

"Crackles with soldier language—and combat horrors. . . Readers are going to be, for some hours, thousands of feet up and shivering all over."—*Baltimore Sun*



# THE LAST RIDGE

**THE EPIC STORY OF AMERICA'S  
FIRST MOUNTAIN SOLDIERS AND THE  
ASSAULT ON HITLER'S EUROPE**

**MCKAY JENKINS**

The Last Ridge: The Epic Story of America's First Mountain Soldiers and the Assault on Hitler's Europe, McKay Jenkins, Random House LLC, 2007, 0307432378, 9780307432377, 336 pages. When World War II broke out in Europe, the American army had no specialized division of mountain soldiers. But in the winter of 1939-40, after a tiny band of Finnish mountain troops brought the invading Soviet army to its knees, an amateur skier named Charles Minot Dole convinced the United States Army to let him recruit an extraordinary assortment of European expatriates, wealthy ski bums, mountaineers, and thrill-seekers and form them into a unique band of Alpine soldiers. These men endured nearly three years of grueling training in the Colorado Rockies and in the process set new standards for both soldiering and mountaineering. The newly forged 10th Mountain Division finally faced combat in the winter of 1945, in Italy's Apennine Mountains, against the seemingly unbreakable German fortifications north of the Gothic Line. There, they planned and executed what is still regarded as the most daring series of nighttime mountain attacks in U.S. military history, taking Mount Belvedere and the sheer, treacherous face of Riva Ridge to smash the linchpin of the German army's lines. Drawing on unique cooperation from veterans of the 10th Mountain Division and a vast archive of unpublished letters and documents, The Last Ridge is written with enormous warmth, energy, and honesty. This is one of the most captivating stories of World War II, a blend of Band of Brothers and Into Thin Air. It is a story of young men asked to do the impossible, and succeeding. From the Hardcover edition..

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Climb to Conquer The Untold Story of WWII's 10th Mountain Division Ski Troops, Peter Shelton, Oct 7, 2003, History, 275 pages. Traces the origins of a fledgling army troop comprised of climbers and skiers who formed America's first alpine division, discussing their extensive training and contributions ....

The White Death Tragedy and Heroism in an Avalanche Zone, McKay Jenkins, Aug 13, 2002, Nature, . In 1969, five young men from Montana set out to accomplish what no one had before: to scale the sheer north face of Mt. Cleveland, Glacier National Park's tallest mountain, in ....

Remount Blue the combat story of the 3d Battalion, 86th Mountain Infantry, David Ross Brower, 1948, History, 112 pages. .

Presenting the 35th Infantry Division in World War II, 1941-1945 , United States. Army. Infantry Division, 35th, , , 244 pages. .

The Trumpeter Swan Its History, Habits, and Population in the United States, Winston E Banko, Mar 17, 2012, , 226 pages. .

The story of the famous 34th Infantry Division , John H. Hougen, 1949, History, . .

The ski troops , Hal Burton, 1971, History, 192 pages. .

Mountain Troops and Medics A Complete World War II Combat History of the U. S. Tenth Mountain Division - a Battle Surgeon's True Stories, Albert H. Meinke, 2002, Biography & Autobiography, 316 pages. A complete combat history of the U.S. TENTH MOUNTAIN DIVISION in World War II, told in the wartime stories of one of its front line Battalion Surgeons..

Good times and bad times a history of C Company, 85th Mountain Infantry Regiment, 10th Mountain Division, July 1943 to November 1945, John Imbrie, Hugh W. Evans, 1995, , 390 pages. .

I Soldiered With America's Elite 10th Mountain Division Of Ww II , Carl V. Cossin, Sep 28, 2004, , 108 pages. Cossin describes his Olympic heroes coming from Europe to join the American 10th Mountain Division. He shows his admiration for the rugged old platoon sergeant who punished and ....

The Boys' Crusade The American Infantry in Northwestern Europe, 1944-1945, Paul Fussell, 2005,

History, 184 pages. Looks at World War II in Europe, from D-Day to the fall of Berlin, from the perspective of the American infantry soldiers who fought, capturing the horrors and hardships of ....

Combat Jump The Young Men Who Led the Assault Into Fortress Europe, July 1943, Ed Ruggero, Jun 29, 2004, History, 416 pages. Follows the paratrooper invasion of Sicily in 1943 that set the groundwork for the Fortress Europe attack, citing the challenges that were presented to Dwight Eisenhower's ....

10th Mountain Division , Randy W. Baumgardner, Jun 1, 1998, History, 208 pages. This outstanding book details the incredible history of the 10th Mountain Division. Formed to fill the need for elite mountain troops, this is the story of a prestigious ....

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