

COLORFULHISTORY PRESENTS THE 10TH MOUNTAIN DIVISION

December 7th, 1941. Pearl Harbor is attacked by Japan, bringing the U.S. into WWII.

Following the attack on Pearl Harbor, the U.S. mobilizes for its first truly "modern" war.

Keep pushing, don't let them pass! We will NOT lose Finland!

A war requiring new tactics, new technologies, and new ideas of what war looks like.

Inspired by the Finnish Ski Troopers' skills and success, the 10th Mountain Division is created. The brainchild of Charles Minot "Minnie" Dole.

The 10th Mountain Division members were the first military unit recruited by a civilian entity since the Civil War.

The National Ski Patrol was tasked with recruiting ski patrols, lumberjacks, forest rangers, mountain guides, and other outdoorsmen to become the 10th Mountain Division.

"Sempre Avanti" or "Always Forward" --

-- was the unofficial motto of the 10th Mountain Division. Soldiers participate in a final climb known as the "Mountain Walk" which puts all of their skills into practice.

The 10th were trained to fight on skis as well as general mountain conditions --

-- which included high altitudes, extreme terrain, and subzero temperatures.

On Feb. 18, 1945--



--700 members of the 10th Division created and climbed 5 different routes (2 of which required fixed ropes) to take Riva Ridge in a nighttime operation designed to prevent the Germans from being able to survey U.S. positions below.

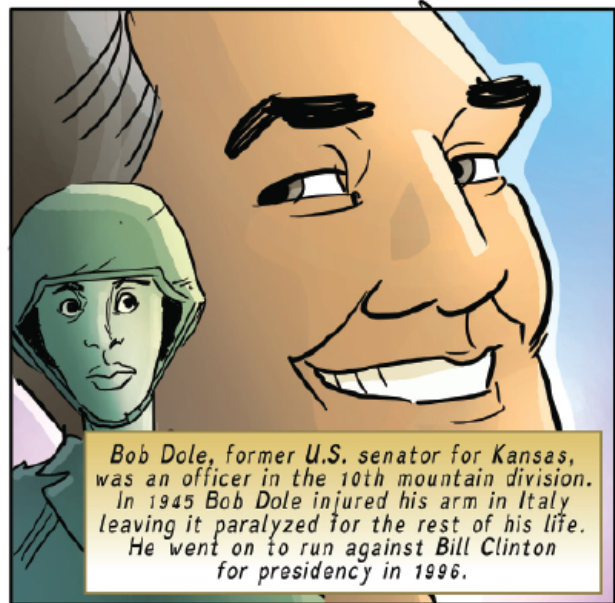
The Germans did not guard their immediate surroundings because the conditions were so difficult--



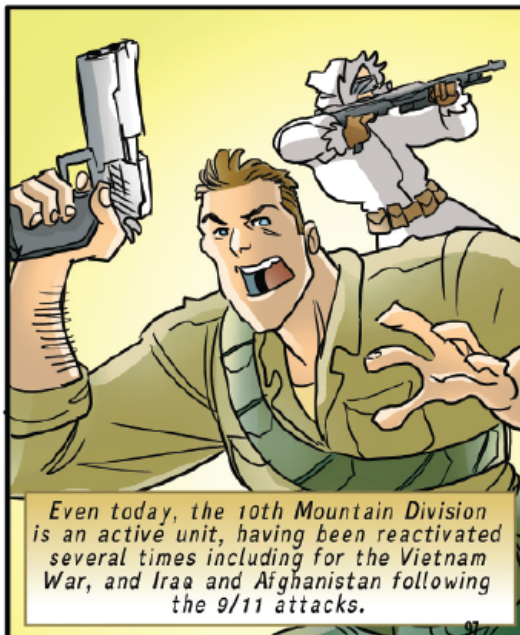
--that they did not believe any American unit could climb the ridge, day or night.



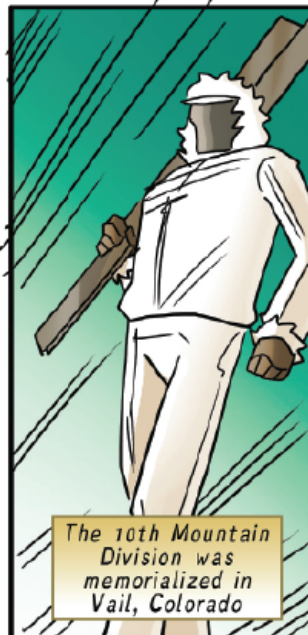
After the war, many 10th Mountain training runs were converted into recreational ski runs and many former members became consultants for resorts such as Vail.



Bob Dole, former U.S. senator for Kansas, was an officer in the 10th mountain division. In 1945 Bob Dole injured his arm in Italy leaving it paralyzed for the rest of his life. He went on to run against Bill Clinton for presidency in 1996.



Even today, the 10th Mountain Division is an active unit, having been reactivated several times including for the Vietnam War, and Iraq and Afghanistan following the 9/11 attacks.



The 10th Mountain Division was memorialized in Vail, Colorado

Over 12,000 Coloradans have 10th Mountain license plates on their cars to commemorate the unit's Colorado roots.



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# 10<sup>th</sup> Mountain Division Student Comic Script

Writers: Destiny Andrews, Benjamin Gibson, Sydney Hudson, Ean Rettich, Bayle Slack, and Zach Sullivan

PAGE 1

Logo: Peaked Colorful History wood sign with snow on it  
Title letters in military style stencil with snow on top: 10th Mountain Division

Panel 1:

Image: Top quarter of page shows the attack on Pearl Harbor with mid-image fade into 10th Mountain Division soldiers marching into combat.



1. **CAPTION** December 7th, 1941 Pearl Harbor is attacked by Japan bringing the U.S. into WWII
2. **CAPTION** Following the attack on Pearl Harbor, the U.S. mobilizes for its first truly “modern” war. A war requiring new tactics, new technologies, and new ideas of what war looks like.

Panel 2 - half-page width

Image: Show the Finnish ski troopers stopping soviet Russia from invading Finland in 1939.



**CAPTION** “Finnish Soldier: Keep pushing, don’t let them pass! We will not lose Finland!”

Panel 3

Image: Charles Dole inset portrait between panels 2 and 4 (Finnish Troopers and Camp Hale)



**CAPTION** Inspired by the Finnish Ski Troopers’ skills and success, the 10th Mountain Division is created. The brainchild of Charles Minot “Minnie” Dole.

Panel 4: Half-page width

Image: Camp Hale when it was first established/10th Mountain Division members (skiers, lumberjacks, forest rangers, guides, outfitters, etc...) walking into Camp Hale and meeting the people who are going to train them.



**CAPTION: The 10th Mountain Division members were the first military unit recruited by a civilian entity since the Civil War. The National Ski Patrol was tasked with recruiting ski patrols, lumberjacks, forest rangers, mountain guides, and other outdoorsmen to become the 10th Mountain Division.**

Panel 5:



- Image: Full-width panel of examples of the soldiers starting training (training montage, fade/transition from one image to another) ending with the “Mountain Walk”
  - Examples:
    - Soldiers already skiing down the mountains in the background with people already getting lectured on how to survive the outdoors.
    - Soldiers working in below zero temperatures.
    - This final climb, known as the "Mountain Walk," puts all of the skills that students have learned throughout the course into practice.
    - Soldiers completed the two-week Basic Mountain Course at the Army Mountain Warfare School.
    - Instructors led the squads through ice climbing practice at the "workout wall," which tested their ability to top-rope climb using ice axes and crampons -- the spikes attached to their climbing boots.
- **CAPTION “Sempre Avanti” or “Always Forward” was the unofficial motto of the 10th Mountain Division**
- **CAPTION: Soldiers participate in a final climb known as the “Mountain Walk” which puts all of their skills into practice.**
- Quote about Mountain Walk:
  - "We slept at the base of the notch, at approximately 12,200-foot elevation," he said. "We set up 12-man arctic tents to sleep in, and packed in an arctic stove to combat the minus-20-degree weather, which didn't do too much with the high winds at night."

Panel 6:

Image: Soldiers fighting in the snow/mountains, skiing, setting up camps, etc...

- **CAPTION: The 10th were trained to fight on skis as well as general mountain conditions which included high altitudes, extreme terrain, and subzero temperatures.**



Panel 1: Half-width

Image: Soldiers climbing a rocky cliff/mountain toward a German camp

- **CAPTION: On Feb. 18, 1945, 700 members of the 10th Division created and climbed 5 different routes (2 of which required fixed ropes) to take Riva Ridge in a nighttime operation designed to prevent the Germans from being able to survey U.S. positions below.**



Panel 2: Half page width

Image: 10th Mountain Soldiers assaulting German camp

- **CAPTION: The Germans did not guard their immediate surroundings because the conditions were so difficult that they did not believe any American unit could climb the ridge, day *or* night.**

Panel 3:

Image of the newspaper announcing the opening of Vail ski resort



**CAPTION: After the war, many 10th Mountain training runs were converted into recreational ski runs and many former members became consultants for resorts such as Vail.**

Panel 4:

Image: Young Bob Dole in Army uniform/Bob Dole the Presidential candidate



- **CAPTION Bob Dole, former U.S. senator for Kansas, was an officer in the 10th mountain division. In 1945 Bob Dole injured his arm in Italy leaving it paralyzed for the rest of his life. He went on to run against Bill Clinton for presidency in 1996.**

Panel 5: full width showing different conflicts the 10th Mountain has been involved in. 10th mountain insignia in the front

- **CAPTION** Even today, the 10th Mountain Division is an active unit, having been reactivated several times including for the Vietnam War, and Iraq and Afghanistan following the 9/11 attacks.



Panel 6:

Image: 10th Mountain Memorial in Vail

- **CAPTION:** The 10th Mountain Division was memorialized in Vail, Colorado.



Panel 7 -

Image: 10th Mountain Colorado license plate

**CAPTION:** Over 12,000 Coloradans have 10th Mountain license plates on their cars to commemorate the unit's Colorado roots.



