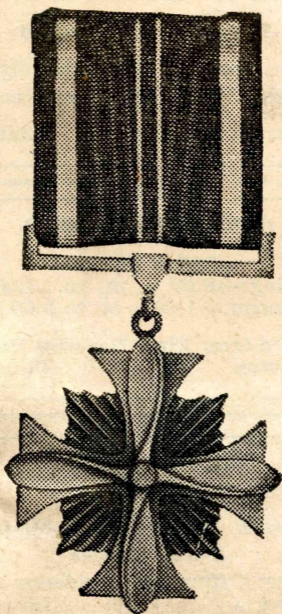


*Technical Sergeant* <sup>2/15/44</sup>  
*Willis Diel Awarded Dis-*  
*tinguished Flying Cross*

Mr. and Mrs. George Diel of northwest of Newton have received a letter and a newspaper from their son, Technical Sergeant Willis Diel, telling about his having been awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross, the Air Medal with Oak Leaf Cluster and the Purple Heart decorations recently in England. He is believed to have been the first resident of Jasper county to be awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross, one of the highest decorations awarded American airmen.



**Slightly Wounded**

Sergeant Diel was slightly wounded in the chest and abdomen in a mission over Germany on December 13, but was able to return to duty in five days.

The paper tells that his B-24 bomber was one of five badly shot-up planes which got home that day, although the landing gear was shot away. In landing it, the pilot slid the plane in on its belly and it crashed into a stump and then into a wall. It was almost shot to pieces and it looked like it couldn't possibly get back to its base.

Mr. and Mrs. Diel had known their son was wounded but had not known anything about how he was injured, and hadn't known of his decorations until the letter arrived.