Eyewitness Tells Story of Famous 106th in Bulge Battle

Just one year ago tomorrow, December 16, one of the most crucial battles of western front warfare opened. It was the Battle of the Ardennes, or—as the G.I.'s recall it—the Battle of the Bulge. It marked the baptism of fire of the 106th infantry division, which trained at Camp Atterbury and which "adopted" Indiana as its home state. This report is by an Indianapolis News reporter who was there as a captain in an infantry regiment of that division. It is the first full report of the Lep division's part in that campaign and follows the official story now on file in the National Archives, Washington.

By DON UNDERWOOD

Little groups of men standing guard on the American side of the Siegfried line stamped their feet and clenched their fists to keep out the cold—clenched them so tightly their fingernails dug into their palms. Others up and down the vast frontage of an army in enemy land huddled under their single G.I. blankets protecting them and machine guns from the flurries of snow and raw winds that preceded the dawn.

The time was 5:30 a.m., the day, December 16, 1944. It was the dawn start of a day which was to see a green, untried division stand firm in the face of a surge of enemy troops, but a day which even then was to see the hopes of the enemy for an easy victory dashed by a native fighting. 

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