

Eldon Dewhirst In Thick Of Fighting On Siegfried

Nov. 2, 1944

Has Had Part In Bitter Fighting In Normandy Since "D" Day

Eldon Dewhirst, Newton boy who is fighting with the 28th Infantry, the "Keystone Division" in France, in a letter to his mother-in-law, Mrs. Perry O. Shook, sent a clipping from the Stars and Stripes, official American army newspaper which tells that "at long last the 28th Division, doing one of the best combat jobs of any unit in the American Army or any other army, has been granted combat recognition."

The article from the Stars and Stripes is headed "From Paris to Siegfried Line, 28th Division Rolled in High." It reads as follows:

First Army Hq., Oct. 2 — Pennsylvania's "Keystone Division"—the 28th Infantry headed straight for Germany to falter the defenses of the Siegfried Line after their triumphal march through the streets of Paris, it was disclosed today when the outfit was released for publication for action through September 20.

After capturing Percy, St. Sever, Calvados, and Gathono and other objectives south of St. Lo., following the break through in that sector, the 28th pushed eastward to capture Gov. and participate in the Clean-up of the German pocket west of the Seine.

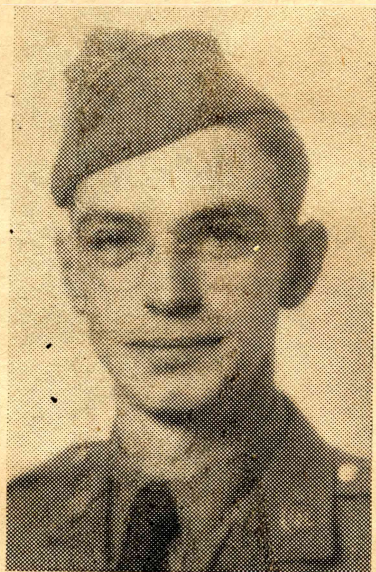
Conchos, Le Neubourg and Elfouf are also listed as having been freed by the Keystone outfit.

In its actions south of St. Lo, the 28th became known as the "Bloody Bucket Division", partly because of the red, bucket-shaped Keystone flash worn by the men, and partly because of a captured German officer who thought the patch might stand for that after he had seen how men of the division fought.

Formerly commanded by Lt. Gen. Omar N. Bradley, the division now is led by Maj. Gen. Norman D. Cota, former assistant commander of the 29th Division.

Before embarking for overseas service, the outfit participated in maneuvers in Virginia, North and South Car-

Recognition Given For Newton Boy's Outfit



olina, Louisiana and Texas. Before coming to France it trained several months in South Wales and southern England.

The accompanying letter to Mrs. Shook follows:

Sunday October 8, 1944

Dear Mother Shook:

There was a nice crowd at church this morning. I thought the sermon was good. The service was held on a hillside. It reminded me of Jesus teaching the multitudes on the hillside. Sometimes I think services are more impressive when they are held out doors

We had a good breakfast this morning.

We sure appreciate a bed of straw over here. I don't know what we'll do when the straw is all hauled into the barns. I still remember my first night in France. We slept (and I mean we slept) under an apple tree on a lot of green apples that had fallen off the tree. I guess if a fellow is tired enough he can sleep anywhere in any position.

There isn't much news. Bye for this time,

Eldon Dewhirst