



The Boys of Winter: Life and Death in the U.S. Ski Troops During the Second World War

Charles J. Sanders

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The Boys of Winter is the poignant story of three young Depression-era American ski champions and their brutal, heroic, and ultimately tragic transformation from athletes to infantrymen with the fabled 10th Mountain Division. Rudy Konieczny, Jacob Nunnemacher, and Ralph Bromaghin—three skiers from disparate geographic and economic backgrounds—forged names for themselves in the burgeoning sport of snow skiing during the late 1930s. With the world suddenly at war, they found themselves drawn together with several of the world's greatest winter athletes in the U.S. 10th Mountain Division at Camp Hale, Colorado where they trained to fight Hitler's troops in the mountains of Europe.

Drawing on dozens of interviews and extensive historical research, Charles J. Sanders reveals the stories of these young men in a fast-paced and exhilarating narrative. Sanders traces their journeys from childhood to ski championships and from training at Mount Rainier and in the Colorado Rockies to their bloody battles against the Nazis in the Apennine Mountains of Northern Italy.

Ultimately, The Boys of Winter is the story of how some of America's best and brightest died in the war's last and most desperate battles under General Mark Clark, calling into question their sacrifices—and those of thousands of other troops on the "forgotten" Italian front in the spring of 1945.

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