

87th Mountain

Regiment Boasts

Famous Skiers

Camp Hale Has Men Noted

In Snow Sports

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Torger Tokle's recent enlistment in the mountain troops adds yet another famous name to the growing roll of champions now included on the roster at Camp Hale near Leadville. Among the better known ski stars wearing the famous white parka of the fighting mountaineers are Sergeant Walter Prager, twice winner of Europe's Gold Kandahar race, coach of several champion Dartmouth college ski teams; Sergeant Peter Gabriel, crack skier, outstanding Swiss mountaineer guide, and veteran of difficult ascents from the Alps to Alaska. Another Norwegian, tiny Sergeant Olaf Rodegaard, was former head of the Mount Hood Ski school. And from the ranks of the Sun Valley Ski school staff have come Lt. Glenn Stanley, Private Florian Haemmerle, and Lts. John Litchfield and Percy Rideout, who are now completing their course at officer candidate school.

On the east coast, Vermont has sent the fighting mountaineers such well known skiers as Lt. Everett Bailey, former coach of the University of Vermont; Private Norman Richardson, record-holder on the Nosedive trail, and Private Fritz Kramer of the National Ski Patrol on Mt. Mansfield. From the University of New Hampshire have come two outstanding skiing brothers—First Lt. Paul Townsend, former Captains and Olympic cross-country runner, and his younger brother, Ralph Townsend, eastern combined cross country and jumping champion. Ralph missed a lieutenant's commission by half an inch—his five foot height failed to meet requirements.

No roster of skiing champions is complete without mention of Dartmouth college, and as might be expected, the Big Green has contributed heavily. Besides their famous coach, Walter Prager, they gave the mountain troops their outstanding captain and eastern combined champion as well, Officer Candidate Charles McLane. To replace Prager, they went to the Sun Valley Ski school staff to get Percy Rideout, a Dartmouth alumnus. Rideout is now entering the fighting mountaineers as a second lieutenant, along with his college mate, John Litchfield. Another lieutenant from Hanover's halls is Arnold Alexander, formerly of the American Ski school at North Creek in the Adirondacks.

But the roster is studded with famous names . . . Corporal Rudy Konieczny of Adams, Mass., winner of many a race down the precipitous Thunderbolt ski trail . . . PFC Hal Burton, editor of the Ski column in the New York Daily News.

Private Wendy Cramm, Vermont, state champion . . . Corporal Harold Sorenson and Sergeant Berger Torissen, two crack Norwegian came PFC Bill Klein and Sergeant jumpers from Connecticut.

And from California's Sugar Bowl Jim McNamara, crack instructors from the Hannes Schroll Ski school . . . from Manchester, Vermont, came Corporal Andy Ransom, a certified N.S.E.A.S.A. instructor and former ambulance driver with the British in Libya . . . the University of California ski team sent their captain, Officer Candidate Stuart Dole, and Williams college in the Berkshires saw five of its top skiers sign up with the men who "Climb to Conquer" . . . Private Ralph Hall, 2nd Lts. Dave Harris, Dave Pfaelzer, Tom Wheeler, and 1st Lt. John Jay.

Steamboat Springs in this state, famous for its skiing activities, has sent Gordon Wren, who contributed to ski history with his performances at Alta, Utah, and Sun Valley last season, and Marvin Elkins.