

## 106TH FIRST TO HIT BACK AFTER GERMAN ATTACK

Lion's Head Division Re-  
forms and Spearheads  
Offensive.

DETAILS ARE RELEASED

Former Attaboys Take Best  
Nazis Can Give for  
Three Days.

Giving first official details of actions of the 106th Infantry division since it left Camp Atterbury early last fall, the War department revealed late Thursday that the 424th Infantry regiment of the 106th "Lion's Head" division was the first American unit hit by the Germans in the offensive at St. Vith and became the first unit to strike at the Nazis when the Americans started their own counter-offensive.

The 106th, although it bore the brunt of the German attacks in the battle of the bulge and lost more than 60 percent of its strength in meeting the charge of the Hitler panzers at St. Vith, was never really out of the battle line during the Germans' punch into the Ardennes.

All Casualties Replaced.  
A War department official said Thursday in Washington that "all casualties of the 106th have been replaced and the marching unit is now a full-strength, self-contained infantry fighting division once again."

Earlier Thursday, Secretary of War Stimson announced that the 106th, including hundreds of Indiana boys and several from this area, had suffered the heaviest losses of any American outfit in France, taking almost one-fifth of the total casualties of the bulge.

Reports of 106th members listed as missing in action were still being received here today, but according to Secretary Stimson, many of these men may later be found in other outfits, be identified among the wounded or be determined as prisoners.

"Gallant Squad," Stimson.  
Stimson's formal statement said: "The American 106th Division, which made a gallant stand in the Ardennes at the center of the German drive, but was partly overrun, sustained total casualties of 8,663. It is probable that a number of the 7,001 missing are in process of being identified as wounded, or have been found attached to other organizations, subsequent to this compilation. A great number of men above counted as missing from this division are presumed to be prisoners of war."

It was the contribution of the men of this division and of other less heavily hit divisions in the area which helped to make possible the halting and repelling of the enemy."

Despatches from the Western front earlier this week had revealed for the first time that the 106th Division was still in action.

Hold Nazis Three Days.  
For three days following opening of the German drive, the 106th withstood the blows of the Nazis' ablest troops and held its ground until half its force had been rolled under the wheels of the German charge.

In the disclosure made Thursday by the War department, it was revealed that the division went overseas in October and went into action immediately after reaching France. It captured Coulee and Hensumont during the American drive southeast of Bastogne, and was at St. Vith on the north side of what became the St. Vith salient when the Germans struck on Dec. 16.

Congressman Forest A. Harries of Indiana announced return of the division to action Thursday in Washington following inquiries at the War department.

"It was the first American unit to meet attack," Congressman Harries said, "and it was the first American unit to deliver a decisive counter-blow at the foot of the bulge."

Joined by 18-Year-Olds.  
The 106th Division, 15,000 strong and including many young men

(Continued on page 2)

# 1945\_01\_19\_106th Hits Back after German attack

Clipped By:



jimdwest

Wed, Jul 13, 2016