

Camp Hale to Be Permanent Army Post For Mountain Troop Training

H. Collins Express-Courier
WASHINGTON (AP) — Colorado's Camp Hale, training ground for mountain troops 10,000 feet up in the Rockies above Leadville, probably will be a permanent Army facility, says Representative Rockwell of Colorado.

Rockwell, who visited the camp during the summer congressional recess, told a reporter that the Army feels that troops trained in the harsh requirements of mountain campaign will be needed in any wars in which this country may engage in the future.

Hardening Required

The camp is quiet now. The finished mountaineer troops who trained there have started toward active battle but, Rockwell said, the commander expects new trainees this fall. Campaigns in the Alps, he said, and in the high and rough terrain of other potential battlefields, demand a special hardening process and a great deal of special training if the troops are to be successful.

They must, and do, become accustomed to working and living in temperatures of 30 below zero; they must be able to get about in the rough country with full equipment.

Weak Ones Eliminated

There is no preliminary screening that will determine with certainty that a man is fitted physically and mentally for

9-20-44
this type of work, Rockwell said. The unfit can be screened out only as their weaknesses develop during training.

"Size and strength mean nothing," he said, "if the man hasn't the mental stamina to undergo the hardships necessary to this type of campaigning."

Rockwell also said he is asking the Navy department to provide additional equipment at the Glenwood Springs convalescent hospital. The institution, he said, is doing a "marvelous" piece of work and, of the 1,600 patients it has treated, 42 percent have gone back into combat. The hot mineral waters, he said, have brought boys from the Pacific area back to health far more quickly than anyone thought possible.

Equipment Asked

The hospital, he said, needs Quonset huts, a building to consolidate occupational and physiotherapy and improvement of the bath building. These he is asking the Navy to provide.

So successful has the hospital been that he is hopeful the Navy will decide to make it a permanent institution. It is now under lease from year to year. "Probably," he said, "there is not another place with comparable recreational and healing values, especially for malaria patients."