Second Decoration

COLUMBUS.—A second decoration, the Oak Leaf Cluster in lieu of another Air Medal, has been awarded to Lieut. James J. Chapman, Army fighter pilot, in the South Pacific war zone, according to advices received here. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Chapman, who are members of the Holy Trinity parish in Jackson.

WAR NEWS AND THE SCHOOL CHILD

By LAURA GRAY

Issued by the National Kindergarten Association, 8 West 40th Street, New York City. These articles are appearing weekly in our columns.

Mary, thirteen, brought home a good report except for one subject, Social Studies, against which was written "Takes very little interest in what goes on in the world."

"Mary, how did you manage to fail in that?" I asked.

"We had a test all about the war, and I didn't know hardly anything."

"Why not? We certainly hear enough broadcasts."

"I seldom listen," she replied, a distressed look on her bright young face.

"But you should listen," I said weakly, realizing this was feeble advice.

Then eleven-year-old Tommy came in. His report bore almost the same remark.

Why should this be—in a home to which almost every news broadcast came?

"Aren't you interested in your country's war?" I asked.

"Of course, Mom," he answered, "but I get all mixed up."

How could I help the youngsters to overcome this weakness? As I thought about it I realized that such a confusing mass of names and events with repetitions are broadcast over the radio that unless boys and girls are helped a little we cannot blame them for shutting their ears in self-defense.

An old scrapbook of Mary's filled with pictures of those five babies up in Canada, neatly pasted in, gave me an idea for making a day-by-day scrapbook. After supper that night their father and I talked the matter over with the children, and found them glad to start the undertaking.

Two inexpensive books were bought and the work began. As soon as the paper arrived there was a dash to look at it, and claims made on pictures and maps. I, too, made a scrapbook, and have found it a great help in understanding the continually changing situations.

We selected a picture of President Roosevelt, gave it a page to itself and left the next page blank—to add items of interest about him as they came along. We did the same with Prime Minister Churchill, and other great war leaders. I tacked up a specially clear map beside the breakfast nook. When the paper was read pictures and scraps of news were cut out, and pasted in the scrapbooks. The daily cartoon was in such demand our scrapbooks took turns in having it. Remarks about the pictures naturally led to interesting talks about the news. When a place was mentioned we found it on the map and tried to learn something more about it.

A few days after we started this, Tommy ran in beaming. "Today I know all about the 'Lease-Lend' Bill—hardly any of the other kids did!" he boasted.

We cut down on broadcasts, and when we did turn the radio on we listened, instead of using it as an accompaniment for reading or conversation. When an important speech was broadcast, we dropped everything and gave it our full attention—except that some of us engaged in knitting, sewing or some other handwork. The children are at liberty to skip out if they wish, and they often do. But more and more I find them remaining. So their knowledge of names of places and people and of the war aims of the countries involved increases. It is my job to steer away from the too horrible, to stress the good—the courage of our armed forces and those of our Allies, and the value of democracy.

The result of this family get-together—listening to the radio—has been wonderful. Gradually the children are being led to take a real interest in the history-making events happening in the world today. It has clarified their parents' own understanding of world matters, too, and has proved to be another link to bind the family together in a common interest.

Tommy is making another scrapbook of planes—all the different kinds—and is alert for new ones. Mary has been particularly interested in pictures relating to the WACS and the WAVES, but more recently "Production on the Home Front" has occupied her. We have set aside a book shelf for our scrapbooks, and we call the collection our Victory Library.

In Spite of All

In spite of the apparent triumph of evil and evil men, in spite of their power and their might, in spite of the blood that is flowing and the hearts that are breaking, Christ will not fail us. Those arms that were held out so often to enfold the broken-hearted and those about on the verge of despair are held out to each one of us today.—Cyprian Tyrrell, O.F.M. Cap.

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