

VIEWS ON THE NEWS.

Bartholomew county hangs out the welcome sign for a new infantry division—the 106th, which has moved into Camp Atterbury, following the “graduation” of the 83rd and 30th Divisions. Men from this organization and the families of some of them will be a part of the community for a while, and the orange lion of their divisional insignia will become a familiar thing to us, as did the “Ohio” device of the 83rd and the XXX of the 30th. Then they will move on, as did the two other divisions, and the Buffaloes, the tank destroyers and other smaller units which have trained at Atterbury in the two years since that area of Bartholomew and Johnson county woodland and cornfield underwent its unforeseen transformation.

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As was the case with the 30th, the 106th Division will hardly become as much a part of the community as the 83rd, because it isn't in the cards for this new outfit to be here so long. The 83rd was organized here, built from scratch from new selectees around a nucleus of men older in the service, trained here for a year before it was sent to maneuvers in Tennessee. The 106th has already been through most of that, indoctrinated, trained and hardened, so we hear. Although it is a “new” division—there was no 106th in World war I—it lacks chiefly one thing to make it a veteran outfit, experience under enemy fire.

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Announcement of the new division moving in was “no news” for a good many persons in the county. Although the newspapers conformed to the censorship code covering troop movements and published nothing about this one until it was completed, it was known rather widely that one was in prospect, then under way, and a considerable number of local residents knew what division it was and whence it was coming. The rush of new people into the community, families of the officers and men, was a certain harbinger, and this movement started before the troop movement. Some of these people talked more than they were supposed to. Then came the big parade of jeeps, trucks and other rolling stock. There was no hiding that under a bushel.

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Coincident with announcement of the new division's arrival came the official word that the commander of the new general hospital at Atterbury had been named by the War department, and that he is a native Hoosier, who originated 70 miles down the Hige at New Albany. That puts Col. H. L. Conner in familiar territory, in spite of the fact that he has been mostly out of Indiana for the last 30 years on tours of duty extending from Boston to Hawaii. This calls for the county to hang out another type of welcome sign—“welcome home.”

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1944/04/05 Welcome sign for 106th

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