

# Timeline of Selected Events in World War II & The 10<sup>th</sup> Mountain Division

## International Events

### National Events

### Local Events

**1872** Italy forms the *Corpo Alpini* (Alpine Corps), the first modern mountain combat troops.

**1876** Colorado granted statehood.

**1914** Carl Howelsen, a Norwegian immigrant introduces ski jumping near Steamboat Springs, Colorado. The Steamboat Springs area will be Colorado's first official ski resort. He builds Howelsen Hill which becomes Howelsen Hill Ski Area in 1931.

**1939**

**September 1:** Nazi Germany invades Poland; World War II officially begins in Europe.

**1940** Nazi Germany invades and takes control of many European countries during this year.

**1940** The U.S. National Ski Patrol is created. It's founder, Charles Minot Dole, urges President Roosevelt to form a mountain combat division.

**1941**

**June 22<sup>nd</sup>:** Nazi Germany invades the Soviet Union.

**December 7<sup>th</sup>:** Japanese military forces attack Pearl Harbor, Hawaii.

**December 8<sup>th</sup>:** The United States declares war on Japan and enters World War II.

**December 11<sup>th</sup>:** Italy and Germany declare war on the United States.

**December 8-12<sup>th</sup>:** Following Pearl Harbor, Japan declares war on both the United States and the United Kingdom.

**1942**

**April 3<sup>rd</sup>:** Construction begins on Camp Hale, in Colorado outside of Leadville.

**May 12<sup>th</sup>:** The 87<sup>th</sup> Mountain Infantry Regiment is formed and trains at Camp Carson, Colorado (near Colorado Springs). This unit is the first American mountain troop.

**August 23<sup>rd</sup>:** The Germans and the Soviets begin the Battle of Stalingrad, the largest battle of the entire war.

## **1943**

**January:** The first troops arrive at Camp Hale for training.

**May 23<sup>rd</sup>:** The first women from the Women's Army Corps (WAC) arrive at Camp Hale.

**July 15<sup>th</sup>:** The 10<sup>th</sup> Light Division is activated at Camp Hale under Brigadier General Lloyd E. Jones.

**September:** Allied Forces invade Italy. Italy surrenders. Germany invades Italy.

## **1944**

**February 23<sup>rd</sup>:** The 87<sup>th</sup> Mountain Infantry Division relocates to Camp Hale and merges with the 10<sup>th</sup> Light Division.

**June 4<sup>th</sup>:** The United States' Fifth Army enters Rome, Italy.

**June 6<sup>th</sup>:** D-Day, Allied Forces invade Northwest France.

**August 25<sup>th</sup>:** Paris is freed from German control; the Germans are driven out of France.

**November 6<sup>th</sup>:** The 10<sup>th</sup> Light Division is renamed the 10<sup>th</sup> Mountain Division.

**November 30<sup>th</sup>:** The 10<sup>th</sup> Mountain Division is deployed to Italy. It takes 45 days for them to be shipped from Texas to New Jersey, and then on to Italy.

## **1945**

**January:** The 10<sup>th</sup> Mountain Division arrives in Italy to fight remaining Germans. Beginning with ski patrols in the Apennine Mountains (Italy).

**April 20<sup>th</sup>-26<sup>th</sup>:** The 10<sup>th</sup> Mountain Division fights in the Po Valley (Italy) Offensive.

**April 26<sup>th</sup>-May 2<sup>nd</sup>:** The final battles of the 10<sup>th</sup> Mountain Division at Lake Garda, Italy. German forces in Italy surrender.

**May 7<sup>th</sup>:** Germany surrenders, ending World War II in Europe.

**November 30<sup>th</sup>:** The 10<sup>th</sup> Mountain Division is removed from service and Camp Hale is closed by the Army.

- 1945** Friedl Pfeifer, a 10th veteran, returned to Colorado to operate the Aspen Ski School and helped to develop both Aspen (Ajax) and Buttermilk Mountains. During this period he organized professional racing and originated the popular dual slalom courses.
- 1962** Pete Seibert, a former 10<sup>th</sup> Mountain Division soldier builds Vail Ski Resort.
- 1965** Camp Hale was torn down and the land was given back to the U.S. Forest Service.
- 1980** Fredric "Fritz" Benedict developed the 10th Mountain Hut and Trail System.
- 1985** The Army restarted the division with its original name as a light infantry division. Fort Drum, New York, a military post since the early 1900s, became the new home of the 10th Mountain Division. Since that time, the division has engaged in a variety of military and relief operations.
- 1992** The 10th Mountain Division joined in on Hurricane Andrew disaster relief as Task Force Mountain Division soldiers set up camps, handed out food, clothing, and medical and building supplies. They also helped to rebuild homes and clear garbage.
- 2001** 10th Mountain Division provided the first troops to respond to the Sept. 11 attacks on the United States.
- 2015** The 10th Mountain Division gets its First Female Brigadier General, Col. Diana Holland.
- 2016** More than 700 Soldiers, veterans, descendants and community members gathered to take part in the historic patching ceremony of the 1st Battalion, 157th Infantry Regiment (Mountain), Colorado Army National Guard, as it became part of the 10th Mountain Division. The ceremony was held at Camp Hale to honor the 10th Mountain Division's families and the historical significance of the unit to the state of Colorado.
- 2020** Since 2001, the 10th Mountain Division has been the most deployed unit in the U.S. military.

