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The Army Hour

January 17, 1943

Camp Hale, Colorado Portion

from the center of the
COLORED. HISTORY OF ARMY

SERVICES OF SUPPLY
OFFICE OF THE COMMANDING GENERAL

In reply refer to:
SPKGC VAL.2/5
x VE1.1

Omaha, Nebraska,
March 3, 1943.

SUBJECT: Army Hour Program, Sunday, March 14, 1943.

TO: Commanding Officers, all posts, camps and stations, Seventh Service Command.

1. The following telegram from the Commanding General, Services of Supply, is forwarded for the information and guidance of all concerned:

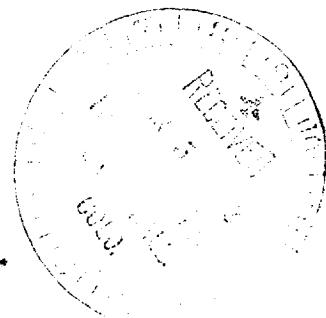
"IT IS DESIRED THAT THE FOLLOWING MESSAGE BE DISSEMINATED TO ALL UNDER YOUR COMMAND COLON THE PART PLAYED BY DEPOTS OF THE SERVICES OF SUPPLY IN MAINTAINING THE LIFE LINE OF SUPPLIES TO MEN ON THE FIGHTING FRONTS WILL BE EXPLAINED AND DRAMATIZED ON THE ARMY HOUR RADIO PROGRAM SUNDAY AFTERNOON MARCH FOURTEEN FROM THREE THIRTY TO FOUR THIRTY O'CLOCK EASTERN WAR TIME STOP THE ENTIRE HOURS PROGRAM WILL BE DEVOTED TO DEPOT WORK AND DEPOT PERSONNEL AND WILL INCLUDE ACTUAL PICKUPS FROM OVERSEAS AS WELL AS FROM DEPOTS IN UNITED STATES STOP PROGRAM WILL BE CARRIED BY ONE HUNDRED AND FOURTEEN STATIONS OF NATIONAL BROADCASTING COMPANY IN COUNTRY WIDE HOOKUP STOP IT IS SUGGESTED THAT SUITABLE STEPS BE TAKEN AT ONCE TO INFORM YOUR PERSONNEL THROUGH ANNOUNCEMENTS IN HOUSE ORGANS AND ON BULLETIN BOARDS AS WELL AS BY PAY CHECK ENCLOSURES AND OTHER AVAILABLE MEDIUMS END SPOPN (Signed) SOMERVELL"

By command of Major General UHL:

George R. Connor

GEORGE R. CONNOR,
Colonel, ASD,
Adjutant General.

DISTRIBUTION: THREE . . . II, (BL-5) A,B,C,E-1, F.
ONE -- G,H,I,J,K,L,M,N,O,P,R,S,T.



8007

THE ARMY HOUR. ACTION SHEET. 1:30-2:30

CAMP HALE, COLO, PORTION (13 minutes) Jan 17 '43 NBC RED
VIA KOA

<u>PICKUP NUMBER</u>	<u>PICKUP POSITION LOCATION</u>	<u>EQUIPMENT AND PERSONNEL</u>	<u>ANNOUNCER</u>
1.	Master Control in Lt. McMahon's office, HQ MTC	General Rolfe Lt. Townsend Pvt. Sierre Engen (outside) Drill squad	Thompson
2.	Outside MTC (North side of bldg.)	Jeep and driver Dogteam, musher, dogs Gun section, jackass art'y & crew 3 motirized toboggans and drivers Colonel Ruffner	Verba
3.	Master Control	Major Roebeling Colonel Tillotson Lt. Jay	Thompson
4.	Cooper Hill (outside tow house)	Ski troopers with artillery. Lt. Bradley	Kanter
5.	Master Control	General Rolfe	Thompson

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GEN ROLFE: (Cont'd) Center here at Camp Hale, we have the Mountain and Winter Warfare Board. Our mission or job is to train the soldier for mountain fighting, first of such an effort by the War Department. We have learned much from the Alpine fighting in the last war, from our Soviet allies in this one, and we are learning more out of our own experience here. . . adding more efficiency and new methods to what has gone before in such combat.

In a world of specialists and a war of specialists, we are developing our own experts in this line. We are meeting the tremendous problems of moving guns and food and materiel through the toughest of terrain. . . we have tackled new means of transport, developed special clothing and foods. . . learned ways of evacuating the wounded. . . utilized animals as well as motor and planes for supply. . . we have gathered personnel particularly suited for this activity. . . you will hear of these things as our broadcast develops this afternoon. So stand by for the ski troopers, the fighting mountaineers. . . men and officers of the Mountain Training Center:

THOMPSON: Snow and more snow is the commodity here at Camp Hale. (MENTION OF STORM IF IT IS RAGING). In this Rocky Mountain area, if there's snow to be had, it will fall around us here. Training up over the steep trails and through tough and bitter weather puts the men in ideal

PERSON: (Cont'd) condition for carrying our infantry war into such places where we might meet the enemy in the snow and high peaks. Lt. Paul Townsend is one of the officers here at Camp Hale who is concerned with training. Most of the men who come here are already well grounded in infantry. but now they add skis and sleds and many other methods to their infantry tactics. Lt. Townsend, what type of men are you getting for this mountain training?

TOWNSEND: The best, Captain. They're smart and rugged and ideal for the job. Many of them are sent to us through the aid that the National Ski Association of America is giving to the War Department. We're taking good skiers and teaching them the tactics of combat; and we're getting good infantrymen and teaching them how to ski.

PERSON: What sort of drill do you have, Lieutenant?

NEER: CRACK #1 MILE TO PICK UP SOUNDS OF DRILL SERGEANT AND DRI

TOWNSEND: After the men become somewhat proficient on skis, we teach them a close order drill adapted for skis. These men out in front of us here are doing a few right and left faces now. (WAIT FOR A FEW COMMANDS FROM SERGEANT - GO ON) Another order we give is somewhat of a surprise at first it's "right shoulder skis", but it's the real McCoy. Of course, this drill is only the beginning of all kinds of mountaineering and its applications

WENSEND: (Cont'd) to military tactics. The men must learn to live and fight in the toughest of circumstances. . . they must depend on ingenuity and stamina to stay out perhaps for days in bitter cold, on crags or ledges.

OMPSON: What do they do about the food problem?

WENSEND: Special dehydrated rations are carried by the mountain troops. They are soups and meats, and believe it or not, water is as precious as on the desert. You don't have to carry water, but you do have to carry fuel and stoves for melting it.

OMPSON: I understand you have a whole battalion of Norwegians here, Paul?

WENSEND: That's right. . . here's one of them to tell us about it

EN: We are all Norwegians, either from the old country or the new. We are held together by a love of our country and a desire to drive out the Nazi invaders. We are all training to fight together in the American ski troops under American officers, and some day soon, we hope to be skiing again in the Jotunheimen Mountains back in our own country.

OMPSON: Thanks a lot, Private Sverre Engen. Naturally, transport over the difficult mountain country is one of the

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HOMPSON: (Cont'd) big problems here at Camp Hale. We're going to switch now to a pass in the mountains where various means of transportation are near our Army Hour microphones. Go ahead, Gil Verba.

SWITCH TO POSITION NUMBER ONE: PICKUP NUMBER TWO: REAR OF MTC HEADQUARTERS BUILDING. (DOGS, JACKASS ARTILLERY, MOTORIZED TOBOGGANS, JEEP)

VERBA: From this point we are really seeing how the Army moves its supplies through the snow. This is a fairly level spot, but further on up, these varied methods of travel will encounter tough going. . . steep and slippery and in some cases, impassable, but the fighting mountaineers have many ways of passing the ammunition. Right in front of us now is our old friend the jeep. Last week on the desert, we did as the desert troopers do and called it a peep. But it's jeep here, and these tough little babies have proven themselves over and over in the mountains. Driver, what's this rivalry you're having with the mules?

DRIVER: Well, we're showing the old mules we can keep up with them anywhere. Put chains on my jeep and she'll do everything but climb a tree. Gotta go on now. Goodby.
(JEEP DRIVES OFF)

VERBA: Goodbye, jeep. Coming our way now is a gun section of the pack artillery. Colonel David Ruffner is in charge of all these pack artillery battalions, and he'll point

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BA: (Cont'd) out some of the things that you hear.

NER: Might as well call it the jackass artillery, Mr. Verba.
We all do.

BA: Jackass artillery it is. Just what are these pieces
being carried by the mules?

NER: This particular gun section transports a 75 millimeter
Howitzer, one of the most effective artillery pieces
for mountain warfare. You can see it's broken into six
pieces, and the soldiers that move along with the
animals are the gun crew ready to put the cannon together
and let go at any time.

DIERS ARE HOLLERING MULE TALK AND MAKING SOME SORT OF A STIR
(THE ANIMALS)

A: Is this jargon some sort of a muleskinners double-talk,
Colonel???

NER: Yes, the men have a special way of cajoling the animals.
Sometimes it gets a little salty; you know how stubborn
mountain delivery wagons can be. But most of our move-
ments and manoeuvres are carried out with considerable
more silence than you hear now. A great deal of the
value of mountain troops is in their stealth.

ERBA: That jeep driver was pretty sure of his vehicle, Colonel.
Can they stick it out with the mules??

OFFNER: Not altogether. The jeeps are remarkably effective in average terrain, but in rugged terrain without roads, they just can't navigate the way our jackasses can.

DOG DRIVER YELLS AT DOGS; DOGS BARK)

ERBA: I see our mountain parade is bringing us a dog team next. This is the regular dog drawn sled we used to see in those Alaska thriller movies, and the musher who drives them has his own language too. What sort of ground do these Huskies work best on, Colonel?

OFFNER: They're pretty much for flat terrain. They're fast and reliable, but when it comes to steeper climbs. . . well, you have to fall back on our good old. . .

ERBA: I know. Jackasses. Coming along now at a fast clip are three of the motirized toboggans the Army has developed. They're sort of a Rocky Mountain aquaplane, with speed and climbing power and remarkable manouverability.

MOTORIZED TOBOGGANS CIRCLE AROUND MIKE POSITION WHILE PICKUP
NUMBER TWO FINISHES)

OFFNER: Well, you can have your motors. I'm getting on up the trail with my jackass artillery.

BA: Thanks very much, Colonel Ruffner. We switch you back to Captain Thompson at master control.

ATCH TO MASTER CONTROL

GROUP NUMBER THREE MAJ. ROEBLING, COL. TILLOTSON, LT. JAY

MPSON: Back where it's a little warmer now, and at our microphone is Major F. W. Roebing of the Engineer Board whose job it is to develop engineering devices and methods to be applied to the mountain training here at Camp Hale. Major, what are some of the things you are working on?

ROEBLING: Well, as we just heard a minute ago, transportation is difficult and important. We are developing aerial tramways and cableways to aid in the moving of supplies . . . ammunition, food, and guns . . . as well as helping in the evacuation of the wounded. Litters lowered by ropes and tramways, as well as on special sleds and toboggans, mean lives saved.

MPSON: Do you do much work in roadbuilding and bridgebuilding, Major?

ROEBLING: Yes we do. Suspension bridges put up by mountain engineers serve the same purpose as all bridges, and we have small bulldozers and trail-tractors to make roadways for mountain troops. Another concern we have is for

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ROEBLING: (Cont'd) the compactness and portability of all equipment.

PERSON: How about camouflage??

ROEBLING: We've done a lot of research on the special problems of camouflage way up in the high areas. Of course, white is our biggest ally, and by using it for everything we can, our troops can sometimes move quietly and unseen for surprise attacks. Difficulties arise, however, in covering rear echelons and supply dumps, as well as covering up the tracks made in the snow by advancing units.

PERSON: This is probably too easy, but what happens when troops move onto rocks or other terrain that isn't snowy?

ROEBLING: That's where the reversible ski parka comes in, and this is where Colonel Tillotson comes in. He's one of our experts on clothing and equipment. Colonel:

TILLOTSON: Yes, Major Roebling, the reversible parka is one step in turning a ski trooper white. He also pulls on cotton white pants and white mittens. Then he covers his rucksack with a special white cloth. Those are many of the articles of clothing exclusive to our fighting mountaineers. Each soldier gets about \$750 worth of equipment not counting his side arms. He gets a warm alpaca

(Cont'd) artillery to precipitate avalanches is another method. Then, we also. . . . Look, up the slope there. The ski fighters are coming down now.

Yes. . . a minute ago they were tiny specks up on the white horizon. With incredible speed and nimble movement they are coming at us now. . . not very much noise, but when they swoop by our spot here you'll hear the grip of snow on their skis. . . and we'll see them swerve down past us into place and take positions for firing. One of the most nimble tricks is a quick Christiana turn which stops the ski trooper short. It throws up a cloud of snow which covers him from the sight of the enemy. By the time the snow falls, he is prone on the ground, skis still on but crossed behind him, and gun blazing away. These troopers have opened up now with their rifles and light machine guns which they carried down the long mile slope up behind us. (PAUSE FOR RIFLE FIRE TO ESTABLISH). Yes, more and more of these flashing mountaineers are going by us, giving us a real taste of this brilliant type of warfare. . . surprise, speed and a magnificent example of what's to come when our men take the sting of their fight to the enemy. We switch you now back to Master Control at Camp Hale.

CAMP HALE

NUMBER FIVE

GEN. ROLFE, CAPT. THOMPSON

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GE: This is General Rolfe again. It hasn't been too easy to bring you a sound picture of the real strength of our mountain troopers. . . too much of it is noiseless. But it's none the less effective. We've got the best men. . . the best equipment. . . and up here in the Rockies, the best possible countryside. Remember, the fighting mountaineer has a double enemy. . . the Axis powers and the elements. He has to fight for his existence as well as against the fascists. But he's going to do it. . . whether it's against the Nazis in Europe or whether it's against the Japs in Asia. . . he's going to carry out our motto: "We conquer mountains and men!"

Many thanks, General Rolfe. This is Captain Joseph Thompson returning you to the Army Hour in New York.

NEW YORK

