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Units Of Famed 106th Division Among 11,251 Returning From ETO Aboard Three Transports

Headed by their commanding general, Major Gen. Donald A. Stroch, units of the 106th infantry division numbering 2,160 officers and enlisted men debarked yesterday at Newport News as three ships—West Point, William Cushing, and Marine Raven—returned 11,251 men to this port from Europe.

All units of the famed 106th—the Golden Lion division—returned on board the super transport USS West Point which docked early yesterday after a speedy trans-Atlantic crossing from the French port of LeHavre.

There were four field artillery battalions—589th, 590th, 591st, and 592nd—and the headquarters and headquarters battery from the 106th division artillery debarked from the West Point.

Other outfits arriving on the West Point upped the total debarkations from the transport to 7,593, while the Marine Raven carried 2,817, and the William Cushing returned 741 persons.

The Golden Lion division personnel sports a unique shoulder patch with a lions head in gold on a field of blue with the entire circular patch surrounded with a red border. The blue represents the infantry and the red designates field artillery support.

Veterans of the terrific Von Rundstedt offensive in the famed Battle of the Bulge in December, 1944, the Golden Lion outfit left this country in October, 1944, for the ETO and received only brief training in England before taking their place in the Belgium line on December, 1944.

Only five days after moving into the front line, Von Rundstedt opened his all-out offensive in what was seemingly a quiet sector in Belgium. The full weight of the Nazi drive hit the 106th. Two regiments of the division absorbed. All the power the Germans could deliver at that point. Only a handful of those regiments came back as they went down fighting and the Golden Lion division counted 8,663 casualties, 7,000 of them listed as missing.

By the end of January, 1945, the division had the satisfaction of helping to stem the enemy tide and in February and March, Major Gen. Stroch led his 106th division in defense of the southern flank of the First army, pierced the Siegfried line and carried on in the great Allied offensive that brought victory.

The 106th had a strength of 40,000 men—thrice the normal size of a division—in June, 1945, as they undertook the task of rounding up surrendering Germans and caring of displaced persons.

No ships are scheduled to arrive at Newport News today and only one, the R. Darro with 40 persons, is slated to debark tomorrow.

A complete list of units and number of men in each arriving yesterday aboard the West Point follows:

Hq and Hq Biry, 106th Div Arty, 133; 589th FA Bn, 463; 590th FA Bn, 358; 591st FA Bn, 526; 592nd FA Bn, 528; Hq & Hq Biry, 7th Armored division artillery; 38th Mobile Reconnaissance & Repair Sq Heavy, 270; 1761st Ord Sup & Maint Co., Avn. 117; 1771st Ord Sup & Maint Co., Avn. 117; 4th Depot unit army, 86; 3rd Radio Sq Mobile, 700; 385th Signal Service Co., Avn. 347; Hq & Hq Signal Tactical Air Command, 416; 433rd Fighter Control Sq, 368; miscellaneous personnel, 3,362.

Arriving aboard the Marine Raven from Marseilles were the following: 19th General hospital, 841; 332nd Signal Co., Wing, 91; 329th TC Harbor Craft Co., 273; miscellaneous personnel, 1,612.

INITIATE CLASS AT ELKS CLUB

Initiatory ceremonies were conducted by Newport News Lodge No. 215, Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks, at the lodge rooms on 32nd St., last night with seven members being received into the order.

They were B. R. Dawley, R. C. Lewis, R. D. Harrington, M. D. Dobson, L. H. Wyatt, Julius Buxbaum and W. H. Wood. The ritual was exemplified by officers of the lodge headed by A. I. Nelhouse, exalted ruler.

After the ceremony of induction the exalted ruler gave a brief talk to the new members, impressing on them their obligations of membership.

W. Camp Abbott, a past exalted ruler, speaking for all the lodge P. E. Rs bespoke complete liberty of expression and defense of that right to speak as the best method for insurance of permanence peace throughout the world. Terming the order the greatest fraternal order in America, he told them that the principles of the order if carried out—fidelity, charity, justice and brotherly love—throughout the nations of the world could bring about an enduring and lasting peace for all mankind.

Preceding the initiation the Elks variety club composed of a group of young girls and boys directed by Elk Ralph Maton and with Bobbie Edington as mistress of ceremonies gave an entertaining program of songs, instrumental numbers and a special tumbling act by one of the younger boys. Their performance was enthusiastically received by the club members, the special tumbling act of Jackie Boone drawing repeated applause.

The program consisted of a piano

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