

Private, 1st Class

Martin Robert Cape

3 Dec 1942-9 Nov 1945

WWII



Military Service: Enlisted 3 Dec 1942
Discharged 9 Nov 1945

Honors:

European African Middle Eastern Service Medal



World War II Victory Medal



Good Conduct Medal



American Service Medal



Marksman: Rifle M1917 Enfield and M1903 Springfield

On-Line:

<http://www.ourpast.org/genealogy2/getperson.php?personID=I552&tree=Cape>

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Special_Troops_Battalion,_10th_Mountain_Division_%28United_States%29

<http://www.drum.army.mil/sites/about/hist-10mtn.asp>

Fire on the Mountain Documentary: <http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0116310/>

Martin Cape Military Service

Martin Cape entered military service December 3, 1942. He served in a remount unit of the U.S Army at Fort Robinson, Nebraska with the 10th Mountain Division at Camp Barkley, Texas, also at Camp Swift, Texas, Camp Patrick Henry, Virginia, and took ski training at Camp Carson, Colorado.

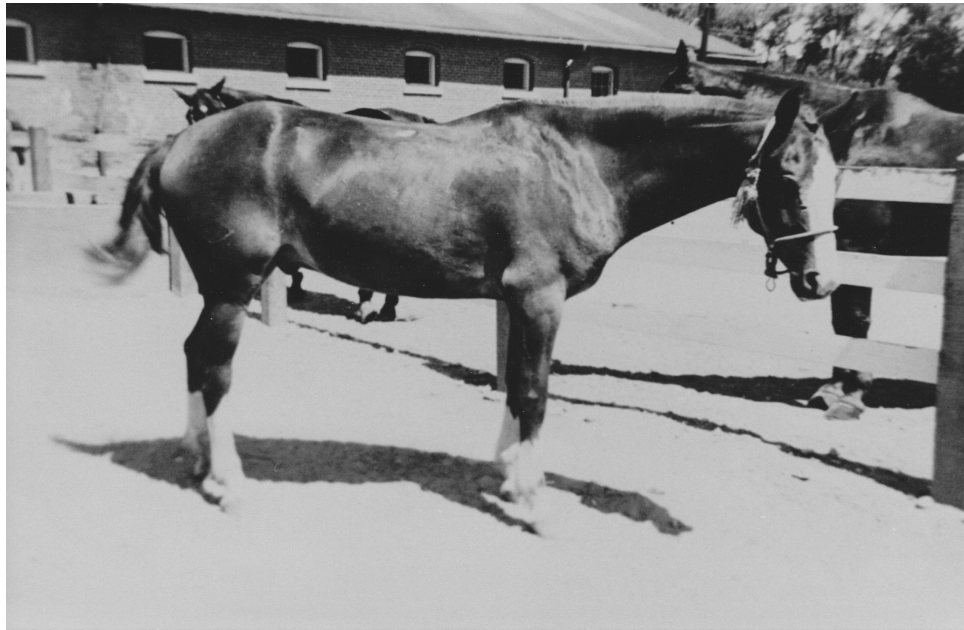
He departed for overseas on January 6, 1945 arriving on January 18, 1945. He served overseas until August 2, 1945 and returned to the United States on August 11, 1945. He participated in engagements at Mt. Belvedere and Po River Valley in Italy. Martin was discharged on Nov. 9, 1945 after serving a total time of 35 months. He held the rank of Private First Class.

Some of the family visited Martin several times while he was at Fort Robinson, and got to see him perform in a jumping horse team demonstration during an open house on the paratrooper base near Alliance, Nebraska.

Martin had a favorite jumping horse named Diamond Jim when he served on the remount jumping team at Ft. Robinson. (The remount troops at Ft. Robinson broke and trained replacement horses for the Cavalry) The team did jumping demonstrations at various fairs and military open house days in the area. When Martin left Ft. Robinson he had to leave Diamond Jim with one of the other soldiers who continued riding him on the jumping team. After Ft. Robinson was closed and turned over to the Nebraska Park's Department, Diamond Jim was one of the few horses they kept to work at the Park. The person who took over Diamond Jim after Martin left saw him go through the sale ring at Scottsbluff, Nebraska some years later. (That person happened to be an acquaintance of Howard Cape.) He bought the horse and received a lot of kidding about buying an old broken down animal. His response was that he knew that horse and he was going to see that Diamond Jim lived out his life in comfort, which he did.

Ft. Robinson had a large K-9 training facility to train guard dogs, with nearly 1800 kennels. After the war Howard Cape bought two of the kennels for \$5.00 each and used them for his hounds. One kennel survived at Howard's ranch west of Hot Springs, South Dakota. In 1996 he donated it to the museum at Ft. Robinson. As far as is known it is the only one left and is on display there.

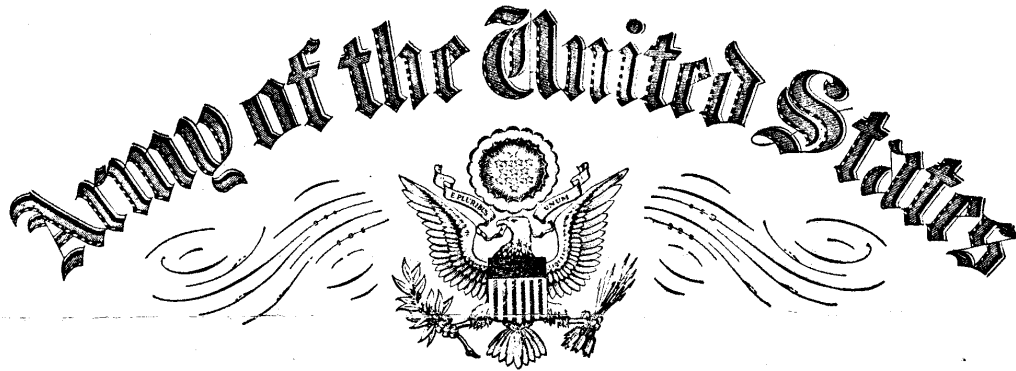
While in Italy Martin served during some of the heavy fighting in northern Italy and was in the team that captured one of Mussolini's hideouts. He was a jeep driver for one of the commanders and during one mortar or artillery barrage he was crouched behind one front wheel of his jeep when a round blew the other front wheel off the vehicle.



Diamond Jim



10th Mountain Division Advancing North in Italy, April 1945



Honorable Discharge

This is to certify that

MARTIN R CAPE 17 005 154 Private First Class

Headquarters Special Troops 10th Mountain Division

Army of the United States

*is hereby Honorably Discharged from the military
service of the United States of America.*

*This certificate is awarded as a testimonial of Honest
and Faithful Service to this country.*

Given at SEPARATION CENTER
Ft Logan Colo

Date 9 November 1945

State of Nebraska, }
Cheyenne County. } ss. 20548

Filed for record in the Clerk's
office of said county the 13 day of
November 1945 at 11
o'clock and 45 minutes 9
and recorded in the
book 229

J. D. Dede
County Clerk

Clemont C Parrish

CLEMONT C PARRISH
Lt Colonel CAC

Army of the United States



SEPARATION QUALIFICATION RECORD

SAVE THIS FORM. IT WILL NOT BE REPLACED IF LOST

This record of job assignments and special training received in the Army is furnished to the soldier when he leaves the service. In its preparation, information is taken from available Army records and supplemented by personal interview. The information about civilian education and work experience is based on the individual's own statements. The veteran may present this document to former employers, prospective employers, representatives of schools or colleges, or use it in any other way that may prove beneficial to him.

1. LAST NAME—FIRST NAME—MIDDLE INITIAL				MILITARY OCCUPATIONAL ASSIGNMENTS			
CAPE, MARTIN R.				10. MONTHS	11. GRADE	12. MILITARY OCCUPATIONAL SPECIALTY	
2. ARMY SERIAL No.	3. GRADE	4. SOCIAL SECURITY NO.		3	Pvt	Medical Basic Training (657)	
17 005 154	Pfc	522-20-4368		2	Pvt	Horse Breaker (093)	
5. PERMANENT MAILING ADDRESS (Street, City, County, State)				22	Pfc	Veterinary Technician (250)	
Box 305 Chadron, Nebraska.				8	Pfc	Truck Driver, Light (345)	
6. DATE OF ENTRY INTO ACTIVE SERVICE	7. DATE OF SEPARATION	8. DATE OF BIRTH					
3 Dec 1942	9 Nov 1945	23 Jan 1923					
9. PLACE OF SEPARATION							
Separation Center, Fort Logan, Colorado.							

SUMMARY OF MILITARY OCCUPATIONS

13. TITLE—DESCRIPTION—RELATED CIVILIAN OCCUPATION

TRUCK DRIVER, LIGHT--Drove $\frac{1}{2}$ -ton truck carrying personnel. Made minor repairs on vehicle while in European Theater.

**ENLISTED RECORD AND REPORT OF SEPARATION
HONORABLE DISCHARGE**

1. LAST NAME - FIRST NAME - MIDDLE INITIAL Cape Martin R		2. ARMY SERIAL NO. 17 005 154	3. GRADE Pfc	4. ARM OR SERVICE MD	5. COMPONENT AUS
6. ORGANIZATION Headquarters Special Troops 10th Mountain Division		7. DATE OF SEPARATION 9 Nov 45	8. PLACE OF SEPARATION Separation Unit 2 Ft Logan Colo		
9. PERMANENT ADDRESS FOR MAILING PURPOSES Box 305 Chadron Dawes Co Nebr		10. DATE OF BIRTH 23 Jan 23	11. PLACE OF BIRTH Dalton Nebr		
12. ADDRESS FROM WHICH EMPLOYMENT WILL BE SCUGHT See 9		13. COLOR EYES Gray	14. COLOR HAIR Brown	15. HEIGHT 5' 6 1/2"	16. WEIGHT 130 LBS.
17. NO. DEPEND.	21. CIVILIAN OCCUPATION AND NO. Farmer General 3-06.10				

MILITARY HISTORY


22. DATE OF INDUCTION 3 Dec 42	23. DATE OF ENLISTMENT 3 Dec 42	24. DATE OF ENTRY INTO ACTIVE SERVICE 3 Dec 42	25. PLACE OF ENTRY INTO SERVICE Ft Robinson Nebr		
SELECTIVE SERVICE DATA <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO	26. REGISTERED <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO	27. LOCAL S.S. BOARD NO. 1	28. COUNTY AND STATE Cheyenne Nebr		29. HOME ADDRESS AT TIME OF ENTRY INTO SERVICE Star Route Dalton Nebr
30. MILITARY OCCUPATIONAL SPECIALTY AND NO. Truck Driver Light (345)			31. MILITARY QUALIFICATION AND DATE (i.e., infantry, aviation and marksmanship badges, etc.) McM Rifle M17 McM Rifle 03		
32. BATTLES AND CAMPAIGNS North Apennines Po Valley GO 40 WD 45					
33. DECORATIONS AND CITATIONS Good Conduct Medal European African Middle Eastern Service Medal World War II Victory Medal American Service Medal					
34. WOUNDS RECEIVED IN ACTION None					
35. LATEST IMMUNIZATION DATES			36. SERVICE OUTSIDE CONTINENTAL U. S. AND RETURN		
SMALLPOX	TYPHOID	TETANUS	OTHER (specify) Typhus	DATE OF DEPARTURE	DESTINATION
17 Nov 44	17 Nov 44	17 Nov 44	15 May 45	6 Jan 45	European Theater
37. TOTAL LENGTH OF SERVICE			38. HIGHEST GRADE HELD		
CONTINENTAL SERVICE			FOREIGN SERVICE		
YEARS	MONTHS	DAYS	YEARS	MONTHS	DAYS
2	4	1	0	7	6
39. PRIOR SERVICE None			40. REASON AND AUTHORITY FOR SEPARATION Convenience of the Government RFL-1 (Demobilization) AR 615-365 15 Dec 44		
41. SERVICE SCHOOLS ATTENDED None			42. EDUCATION (Years) Grammar 8 High School 4 College 0		

PAY DATA

43. LONGEVITY FOR PAY PURPOSES	44. MUSTERING OUT PAY	45. SOLDIER DEPOSITS	46. TRAVEL PAY	47. TOTAL AMOUNT, NAME OF DISBURSING OFFICER
YEARS 2 MONTHS 11 DAYS 7	TOTAL \$ 300	THIS PAYMENT \$ 100	None	\$ 15 20 123 40 P L Rodgers Maj FD

INSURANCE NOTICE

IMPORTANT IF PREMIUM IS NOT PAID WITHIN ONE OR WITHIN THIRTY-DAY PERIODS THEREAFTER, INSURANCE WILL Lapse. MAKE CHECKS OR MONEY ORDERS PAYABLE TO THE TREASURER OF THE U. S. AND FORWARD TO COLLECTIONS SUBDIVISION, VETERANS ADMINISTRATION, WASHINGTON 25, D. C.					
48. KIND OF INSURANCE Nat. Serv. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> U.S. Govt. <input type="checkbox"/> None <input type="checkbox"/>	49. HOW PAID Allotment <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Direct to V. A. <input type="checkbox"/>	50. Effective Date of Allotment Discontinuance 31 Oct 45	51. Date of Next Premium Due (One month after 50) 30 Nov 45	52. PREMIUM DUE EACH MONTH \$ 6 50	53. INTENTION OF VETERAN TO Continue <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Continue Only <input type="checkbox"/> Discontinue <input type="checkbox"/>

54.  RIGHT THUMB PRINT	55. REMARKS (This space for completion of above items or entry of other items specified in W. D. Directives) Lapel Button issued ASR Score (2 September 1945) - 62
	56. SIGNATURE OF PERSON BEING SEPARATED Martin R Cape
57. PERSONNEL OFFICER (Type name, grade and organization - signature) ROBERT W COPPOCK 1st Lt AUS	

WD AGO FORM 53-55
1 November 1944

This form supersedes all previous editions of WD AGO Forms 53 and 55 for enlisted persons entitled to an Honorable Discharge, which will not be used after receipt of this revision.

Martin's Unit

Headquarters Special Troops Battalion

10th Mountain Division



The Division was activated on July 15, 1943 at Camp Hale, Colorado as the 10th Light Division (Alpine). The maneuver brigades of the Division were contained in the 85th, 86th, and 87th Infantry Regiments. The Division's year of training at the 9,200 foot high Camp Hale provided the skills necessary to fight and survive in mountain terrain and winter conditions.

On June 22, 1944 the Division moved to Camp Swift, Texas to prepare for the Louisiana maneuvers of 1944. Although those maneuvers were cancelled, a period of acclimation to low altitude and hot climate was necessary to prepare for the maneuvers. On November 6, 1944 the Division was re-designated as the 10th Mountain Division and that same month the blue and white "Mountain" tab was added to the Divisions shoulder patch.

The 10th Mountain Division started to arrive in Italy in late December of 1944. It was one of the last Divisions to enter combat during World War II. However after a brief training period, the 10th Mountain entered combat on January 8, 1945 near Cutigliano and Orsigna. The initial defensive actions were followed by Operation Encore that kicked off on February 18, 1945. The Division conducted attacks on the Monte Della Torraccia ridge and Monte Belvedere which constituted an approximately five mile front. Other divisions had attempted to assault this sector three previous times, but none had any lasting success. The 10th Mountain Division cleared the sector in a few days of heavy fighting. The Germans had made seven counterattacks to retake the ground, but never succeeded.



In early March the Division fought to a line north of Canolle and moved to within 15 miles of Bologna. The 10th Mountain Division maintained defensive positions for the next three weeks before starting another offensive. The Division captured Mongiorgio on April 20th, and then entered the Po Valley. The 10th Mountain Division crossed the Po River on April 23rd and reached Verona by April 25th. Here the Division met heavy resistance at Torbole and Nago. After an amphibious crossing of Lake Garda, the 10th Mountain Division secured Gargnano and Porto di Tremosine on April 30th as German resistance in Italy ended. The Germans in Italy surrendered on May 2, 1945. After serving some time on security duty and receiving the surrender of various German units, the soldiers of the 10th Mountain Division returned to the United States. The Division was deactivated on November 30, 1945.

Mazie Grantham Cape meeting Martin Cape

I met Martin at a USO dance when he was in the Army and stationed at Ft. Robinson near Crawford, Nebraska. The nearby town of Chadron would send a bus load of girls to the dances.

While there one time Martin asked my cousin (who was stationed there) if he knew me.

Can't remember how often the dances were held - probably every week or two. I think it was in the spring of 1943 that we first met. We were married in Sept. 1943. (Not very long to know each other)

Can't remember going to Dalton to meet his parents before we were married. Maybe Gladys would remember. Martin didn't have a car then.

My brother Milton, wife Leola and baby Wayne lived in Crawford. He was also in one of the Divisions at Fort Robinson but "not veterinary". Martin sent a picture of Wayne & me to his folks and told them Wayne was my son. Just kidding but he got the devil from his folks.

We were married by a minister at my folks home about 1 1/2 miles from Chadron. Martin's parents and Roberta were the only ones from the Cape side who could come. We did have a piano but Roberta, age 9, was the only one who knew how to play. She played "When the moon comes over the mountain" with one hand. One of my aunts baked an angel food cake so we had cake and coffee after the marriage ceremony which was in the afternoon. We moved to an apartment in Chadron and lived there while Martin was stationed at Fort Robinson.

by Mazie Grantham Cape
March 1999

