

Sahalie Historical Note #15 – The Ski Troops of WWII

A discussion of the history of skiing in the Northwest and Sahalie's role in its development would not be complete without telling the story of the **10th Mountain Division** and related U.S. Army skiers during World War II.

War historians have noted the use of skis going back hundreds of years across the northern climes, from Norway to Mongolia. Most of the earliest drawings of skiers are related to wartime action in winter, with troops using long wooden boards with upturned tips and a loop to slide a boot into. It was cross-country in its infancy, but northern armies found that troops could move faster on these rudimentary skis than on the crude snowshoes of the era. In the late 1930s, as war raged in Europe, Americans noted from afar the success of the Finns in

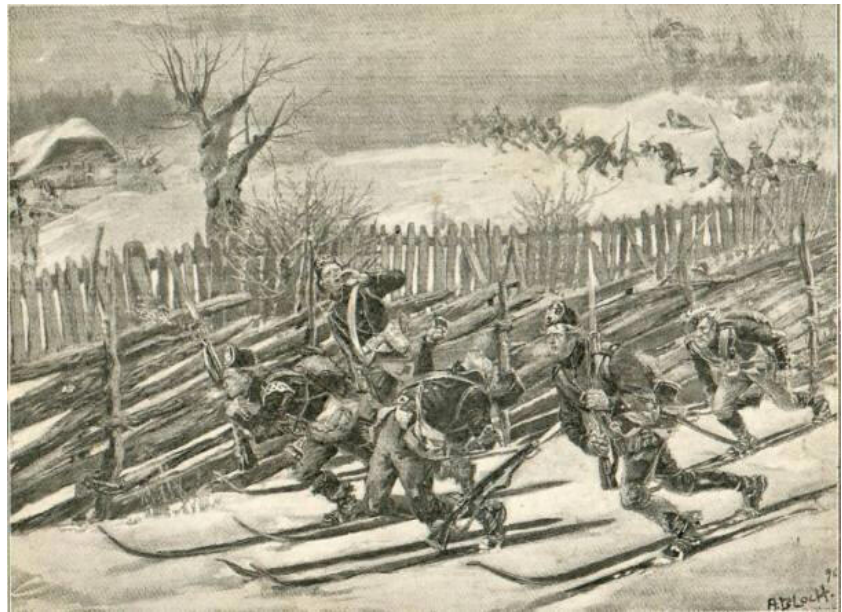


Illustration of Norwegian troops in 1808 at the Battle of Trangen (photo from <http://www.napoleon-series.org/images/military/battles/ViciousWar1808/viciouswar1808a.JPG>)

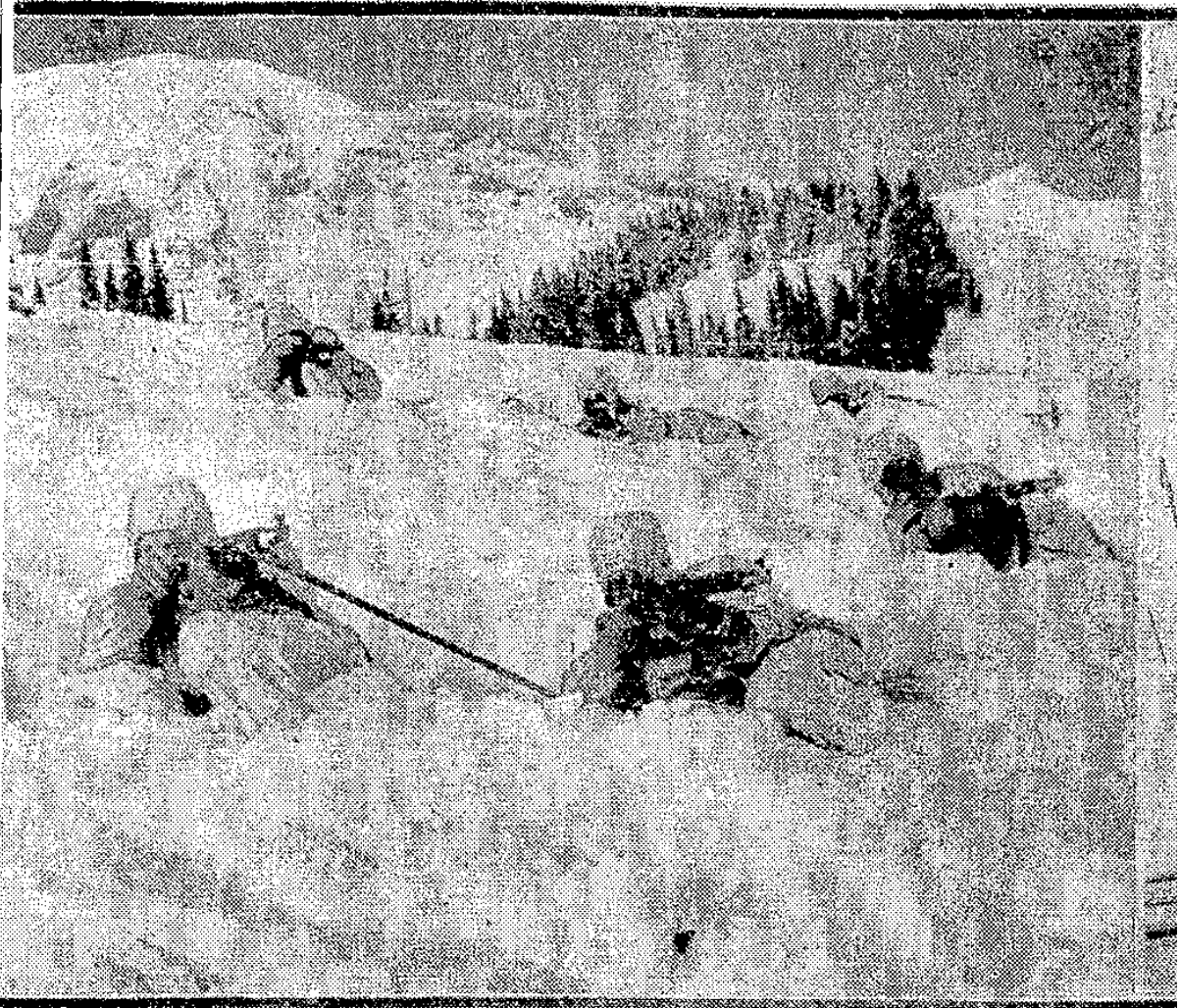
defeating (temporarily) a Soviet invasion by using their cross-country skis and guerilla tactics. After the U.S. entered the war in late 1941, Charles "Minnie" Dole, the founder of the National Ski Patrol, lobbied the War Department to include specially-trained ski troops for the pending action in snowy, mountainous Europe... and to defend the snowy northern U.S. border if necessary.

While the concept of a dedicated unit for ski troops was new, the U.S Army did offer some training related to skiing and winter maneuvers distributed across its divisions in the mid to late 1930s. As early as 1936 the Army was promoting ski experience for troops stationed at Fort Lewis. While not yet organized into any official units, troops were encouraged to practice skiing at Paradise on Mt. Rainier "...as the only American attempt [at the time] to duplicate famous mountain regiments maintained by Italy, Austria and other European countries."¹

A film, "Ski Patrol," issued in August, 1940, promoted the use of ski troops in warfare.² The *Seattle Times* noted that it was "the first motion picture to reveal the daring strategy of ski armies whose tactics include planting mines on mountains, creation of avalanches to destroy the enemy and other maneuvers."

A few special "ski patrol" units within existing Army forces began practicing in late 1940. Lieutenant **John Woodward**, a Sahalie ski instructor in the 1930s, star University of Washington ski team racer and top contestant in various Silver Skis and other races in the Northwest, was asked to train a select group of Army recruits in ski techniques, as of December, 1940.³ The "Ski Patrol Troops" of the **3rd Division's 15th Infantry Regiment** were the place to be for skiers signing up to join Uncle Sam's military. A December, 1940, newspaper noted that U.S. Army ski troops, preparing for maneuvers in Alaska, had been equipped with new "eye-protective devices which absorb the glare and prevent snow blindness."⁴

SKI TROOPS TRAIN ON MOUNT RAINIER



Mount Rainier these days, besides attracting pleasure-bound skiers, also is the "training field" for these earnest young men of the 15th "Can Do" Infantry, in the Army's newest branch—the Ski Patrol. No trenches are needed here. One good fall into the snow and a soldier is well buried. Their parkas are white in the snow. When they hit forest country, the jackets are reversed, showing a green color—for protective camouflage. The men are seen at firing practice.

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A rumor circulated in late 1940 that the Army might take over the Snoqualmie [later Milwaukee Road] Ski Bowl at Snoqualmie Pass to train ski troops. The "whisper" noted that the Army's 3rd Division and the National Guard's 41st Division were authorized to purchase skis.⁵ Chick Garrett, *Seattle Times*' ski columnist at the time, addressed the rumor a few weeks later to clarify that the Army's special ski troops "will do their training at Mt. Rainier exclusively."⁶

Rita Hume, *Seattle Times*' ski columnist beginning in 1941, swooned over the ski troops training at Paradise: "At Paradise Inn last weekend we glimpsed enough broad shoulders bearing up under the strain of officers' stripes to make even a Sun Valley instructor take a back seat.... Definitely professional-looking are these ski troops in their forest green downhill pants and parkas. They do a few quick-change tricks, too, when occasion demands all white ski toggery."⁷

In February, 1941, Woodward lead his ski patrol troops on a seven-day, overland traverse "along difficult mountain terrain" from Snoqualmie Pass to Chinook Pass east of Mt. Rainier.⁸

ARMY SKI PATROL BATTLES CASCADES' HAZARDS



Fifteen officers and men of the Army's 3rd Division Ski Patrol were resting today at Fort Lewis after a seven-day trek along the crest of the Cascade Range from Snoqualmie Pass to Chinook Pass.

This photograph shows the men, heads bowed, fighting uphill in a blinding snowstorm during the trip. The patrol was beset by thaws and freezes which made ski travel extremely difficult.—A. P. photo.

John Woodward, racing for the U.S. Army, came in fourth in the 1941 Silver Skis race on April 6, 1941, at Mt. Rainier.⁹ He then retired from competition, setting the course in 1942.¹⁰ In the 1942 race almost half of the contestants were registered as “U.S. Army.”

Woodward was also one of the first of four skiers in the Northwest to pass the new national test for ski instructors, in April, 1941.¹¹

The first military unit officially authorized by the U.S. Army for specialized ski or mountain service was the **87th Infantry Battalion (later Regiment)** based at Fort Lewis in Washington State, announced on November 17th, 1941.¹² It was “the first battalion ...exclusively for mountain warfare, ...formed here [Fort Lewis] today around some of the world’s finest skiers and most expert mountain climbers... to be known as the **87th Infantry Mountain Regiment.**” In addition to local John Woodward, key talent to be brought into the 87th included Walter Prager, former Dartmouth College ski coach, Paul Lafferty, former University of Oregon ski coach, and many other great skiers and mountaineers of the day.

When the Japanese raid at Pearl Harbor (December 7, 1941) thrust the U.S. into the World War, the gears had thus already been turning for some time to develop an elite mountain corps of troops trained in skiing, rock climbing and related challenging conditions. This became the core of what evolved into the 10th Mountain Division.

The combination of the seasoned 3rd Division ski patrollers with the newly formed 87th as the United States officially entered the World War created an impressive assembly of expert skiers from around the globe. World-class skiers born in Austria, Norway, Switzerland and other countries who had emigrated to the U.S. (some fleeing Nazi occupations) joined with local U.S. talent to form an incredible cast of wartime skiers on the slopes of Mt. Rainier.¹³

U. S. Infantry, ski trooper



He's the best dressed soldier in the world

Whether they serve as ski troops or as jungle fighters, American soldiers are the best dressed in the world — for both fighting efficiency and comfort.

Even their underwear was planned months ahead by the Army, the Navy and the underwear industry. Ample supplies of both Summer and Winter garments were waiting for each group of men when they entered service.

Today with our Armed Forces being increased by millions, underwear production is meeting their needs and is creating reserves for the future. In this big industry job, HANES is proud to have a part.

We are making every effort to keep our civilian customers supplied. But if you have any difficulty in obtaining your favorite style of HANES Underwear, please remember that much of our production is going to the Services.

P. H. Hanes Knitting Company,
Winston-Salem, N. C.



Underwear ads featured the ski troops. *Seattle Daily Times*, October 14, 1942, p. 8.



U. S.-JAP CRISIS

BRITISH REINFORCE SINGAPORE!
ANZACS DRIVE ON IN LIBYA!
MEDIATION AVERTS RAIL STRIKE!
ARMY SKI TROOPS AT MT. RAINIER!
CANOE RACES AT LA CONNER, WN.I

ACE NEWS ANALYST.
H. V. KALTENBORN
DISCUSSES (1) U.S.-PACIFIC
DEFENSE; (2) EFFECTS OF
ANTI-STRIKE LAWS; (3) INVASION
OF GERMANY!

JAPAN THREATENS THAILAND!
F. D. R. CALLS CABINET MEETING!
KURUSU RESUMES "PEACE" TALKS!

THE MARCH OF TIME
"SAILORS WITH WINGS"
(Story of Naval Aviation)
PLUS! IN COLOR!
"MEMORIES OF EUROPE"

An ad on the day of the Pearl Harbor raid notes "Army Ski Troops at Mt. Rainier" as a topical story of the day. The paper was printed before news of Japan's attack. By the next morning, black-outs were in effect. *Seattle Daily Times*, December 7, 1941, p. 34.

The area around Paradise at Mt. Rainier was a perfect training ground for the U.S. ski troops. Woodward and others knew it well, and it offered significant snowfall as well as varied terrain and harsh conditions. Not to mention the Paradise Inn, Paradise Lodge and nearby cabins, which the military took over for much of the duration of the war.

In a separate move from creation of the 87th Infantry, an attempt was made to train Army paratroopers in ski techniques at the Alta ski resort in Utah. Dick Durrance, former Dartmouth national champion, organized a special ski school there. **Bill Redlin**, who skied at Sahalie as a teenager and who won the national amateur downhill and slalom combined trophy in 1941, announced on January 5, 1942 that he would leave the U.W. ski team to assist Durrance in training paratroop skiers at Alta. The *Seattle Times* announced this decision in two-inch bold headlines: "REDLIN WILL FORSAKE N.W. SKI RANKS AS ARMY TUTOR."¹⁴ However, this experiment at Alta failed, since most of the paratroopers had no previous ski experience. This proved Minnie Dole's argument to the Army that "it was a lot easier to teach skiers how to be soldiers than the other way around."¹⁵

Back at Paradise, the 87th Mountain Regiment was kicking butt, including finishing more than half of the skiers in the top 20 of the 1942 Silver Skis race. The *Seattle Post-Intelligencer* noted the 87th at the time as "the finest ski team ... ever put into one lodge."¹⁶



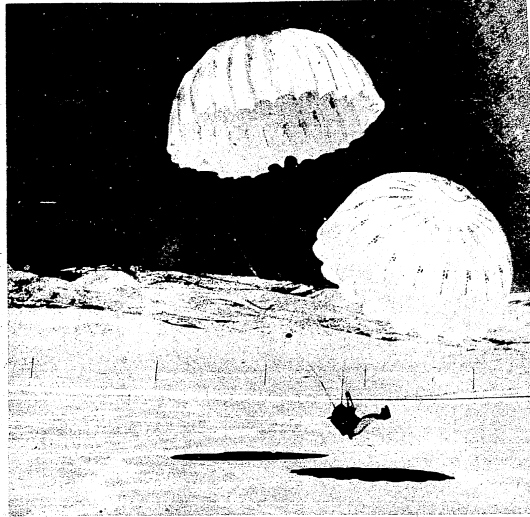
Ski troops from the 87th Infantry (later part of the 10 Mountain Division) training at Paradise on Mt. Rainier, c. 1942. Photo from the U.S. National Park Service.

Even while these troops were practicing under often grueling conditions, which included overnight camping in the snow without tents and stays for as long as two weeks at a time on Mt. Rainier's summit testing equipment and stamina (!),¹⁷ the impression left to both the public and Army generals was "more recreational skiing taking place at Paradise than Army training."¹⁸ This was partially true, as the best skiers often spent their days schussing the Muir Snowfield under sunny skies.



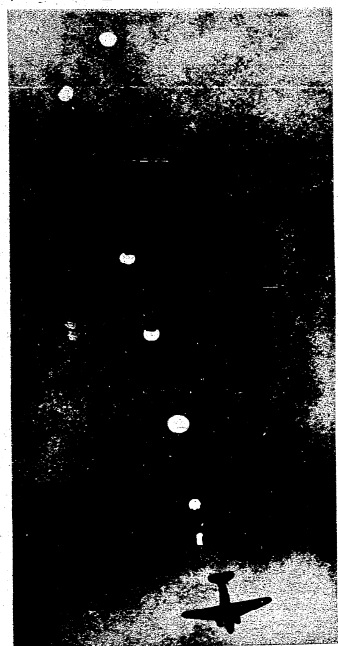
HEADING FOR A FALL

PARA-SKI TROOPS PRACTICE JUMPING OUT OF THE SKY INTO THE SNOW



A SECOND—emergency—parachute, carried by every ski trooper, came in handy for this man. It opened and eased him safely to the ground after the first one developed a defect during the descent.

CROUCHING in line, waiting their turns to make parachute leaps from a large Army transport plane, are members of the United States Army's first battalion of para-ski troops. These men are expert parachute troopers who during recent weeks, in the snow-clad mountains near Alta, Utah, have been learning to be expert skiers as well. Their special training is to enable them to fight on skis after making parachute landings in snow-covered regions. Other phases of the battalion's training are shown in six accompanying pictures.



OUT INTO SPACE goes a para-ski trooper. A rigging attached inside the plane cabin serves automatically to open a jumper's parachute.

MAKING THEMSELVES AT HOME IN THE SNOW



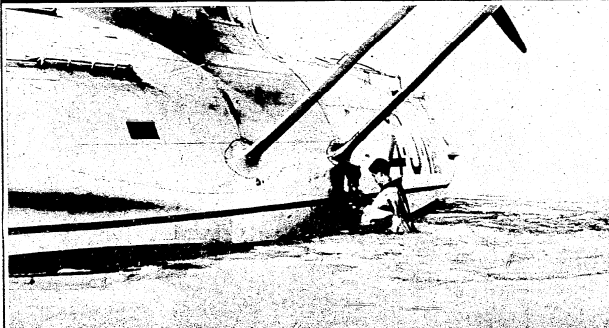
HOW TO MAIN-
TAIN themselves in snowy regions is an important part of the intensive training of para-ski troops. A group demonstrates (above) how men may sleep, rolled in canvas, with skis and a shelter strip at their heads, rifles at hand. In entrance to a snow shelter (left), two men prepare drinking water by melting snow in mess kits held over oil flame.

OUTLINED against the sky, para-ski troopers are pictured above, floating to earth during a training jump from a big Army transport plane. As many as 20 or more parachutists can leap from a transport plane like this in quick succession.



(Right) **READY** for action on the ground, this is how para-ski troops are equipped — rifles, skis, all-white costumes, including hoods drawn up over dark helmets and goggles. This group is receiving coaching in prone rifle firing.

SERVICING NAVAL PATROL PLANE IS NO JOB FOR A WEAKLING



A NAVY SEAMAN, standing waist-deep in ice-filled water, removes the side beaching gear from beneath the hull of a big Navy patrol bomber, prior to the plane's take-off from a New England naval air base. Despite recent extremely cold weather, ground crews, of which this man is one, and flight crews maintained Atlantic patrol flights without interruption.

ARMY SKIERS ARE EXPERTS

Mountain Troops Outrace Collegians



These members of Uncle Sam's Mountain Troops, who have been working on the slopes of Mount Rainier, showed the collegians their heels when they raced without competing officially in last week-end's Pacific Coast Intercollegiate championship ski tournament. Left to right: Olaf Rode-

gaard, F. I. S. instructor from Mount Hood; Charles McLane, former Dartmouth captain; Don Goodman, downhill star formerly of Sun Valley Ski Club; Dick Cochrane, assistant instructor at Mount Hood; Paul Townsend, former captain, University of New Hampshire.

By LIEUT. JOHN JAY
U. S. Mountain Troops.

For six weeks, six days a week, the usually deserted slopes of Mount Rainier have been dotted with olive-drab uniforms, serrated with tracks of snowplow turns and schusses, as the Army's Mountain Troops learned to ski.

The rigorous dawn-to-dusk schedule has been developing many an expert skier from the novice ranks and sharpening the technique of the many crack racers whom the unit numbers as ski instructors. The Army is proud of its men—ready to test their mettle against topnotch civilian ski competition.

So, when an uncrowned team of five men from Uncle Sam's new Mountain Unit stole the show from their college rivals in unofficial runs through last week-end's Pacific Coast Intercollegiate courses, it was a great day for the Army!

In a way, it was a great day for the East, also. Hero of the meet,

in Army eyes, was a short, stocky skier from Manchester, New Hampshire, whose powerful jackrabbit legs and streaming, sandy hair have long been a familiar sight rocketing down Eastern slaloms and trails. His name on the roster is Private Charles McLane, and he turned down a lieutenant's commission in the Marines to join the mountain troops at \$21 a month.

For the collegiate races he put on a pair of G. I. (Government Issue) pants and a G. I. parka and stuck his G. I. boots into the bindings of a pair of white G. I. skis, but the look on his grinning face as he slashed his way through a fast 31-gate slalom to beat the winning Husky time of Carl Neu by 4 seconds—that look was all his own.

It was what carried him to the captaincy of a great Dartmouth team last year and made him Eastern amateur downhill and slalom champion. It was what caused him to yodel as he skis: Charley likes a good battle, and last week-end he was back in there fighting once more.

Another New Hampshire lad, a lieutenant this time, literally ran away with the cross-country. Tiny, tanned Paul Townsend, whose name is legendary in the Granite State, started next to last in the three-mile grind and, in the next 15 minutes he spent more time yelling "Track" than he did racing. The former captain of the University of New Hampshire team passed five racers en route to pace the field.

"Private McLane and I have been racing each other for four years at college," he explains in his New England twang, "and I knew I'd have to go some, because this is one place in the Army where rank doesn't count."

There was another khaki figure who caught everyone's eye as he snaked smoothly through the tricky flushes Scott Osborn had set down Alta Vista and chalked up the second fastest time in the slalom and another second in the downhill.

He also was tiny and well tanned, and when he said "I'm racing, too,"

he said it as if it were spelled "tu." Olaf Rodegaard is the name. And how he blushes when the Mountain Unit glee club sings "I'm Ski Yoomper from Norway"! Former F. I. S. from Mount Hood, Olaf has been skiing for 25 of his 30-odd years, and is official instructor for the officers—who want to be sure they can ski as well as the men.

Assisting him in this task is another Mount Hood runner, Dick Cochrane, tall, dark and wiry fourth member of the team. Fifth is Don Goodman, a powerfully-built chap from Idaho's Sun Valley Ski Club, whose passion is speed.

There are many others in this unique Mountain Unit who are eager to carry the Army colors in future competitions. Tall Ralph Bromaghin and Glen Stanley, both former Sun Valley instructors; Ray Zoberski, a corporal who likes to take everything straight and deliberately heads for all bumps, and Lieut. John Woodward of Seattle who placed fourth in the Silver Skis last year.

But 87th veteran Gordie Lowe is quoted as saying, "Even though it might sound like it, it really wasn't all fun and games. Yes, we all loved the snow and the mountains, and had volunteered to be there, but the training truly was grueling. Aside from weapons training and marching in every type of foul mountain weather imaginable, we climbed huge distances carrying those ninety-pound rucksacks, and camped in spectacularly frigid conditions. The army wanted to see how much we could take, and believe me, it didn't turn out to be the vacation in the mountains some guys hoped it might be."¹⁹

The special ski troops were said to be the first unit of the U.S. Army that was ever filled primarily through the recruiting of an outside, civilian organization. When Minnie Dole convinced the Army of the need for such a group, he volunteered his National Ski Patrol, which was part of the National Ski Association. It's local affiliate, the Pacific Northwest(ern) Ski Association, played a prominent role. Sahalie Ski Club president and PNSA secretary, **Herb Lonseth**, was the key local recruiter.

Army Calling Skiers For Mountain Troops

Hey, Skier!

What's your draft status? If you're due to be inducted into the Army within the next few weeks, or if you come under the 18-26 age group, you may qualify for the Mountain Troops.

The National Ski Association of America again has been asked by the Army to submit names of skiers who wish to apply for the Mountain Troops. The selection of personnel for service, suspended on July 8, has been resumed.

Men who have lived and worked in the mountains, such as rock climbers, trappers, packers, guides, prospectors and timber cruisers are preferred. If they ski, so much the better. Applications of new men who can show evidence of exceptional fitness will be considered, even though applicants have had no broad mountain experience. The emphasis is on toughness and the ability to take it.

Information concerning enlistment in the Mountain Troops can be obtained from Herb Lonseth, secretary of the Pacific Northwestern Ski Association. Lonseth's telephone number is Elliott 1712.

Seattle Daily Times, October 22, 1942, p. 30.

After all the action at Paradise Valley on Mount Rainier, the Army decided to shift the mountain troops to a newly-constructed training center in Colorado called Camp Hale, located above 9,000 feet in the Pando Valley near Tennessee Pass north of the town of Leadville in the Rockies. At its peak, 13,000 troops trained at Camp Hale.

Camp Hale was the center of activity for the mountain troops beginning in January, 1943, when the 87th officially moved there from Fort Lewis, and extending through the winter of 1944. Much has been written about the training and related activities of the mountain troops in Colorado. Northwesterners should remember that these celebrated, specialized troops got their start on the slopes of Mt. Rainier.

Camp Hale was booming through the winters of 1943 and 1944. Extensive training in "army ski technique" (a modified Arlberg stem-christie) while carrying heavy packs was a mainstay, but snowshoeing, camping in the snow and many other activities, all conducted at or above 9000 feet and often in sub-zero temperatures, hardened these troops into fit units indeed. On weekends, many of the men were allowed to travel, resulting in mad dashes to race at Alta and other ski areas in the West but also local dashes to explore the terrain around Aspen and Vail.

Among these elite troops training at Camp Hale was **Stan Atwood Sr.** of Seattle. A skier and all-round athlete since his days at Lincoln High School in Seattle (class of 1934) and at U.W., he volunteered for the ski troops while holding out for his Navy officer's commission, which had been delayed. Stan Sr. trained at Camp Hale before getting the call that his officer's commission had come through. He shifted to the Navy, married **Lorraine Slingsby** (Lincoln H.S., 1936) in the shadow of Old Ironsides at Boston's

Charlestown Naval Shipyard, and served in the Pacific during the later years of the war. Stan and Lorraine joined Sahalie well after the war, in 1957.

Ed Link is another Sahalie member who served in the mountain troops. Ed skied with Sahalie from 1936 through 1941, including some impressive finishes in local cross-country as well as many alpine competitions. He joined the Army and volunteered for the 87th Regiment, trained at Camp Hale in Colorado and saw combat in Italy. After the war, he helped to develop Crystal Mountain ski area (which opened in 1962) and served as Crystal's president and general manager for 13 years, from 1968 to 1981. During this time he entered and usually won most class 4 and 5 ski races in the region. He hosted the national alpine championships at the young Crystal Mountain in 1965 that attracted notable skiers such as Jimmie Heuga, Billy Kidd and Jean Claude Killy. Ed assisted as a skiing official at the 1980 winter Olympics in Lake Placid, NY.

I should also emphasize that the elite troops were not strictly "ski" troops but "mountain" troops, and their recruitment as well as their training included rock climbing and other mountaineering skills. A separate camp dedicated to rock climbing was set up at Seneca Rocks in West Virginia, and included some of the top mountaineers of the era. A lot of summertime rock climbing was also done out of Camp Hale. As it turned out, this rock work was of more value when push came to shove in Italy than all the ski training on Rainier and the Colorado Rockies.

Back at Camp Hale, the ski and mountain training intensified. It was not all fun-and-games-and-downhill. As Whitlock and Bishop note in their excellent, image-intensive pictorial of the 10th called *Soldiers on Skis*, "Anyone who joined the ski troops with the idea that it was going to be soft duty was set straight quickly. The training was, in a word, grueling. In addition to normal infantry schooling in close-order drill, marksmanship, bayonet, and grenades, plus equipment and vehicle maintenance, artillery operations for those in the 75mm howitzer battalions, and bridge building and mine detecting for the engineers, the men were taught military skiing, snowshoeing, snow-fighting, trail breaking for toboggans, mountain rescue work, avalanche prevention, rock climbing, mule packing, forest-fire fighting, dog-sled operations, and snow-cave building – in short, everything needed to fight and survive at high altitudes, in varying terrain, and in extreme weather conditions."²⁰ The result was the most highly trained and best conditioned force in the entire U.S. Army.²¹

In 1943 the Army expanded this special corps into a full division, built around the 87th Regiment and including newly formed 85th and 86th Regiments and others. It was first called the **10th Light Division (Alpine)**, and only in late 1944 was it given the designation we all know it by today: the **10th Mountain Division** with a special "Mountain" tab authorized for the sleeve insignia above the crossed bayonets that formed a Roman numeral 10 inside a powder keg. The special "Mountain" designation and sleeve tab put members of the division in an elite class with the Rangers and the Airborne.



Meanwhile, the war raged on and many began to wonder if the 10th soldiers would ever see combat. They were finally called into action in late 1944 in the campaign to push the German army out of Italy. The first soldiers of the 10th arrived in Italy at Christmas, 1944, and by February 1945 were in the thick of battle in the challenging Apennine Mountains between Florence and the Po Valley to the north, where the Germans had created their Gothic Line of defense. Intense fighting ensued at places such as Riva Ridge, Mount Belvedere and Mount Della Torraccia. They didn't use their skis much, but their climbing skills and mountain endurance were widely credited for their success. While losses were huge (one in three were either killed or wounded), they never lost a battle, and pushed through the German defense all the way over the Po River to the southern edge of the Alps. Even though the 10th Mountain Division was not engaged in the war until its last year, its soldiers paid dearly: the 10th suffered one of the highest casualty rates per combat day of any unit of the U.S. Army through the entire war.²²

My good friend, Elias "Dutch" Schultz, was a member of the 10th. He was a Jewish kid from the Bronx who had never been on skis, but who was so passionately anti-Fascist that he volunteered first in the Lincoln Brigade as part of the Spanish Civil War in the 1930s and then in the U.S. Army in WWII, assigned to Fort Lewis and the 87th Infantry Division. He learned to ski on Mount Rainier, trained through Camp Hale in Colorado, and saw action in Italy in early 1945, where he was wounded. Returned to a hospital in Spokane, he told about getting a visit there from one of the Hollywood pin-up starlets of the time, Marlene Dietrich. "Nice legs!" he recalled even at age 95. Dutch was our neighbor, a Seattle longshoreman and wood sculptor, honorary grandfather to our kids. His experience in the 10th had helped to shape his life, both the appreciation for the Northwest outdoors and his passion for social justice.

Veterans of the 10th Mountain Division returned to the States and formed the backbone of the post-war ski boom in America. In addition to locals **Ed Link** (from Sahalie) and Duke Watson, who developed Crystal Mountain, 10th veteran Nelson Bennett built up White Pass, Walter Hampton created Mission Ridge and Bill Healey established Mount Bachelor. Other 10th vets were responsible for developing Aspen, Vail and Arapahoe Basin in Colorado, Jackson Hole in Wyoming and Sugarbush in Vermont, to name but a few of the sixty ski areas founded or assisted by these vets. **John Woodward** went on to own A&T ski company in Seattle (with Henry Simonson) until 1974.

The 10th Mountain Division was deactivated after the war, briefly reformed to assist in the Korean War in the early 1950s, then dormant again until reconstituted in 1985. Since then this elite division has seen action in Kuwait, Somalia, Iraq and Afghanistan, and carries on the tradition of highly-trained, unconventional, backcountry troops that began in the Cascade Mountains of Washington State in the late 1930s.

■ Dave Galvin (January, 2012)

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Recommended reading: Much as been written about the Mountain Troops, some focused more on their ski training and other books centered on the 10th Mountain Division's wartime engagement in Italy. Here are a few books that I recommend:

- Charles J. Sanders (2005), *The Boys of Winter: Life and Death in the U.S. Ski Troops During the Second World War*, Boulder, CO: University Press of Colorado.
- Peter Shelton (2003), *Climb to Conquer: The Untold Story of World War II's 10th Mountain Division Ski Troops*, New York: Scribner.
- McKay Jenkins (2003), *The Last Ridge: The Epic Story of America's First Mountain Soldiers and the Assault on Hitler's Europe*, New York: Random House.
- Flint Whitlock and Bob Bishop (1992), *Soldiers on Skis: A Pictorial Memoir of the 10th Mountain Division*, Boulder, CO: Paladin Press.

Lowell Skoog has recorded some great oral history in conversations with John Woodward that he has summarized, located at his *Alpenglow Ski History* site: <http://www.alpenglow.org/ski-history/notes/comm/woodward-john.html>.

And the digital treasure of old *Seattle Times* newspapers at Seattle Public

Library (www.spl.org) continues to be a goldmine for my research.

★ IN THE SKI TROOPS ★
they say:

"SNOW BUNNY" for beginner
"EGG BEATER" for head-over-heels spill
"GHOST SUIT" for white camouflage uniform
"CAMEL" for the Army man's favorite cigarette



DICK DURRANCE
former Olympic ace
who trains
the Army's ski troopers

FIRST IN THE SERVICE

With men in the Army, the Navy, the Marine Corps, and the Coast Guard, the favorite cigarette is Camel. (Based on actual sales records in Post Exchanges and Canteens.)

CAMELS
HAVE WHAT IT
TAKES! THEY'RE
EASY ON MY
THROAT— AND
A TREAT TO MY
TASTE!



Camel

Even cigarette ads featured the ski troops! *Seattle Daily Times*,
January 27, 1943, p. 2.



**wonderfully
sturdy**

SKI BOOTS

from Army surplus stocks

**Here are the rugged, stoutly built Army
ski boots you've wanted! The same
boots that carried our ski troops through
the war. In natural, 7½-12.**

7.95

Sporting Goods, Street Floor

The Bon Marche **where all Seattle shops**

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- ¹ "Army Donning Skis; Fort Lewis Goes to Mt. Rainier," *Seattle Daily Times*, April 8, 1936, p. 20.
- ² "'Ski Patrol' Here Today on Colonial Bill," *Seattle Daily Times*, August 3, 1940, p. 4.
- ³ Chick Garrett (1940a), "Stitzmarks... and Remarks," *Seattle Daily Times*, December 12, 1940, p. 32.
- ⁴ "Army's Ski Troops Get Eye-Protectors," *Seattle Daily Times*, December 1, 1940, p. 2.
- ⁵ "Ski Soldiers May Drill at Bowl," *Seattle Daily Times*, November 13, 1940, p. 27.
- ⁶ Chick Garrett (1940b), "Sitz-marks... and Remarks," *Seattle Daily Times*, December 1, 1940, p. 24.
- ⁷ Rita Hume (1941), "Feminine Version: Skier Rita Visits Army Skiers," *Seattle Daily Times*, January 9, 1941, p. 21.
- ⁸ "Stress Laid On Ski Troopers," *Seattle Daily Times*, February 20, 1941, p. 19.
- ⁹ Chick Garrett (1941), "Taylor Tumbles Down Mountain for Upset Silver Skis Victory," *Seattle Daily Times*, April 7, 1941, p. 16.
- ¹⁰ Rita Hume (1942), "Army Entries in Silver Skis Are Dangerous," *Seattle Sunday Times*, April 5, 1942, p. 5.
- ¹¹ "Two Army Skimen Certified by P.N.S.A.," *Seattle Daily Times*, April 22, 1941, p. 22.
- ¹² "Famed Skiers to 'Ride 'Em' in New Mountain Battalion," *Seattle Daily Times*, November 17, 1941, p. 28.
- ¹³ Charles J. Sanders (2005), *The Boys of Winter: Life and Death in the U.S. Ski Troops During the Second World War*, Boulder, CO: University Press of Colorado, p. 59.
- ¹⁴ Chick Garrett (1942), "Redlin Will Forsake N.W. Ski Ranks as Army Tutor: Ace to Teach Paratroopers at Alta Resort," *Seattle Daily Times*, January 5, 1942, p. 16.
- ¹⁵ Charles Sanders (2005), *The Boys of Winter*, p. 69.
- ¹⁶ Mike Donahoe (1942), *Seattle Post-Intelligencer*, April 13, 1942, p. 15, as noted in Charles Sanders (2005), *The Boys of Winter*, p. 61.
- ¹⁷ I've been there (on Rainier's summit) 6 times but never overnight. I can't imagine even with today's (2012) equipment staying there for two weeks at a time! Think of the clothing and other equipment these guys had in 1942! These were tough birds, indeed, and their training was no picnic.
- ¹⁸ Charles Sanders (2005), p. 63.
- ¹⁹ Gordon Lowe (2001), telephone interview by Charles Sanders, as quoted in Sanders (2005), *The Boys of Winter*, p. 65.
- ²⁰ Flint Whitlock and Bob Bishop (1992), *Soldiers on Skis: A Pictorial Memoir of the 10th Mountain Division*, Boulder, Colorado: Paladin Press, pp. 11-12.
- ²¹ Charles Sanders (2005), p. 101.
- ²² Andy Bigford (2002), "War & Skiing," *Ski Magazine*, January, 2002, p. 13; as referenced in Charles Sanders (2005), p. 192.