



ACCEPT DADDY'S REWARD . . . Mrs. Ruth Blair, and her son, William, stand with Colonel Claude E. Duncan, USAF, during ceremonies which awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross post-humously to Captain William E. Blair.

Torrance Boy Accepts DFC As Tribute to Heroic Father

Five-year-old William R. Blair of 2553 Sonoma street, Friday proudly received the Air Force Distinguished Flying Cross for heroic action by his father, Captain William E. Blair, who last September sacrificed his life in order to save his crew and avoid crashing into a heavily populated area.

Colonel Claude E. Duncan, commanding officer of the Long Beach Air Force Reserve Training Center, made the presentation at 2 p. m., December 16 in an informal ceremony.

Capt. Blair, the youngster's father, received the award post-humously after civic leaders of Chattanooga, Tennessee, where the fatal crash occurred, wrote Air Force Chief of Staff, General Hoyt S. Vandenberg, urging recognition of the pilot's heroic action be given.

Young William, who lives with his mother Mrs. Ruth Blair, and is a pupil at Torrance Elementary School, heard how his dad gave his life that others might live.

The B-25 which Capt. Blair was piloting on a routine flight from Augusta, Georgia to Offutt Air Force Base, Nebraska, last September 5th, developed a fire in its left engine over Chattanooga, Tenn. Capt. Blair gave the "ball out" order to his copilot and crew and maneuvered the stricken aircraft away from the heavily congested residential areas of Chattanooga, with complete disregard for his own

personal safety. "As the aircraft cleared the city limits and after the left engine fell off, Captain Blair bailed out at too low an altitude to permit his parachute to function. "The superior airmanship, undaunted courage and devotion to duty displayed by Captain Blair reflect credit upon himself and the United States Air Force," the citation read.

The Chattanooga Board of Commissioners drafted a resolution of gratitude; recommended such an award be made. It was endorsed by Mayor Hugh P. Wasson who wrote, "It is the genuine and sincere belief of this writer that Captain Blair is deserving of the highest tribute . . ." William S. Hagan, President of the Chattanooga Junior Chamber of Commerce, speaking for its National Security Committee, acknowledged the debt as "a great and eternal one." "It is inspiring, then, to know the courage and devotion to duty inculcated in wartime still live in thrilling mea-

sure in the hearts of our Air Force men" the letter said. Captain Blair married the former Elizabeth Ruth Barnard, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. D. A. Barnard of 2553 Sonoma Street, on April 12th, 1943 at Stockton, the same day he got his wings.

William E. Blair, Captain, USAF, was only 30 years old. Entering service shortly after Pearl Harbor, he graduated as an Aviation Cadet at Stockton, California, taught B-25 flight technique at Mather Air Force Base, California for seventeen months and had undergone B-29

Transitional Training at the time World War II ended. His wife later joined him on Okinawa, where he served for two years. The courageous flyer graduated from Sunset High School in Dallas, Texas, and also attended both Southern Methodist University and Texas A & M.

Couple Visiting Parents Here
Mr. and Mrs. William J. Stogdill (Marlou Rose) arrived Sunday aboard the El Capitan to spend the holidays with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Edwin B. Brown of 2404 Gramercy avenue. The couple have been touring

Entertains Boys
"The Bells," an El Camino College service honorary club, sponsored a recent party for 25 boys from the Spanish American Institute in Gardena. The three-hour Christmas party was climaxed by the giving of gifts from the faculty and students.

The total United States meat was 145 pounds.

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HYDRATED DATES		17¢
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