

Smith, Paul W.

**Pvt. Paul W. Smith
Writes of Division's
War Experiences**

Pvt. Paul W. Smith, son of Mrs. Pauline Smith, 100 West Broad Street, in a letter to his mother enclosed a release from the Headquarters Second Armored Division of which he has been a member for the past 16 months.

The release read in part, "When this battle-stained division rolled into a Dutch town, the foreman of a coal mine called at headquarters to express his appreciation for liberation. The Germans didn't leave much to give you, but we wondered if your soldiers would like to use the showers at the mine?" he asked. "They sure would," replied the commanding general, and since then thousands of boys have had hot baths. One of the sergeants wiped the soap from his eyes and said, "It's been a hell of a long time since I've seen anything like this. My last real bath was in England before the invasion, we have been moving too fast to even wash our faces most of the time."

The second armored division is the most experienced Armored Division in the United States Army with three campaigns behind it — North Africa, Sicily and France. It was this division which swept across Sicily with the Third Infantry Division to capture Palermo.

Pvt. Smith enlisted in the Army November 24, 1941 and received his basic training at Fort Knox, Ky. After three months training he left for overseas.

November 28, 1944