action and awarded Purple Hearts, and the 133 soldiers in my company that were awarded Silver Stars and Bronze Stars (not combat stars). Eugene P. Winters (87-C, G)
457 Covey Lane, Eugene, OR 97401

(Ed. Note: The writer raises questions of some concern which we hope will evoke reader responses. At the same time, families and friends who are responsible for obituaries can always find a source for verification of facts in Dennis Hagen at the 10th Mtn. Div. Resource Center, DHagen@denverlibrary.org)
Major Andrew DeKever is a 10th Mtn. Div. (LI) veteran of the Iraq War, and author of a new book recognizing Medal of Honor recipients, among them PFC John Magrath, only member of the Division to whom the award has been made.

“Here Rests in Honored Glory: Life Stories of Our Country’s Medal of Honor Recipients,” chronicles the lives of 10 men, starting with the Civil War through Somalia. His focus is more that of the men behind the uniform rather than the few minutes of valor that have immortalized them in the pages of American military history. The result is a story of ordinary men who were able to dig deep and find the raw courage needed to be “above and beyond the call of duty” to defend their comrades and accomplish their mission.

Author DeKever was commissioned into the Army through the University of Notre Dame Army ROTC program in 1995. During the course of his career he has spent a year in South Korea with the 2nd Infantry Division and a year in Ireland to earn his Masters Degree. His experience with the 10th Mtn. Div. (LI) began in 2000 as company commander with HHC 10th Div. Support Comd. and later as S-3 with 548th Corps Support Bn. with which he went to Iraq.

Most-recently he has been completing a 3-year tour at the U.S. Military Academy at West Point and, in fact, may be making another move even as this edition goes to press – back to 10th Sustainment Bde. of the 10th Mtn. Div. (LI) at Ft. Drum.

All of the royalties from the book are being donated to Chapter 23 of the Disabled American Veterans in Michigan City, IN, which is named in honor of PFC Daniel Bruce. For more information, go to the Merriam Press website at www.merriam-press.com.