

# Mountains Regiment Boasts Famous Skiers Camp Hale Has Men Noted In Snow Sports

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 Swift mountain guide, and veteran of difficult ascents from the Alps to Alaska. Another Norwegian, Sgt. 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 Lt. 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 Noscivite 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's first 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 Adirack.

But the roster is studded with famous names . . . Corporal Rudy Konecny of Adams, Mass., winner of many a race down the precipitous Thundersbolt 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 instructor 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 Lt. 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.

# ALLEGIANCE OATH IS TAKEN BY 161 PANDO SOLDIERS

Number of Naturalizations at Ski Center Raised to 500.

"They are fine soldiers and fine citizens." F. C. Emmerich, senior naturalization examiner, declared Friday in announcing 161 ski troopers had become citizens of the United States at Camp Hale, Pando, at a two-day ceremony.

The 161 brought the total number of soldier-naturalizations at the mountain troop training center to 500, the examiner said. "Most of the soldiers naturalized at Camp Hale," Emmerich said, "were Scandinavians, with Norwegians predominating. They are highly skilled at mountain soldiering, and the country can be proud of them."

The oaths of allegiance were administered by District Judge William H. Luby of Eagle. When the 161 were sworn in, Judge Luby and Examiners Frederick G. Harmon and Archie Coon and Clerk Kathryn Hitega conducted hearings until 10 p. m.

Rosina Kuschel, a native of Austria, who told immigration men she wants to join the Wac, became a citizen in Denver Friday when she took the oath of allegiance before United States District Judge Symes. She is a companion and governess, and came to the United States in 1938. She lives at 360 High street.

Siegfried Bodenheimer, a soldier stationed at Lowry field, also was naturalized Friday. He was born in Germany and came to America in 1934.

# JEeps, MULES AND TOBOGGANS TOTAL CAMP HALE GUNS IN SNOW

## Demountable Artillery Carried Over Trailless Mountains by Tough Men, Animals and Machines— And Men Are Toughest of All.

What's it like to fight a war two miles high in the twenty foot snows and subzero cold of the mountains, and how is it done? Thousands of United States troops and additional thousands of army mules are learning what it's like these days at 9,200-foot-high Camp Hale, near Leadville, in the loftiest range of the Rockies in central Colorado.

The job is done, they are discovering, with skis and snowshoes, with rifles and demountable artillery, with mules and men conditioned to toughness and vitality for the toughest form of warfare in modern military science.

It is also done with—you guessed it—the ubiquitous jeep.

### CONSTRUCTED WITHIN THIRTEEN MONTHS.

Camp Hale, the nation's highest military camp, is now bustling with activity a short thirteen months after Gen. George C. Marshall ordered creation of alpine fighting units for service anywhere the unpredictable demands of this global war may call them, and named Brig. Gen. Onslow S. Rolfe, then a colonel in Oklahoma, to organize and train them.

Completed in a high-speed construction drive that utilized every available hour of the short mountain summer, Camp Hale saw its first troops before the first of December. The first of the new mountain troops to get settled in the new camp was the pack artillery, now equipped with jeeps and toboggans, as well as mules.

This is the modern edition of the same pack artillery which has been in service since the Philippine insurrection of 1898. Assignment to mountain duty is just another job to them, altho it may be the hardest they have yet encountered. Col. David Ruffner, the pack commander at the camp, admits.

### COLONEL RUFFNER IS LEARNING TO SKI

Colonel Ruffner, whose vocabulary is "specific and sulphurous" after twenty-six years in army mule outfits, is now learning to ski.

The pack artillery has the task of following up the mountain infantry to deliver the heavy-hitting 75-millimeter howitzers wherever they may be needed. The batteries, carrying howitzers broken down in pieces for mule packs, will cover and support the attacks of the fast-moving ski troops with heavy and accurate shelling.

The jeeps, Colonel Ruffner admits, without jealousy, are great little ma-

chines for hauling the dismantled 75's.

"They haul the guns as far as they can go," he explains. "Then my mules take over and go right on by. When the pack artillery hits snow or slopes that stop even the mules, the men push on with snowshoes, pulling their guns on toboggans."

To show how his guns operate in mountain snow, Colonel Ruffner ordered out mule and jeep batteries and a man-pulled battery using snowshoes and toboggans.

The jeep battery roared away on the road out of camp and then headed across a flat of unbroken snow. The jeeps stalled a little in a snow-filled ditch, but the men pushed and hoisted them loose. Then the jeeps, bounding and lurching on spinning wheels, climbed a steep and snow-filled shelf trail. The trail ended on the ridge crest and that's where the jeeps were thru.

The mules, each carrying 220-pound pack loads of gun pieces or ammunition and led by a white-suited soldier on foot, moved over the same terrain under command of Capt. Carter S. Vaden of Richmond, Va.

The mules were slow, compared with the jeeps, but they pushed steadily on without any halt. And the mules don't need any manmade trail. They'll follow wherever a trail-breaking mountain horse can lead them.

### MEN LEARNING HOW TO USE SNOWSHOES.

Colonel Ruffner wouldn't work out the man-pulled toboggan battery as he did the jeeps and mules.

"These heroes," he explained, "were just issued their snowshoes. They've got to learn how to handle them." Colonel Ruffner affectionately refers to all his men as heroes.

A mule battery, whose men had slept in sleeping bags and white pup tents thru a 15 below zero night, came in from a regular overnight training hike.

"Was it cold last night?" Colonel Ruffner asked a soldier holding a mule rein.

"Yes, sir. It was pretty cold."

"You don't look like you froze," observed the colonel.

"No, sir. We didn't freeze," responded the soldier.