

106TH FIRST TO HIT BACK AFTER ATTACK

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who had just entered the Army with start of the draft of 18-year-olds, was activated under War department orders issued Nov. 29, 1942. It became a new World war II division. Both the 30th and 83rd Divisions which had trained at Camp Atterbury were re-activated World war I divisions.

The 106th was formed at Fort Jackson, S. C., on March 15, 1943, under the command of Maj. Gen. William H. Simpson, then of the Twelfth Service command.

After early training at Fort Jackson, the 106th moved to Atterbury in March, 1944. The Lion's men rolled into Atterbury in their own trucks and other transports, filling local roads with streams of military vehicles.

When the 106th moved into the Hoosier camp, two-thirds of them were 22 years old or younger. Three-fourths of them had not reached their 26th birthday.

At Atterbury the 106th's "youngsters" were augmented by 1,157 men from specialist schools. A number of these men had been transferred to the Infantry from officer college training and other special training units.

Becomes 'Mystery Unit'

The slogan of the young division, as revealed last March at Atterbury, was to "make history." Being the first outfit to meet the full strength of the German counter-offensive and becoming a "mystery unit" following German propaganda reports that it had been smashed, the 106th already has lived up to its slogan and will go down in military history as playing a major role in the battle of the Belgian bulge.

Maj. Gen. Alan W. Jones, who resided in Columbus with Mrs. Jones, was commanding general of the 106th Division while it was at Camp Atterbury.

Congressman Charles A. Halleck said the boys had undergone "something close to a literal hell."

"They were nearly six weeks without a bed to sleep in or a bath," he said. "They are the cream of the crop. They're championship stuff."

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