

# AMERICAN FIGHTING SPIRIT AT TOP LEVEL IN CAM

## SKI BATTALION OF ALL NATIONS TYPICAL OF CAMP'S QUALITY

Pack Mule Mountain Artillery and Dog School  
Among Unusual Branches; Men Trained for  
Battle in Mountains or Jungle.

(By JACK CARBERRY.)

Camp Hale, Colo., April 6.—It's springtime in the Rockies. But whatever else you do, don't, I beg of you, sing that song or whistle the tune within the hearing of one of Uncle Sam's mountain soldiers.

American mountain soldiers, approximately a full division strong, are in training here at Camp Hale. Camp Hale is in the mountain-encircled basin of Pando with the towering peaks of the continental divide rising on all sides like snow-capped spires of rock and timber.

Its streets are rivers of mud. Its parade ground is a sea of the same. It is thick mud, black and gummy and composed of all the stinking qualities of glue.

Camp Hale, its grayish buildings extending the length of the old and historic Homestake claim from which Abe Lee and his mining pioneers took silver deposits so rich that much of the ore did not require smelting, is not a pretty sight to see these spring days.

But its men are. For in no place in this wretched globe will you find better specimens of physical manhood, nowhere will you find better soldiers, and nowhere are there more loyal men.

### PROUD COMPANY BEGS TO REVIEW.

Before I tell you of the visit paid by newspapermen, touring army camps and military installations in this area, to Camp Hale, let me relate an incident. It will help you understand the men of this camp.

The correspondents, under direction of Lieut. Col. Robert W. Reed, public relations chief for the Seventh service command, had returned from a gun position high on the Homestake site, where they observed one of the mountain butterflies in target practice. We rode in "snow buggies" or experimental vehicles of which several types are being tested here.

We drew up before a barracks quartering a company of ski troops—infantry men. These soldiers, their steel-hoed, hickory runners over their shoulders, and their full packs on their ski with these packs—strapped to their backs, stood at ease.

A young sergeant stepped forward, saluted with snap, and in an accent that bespoke his Slavic heritage, addressed the equally youthful captain who had been assigned to escort the visiting correspondents.

"Excuse me, sir," said the sergeant.

## MOUNTAIN TROOPS IN TRAINING AT CAMP HALE

At Pando, Colo., are lads who can take it—and dish it out as well. Here are scenes, snapped by U. S. army signal corps photographers, as the mountain troops go thru their drills along Homestake creek atop the continental divide. Here batterymen bring up their guns by mule pack and their ammunition is carried to them by dog teams. These troops, according to their officers, are among the best conditioned in the world.—U. S. army signal corps photos.



Here is a mountain battery in action on Homestake creek. The crew is seen with a 75-mm mountain gun. The batterymen fire at targets ranging from one to three miles away, and their record for marksmanship is high.

ascades down into the camp at Pando, making it the sea of mud it is.

Supplies, such as hay for the mules, are hauled in on sleds propelled by "snow buggies," any one of which can go almost anywhere the mule can go.

I made the trip to the battery practice grounds to observe the accuracy of the fire, and to Homestake lake, where the dogs are in training, as well as to the "ski runs" where the infantry are in drill, as a passenger in one of these mountain vehicles.

Be it mud, or be it snow, the American mountain soldier—he's the desert soldier by the same token—



Here is a fully equipped mountain trooper and his dog. The mountain soldiers travel over the deep snows along Homestake creek on skis and snowshoes. Dogs like this, many of them former household pets, have been trained as sledge dogs and are used to pack in supplies and to carry ammunition.