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## **Salvatore J. Palazolo collection**

**Title:** Salvatore J. Palazolo collection  
**Collection No:** MSS.409  
**Creator:** Salvatore J. Palazolo, 1926-2003  
**Extent:** 1.5 cubic feet  
**Inclusive Dates:** 1944-2000

**Abstract:** The collection is composed of books, newspapers and clippings, video tapes, and photographs. Most of the material is related to the 10th Mountain Division of the U.S. Army, in which Salvatore Palazolo served during World War II, and its veterans' association.

**Donor:** Salvatore J. Palazolo, Memphis, Tennessee, February 2001.  
**Processed by:** James E. Montague, September 2001; Gerald Chaudron, July 2014.  
**Access:** Open to all researchers.  
**Language:** English  
**Preferred Citation:** Salvatore J. Palazolo collection, Department of Preservation and Special Collections, University Libraries, University of Memphis.

**Publication date:** July 2014

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## **Biographical information**

Salvatore Jasper “Sal” Palazolo was born on January 13, 1926, in Memphis, Tennessee. He attended Christian Brothers High School and then had one year at Vanderbilt University. He joined the reserves in March 1943 and was called up in January 1944. After training at Auburn University, Alabama and Camp Fanin, Texas, Palazolo joined the 110th Mountain Signal Company of the 10<sup>th</sup> Mountain Division which was sent to Italy in January 1945.

The 10th Mountain Division entered combat on January 28, 1945 in the Apennine Mountains. To get to Mount Belvedere the division first had to take from the Germans a ridge line to the west known to the Americans as the Riva Ridge. The Germans considered the ridge to be impossible to scale and manned it with only one battalion of mountain troops. The attack by the 86<sup>th</sup> Regiment on February 18 was a complete success.

Mount Belvedere was assaulted next. Belvedere was heavily manned and protected with minefields. Shortly after the 86th assault on the Riva Ridge, the 85th and 87th Regiments made a bayonet attack without covering artillery fire on Belvedere beginning on February 19th. The assault was successful and after a hard fight, the peak was captured. Realizing its importance, the Germans made seven counterattacks over two days. After the first three days of intense combat, the division suffered 850 casualties, including 195 dead, but the 10th had captured over 1,000 prisoners. The division was now in a position to breach the German’s Apennine Mountain line, take Highway 65 and open the way to the Po Valley. The 10th fought in northern Italy until the German surrender on May 2, 1945.

Palazolo was discharged in January 1946 and returned to Memphis and took over his father’s produce company. He married Marguerite “Peggy” Stevenson (1926-2009) and had two sons and a daughter. He died on September 6, 2003.

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## **Scope and contents**

The collection is composed of books, newspapers and clippings, video tapes, and photographs. Most of the material is related to the U.S. Army’s 10th Mountain Division, in which Palazolo served during World War II, and its veterans’ association.

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## **Subject terms**

### **SUBJECTS:**

United States. Army. Mountain Division, 10th.

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## Inventory

### Box 1

#### Folder 1

Publication: *Combat History of the 10th Mountain Division 1944-1945*. Wartime division narrative published in 1977 by Charles M. Hauptman.

#### Folder 2

Transcript: Palazolo's account of his World War II service with the 10th Mountain Division, 1945 April–May.

#### Folder 3

Clipping: "Rough Terrain Nothing New to 10th Mountain Division", *The Stars and Stripes*, 1945 February 26.

#### Folder 4

Clipping (copy): Newsletter: "110<sup>th</sup> Transmitter" (110<sup>th</sup> Signal Company veterans), undated: Letter written by Major General George P. Hays, Headquarters, 10th Mountain Division, to Donald B. Douglas, 1945 May 14, re: the end of the war in Italy.

#### Folder 5

Newsletter: "Blizzard" (10<sup>th</sup> Mountain Division veterans), Vol. 20, No. 3, 4, 1991.

#### Folder 6

Photographs (copy): General Dwight Eisenhower addressing troops before D-Day, 1944; Riva Ridge, Mt. Belvedere, Italy, undated.

#### Folder 7

Publications: "National Association of the 10th Mountain Division: National Roster", 1998, 2000.

#### Folder 8

Publication: National Association of the 10<sup>th</sup> Mountain Division, *Tenth Mountain Division*, Paducah, Ky.: Turner, 1998.

#### Folder 9

Copy of web page from [www.drum.army.mil/divstaff/dhistory/history.htm](http://www.drum.army.mil/divstaff/dhistory/history.htm) (accessed February 7, 1999) for the 10th Mountain Division; excerpt from Southeast Chapter, 10th Mountain Division Veterans newsletter, undated.

#### Folder 10

Publications:

- a. Coquoz, Rene L., *The Invisible Men on Skis: The Story of the Construction of Camp Hale and the Occupation by the 10th Mountain Division 1942-1945*, Boulder, Colorado: Johnson, 1986.
- b. Dusenbery, Harris, and Wilson P. Ware, *Ski the High Trail: World War II Ski Troopers in the High Colorado Rockies*, Portland, Oregon: Binford & Mort, 1991.
- c. Tenth Mountain Division, *Mountaineers*, Denver, Colorado: Artcraft, circa 1945. Includes notes by Palazolo.
- d. Harper, Frank, *Night Climb: The Story of the Skiing 10<sup>th</sup>*, New York: Longmans, Green, 1946.

Folder 11

VHS Videotapes:

- a. "Fire on the Mountain: The Story of the Men of the 10<sup>th</sup> Mountain Division", directed by George and Beth Gage, Gage & Gage Productions, Telluride, Colorado, 1995?. 73 minutes.
- b. "Soldiers of the Summit", directed by Tom Feliu and Tom Dudsinski, KRMA- TV, Denver, 1987; "Spirit of the Mountains", directed by Tom Feliu, KRMA- TV, Denver, 1993 (copy).
- c. "Climb to Glory", Parts 1 & 2, Department of Defense, undated (copy).

Folder 12

Map: "10th Mountain Division Huts", 10<sup>th</sup> Mountain Division Hut Association, 1992; "Aircraft of the World", International Masters Publishers, 1997. (incomplete)

Folder 13

Photographs:

- Souvenir black & white images of Venice, Italy, undated (8).  
Wedding images: "Jeanette & R G."; Grandpa Palazolo, R.G., Jeanette, Grandma and Grandpa Cianciolo", undated.

**Box 2**

Folder 1

Clipping: Shribman David M., "Last Mission: GI generation still matters", 1995 April 23.

Folder 2

Newspaper: *Blizzard: Published by and for the men of the 10th Mountain Division*, 1944 December 9 (Camp Swift, Texas), 1945 May 22 (Italy).

Folder 3

Magazine: *Yank: The Army Weekly*, European edition, 1945 March 1. Features article on the 10th Mountain Division.

Folder 4

Pamphlet: "50th Anniversary, Camp Hale, 10th Mountain Division National Reunion, September 12-17, 1992".