

106th Reference 88-A

THE INFORMATION SECTION  
Analysis Branch  
HEADQUARTERS ARMY GROUND FORCES  
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.  
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FACT SHEET ON THE 106th INFANTRY DIVISION

SHOULDER PATCH: The division insignia is a golden lion's face on a blue circular background encircled by white, and then red borders respectively. The blue represents the Infantry and the red the supporting artillery. The lion's face is indicative of strength and power.

SONG: "Onward Lions of 106 to Victory" Words and music by Frank Power.

TYPE OF DIVISION: Army of the United States

NICKNAME: "Golden Lion" Division

ACTIVATION DATE: 15 March 1943

INACTIVATION DATE: 2 October 1945, Camp Shanks, N. Y.

TRAINING UNDER ARMY GROUND FORCES: The division was activated at Fort Jackson, S. C., and was assigned to the III Corps of the Second Army. The 106th came through its first test, during the Second Army maneuvers held in Tennessee from Jan. to March 1944, with flying colors. In March 1944, the division was transferred to Camp Atterbury, Ind., under the Second Army.

OVERSEAS TRAINING: Trained briefly in England and then in France before being put into the line.

DEPARTED U. S. FOR FOREIGN DUTY: 10 November 1944

RETURNED TO U. S.: 1 October 1945

BATTLE CREDITS: (Division) Northern France, Rhineland and Ardennes.

DATE ENTERED COMBAT: DIVISION 10 December 1944

COMBAT DAYS (DIV): 63

SUCCESSIVE COMMANDING GENERALS: Maj. Gen. Alan W. Jones from 15 March 1943 through November 1944; Maj. Gen. Donald A. Stroh from Feb. 1945 to inactivation.

COMPONENT UNITS: 422, 423 and 424 Inf Regts; 81 Engr Combat Bn; 106 Cav Ren Tp (Mecz); 331 Med Bn. Div Arty: 589, 590 and 591st FA Bns (105 how) and 592 FA Bn (155 how). Sp Tps: 106 QM Co, 106 Sig Co, 806 Ord Co (LM), Hq Co, MP Plat and Band.

DISTINGUISHED UNIT CITATION: 81st Engr. C. Bn. for 16-23 Dec. 44 action in Germany.

COMBAT HIGHLIGHTS: On 11 Dec. 1944, the 106th Infantry Division went into the line in Belgium. It was a quiet sector. Five days later all the hell of modern war broke loose in that sector. The full force of Von Rundstedt's breakthrough spearhead came up against the 106th. Two regiments of the division absorbed all the power which the Germans could deliver at that point. Only a handful of



men from the regiments came back, but it could be said of the division as a whole that it went down fighting. The German attack started 16 Dec. 1944. The enemy turned its guns on the 422d and 423d Inf. Regts. and followed up with Infantry and tank assaults. On 23 Dec. the division pulled back to reorganize, but was thrown into the line once again the next day. It finally helped to halt the Germans on the north side of the salient between Stavelot and Manhay. During the gigantic German offensive the 106th suffered 8663 casualties, which included more than 7000 men missing. Before the last big drive into the Reich could gain momentum, the division was pulled back to Rennes, France, for rehabilitation. While there it also constituted the reserve for the American troops investing the St. Nazaire and Lorient pockets. When the Germans began to surrender by the thousands in April and early May 1945, the 106th was rushed east to take over the partly-built prisoner of war cages and to handle the masses of humanity who were milling about in American-held territory. The division in June 1945, had a strength of 40,000 men, three times the size of an ordinary Infantry Division, because of the gigantic task it had to undertake in caring for prisoners and displaced persons. Late in June the division had headquarters at Bad Ems, and was disposed along a 340-mile front. The division sailed for the U. S. in late Sept. 1945 and was inactivated upon arrival in this country.

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