Portland Press Herald

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All Is Quiet Along War Fronts In Viet Nam

By Staff Photographer MERRILL

Dolls East And West

Dressed alike are Christina Miklos, 11 months, and a doll her father sent her from Viet Nam. Spec. 5 James M. Miklos, who's stationed with the Army's 330th Transportation Co. at Vung Tau, had this and one other outfit made for his daughter for Christmas. Christina and her mother, Mrs. Angela Miklos, live at 10 Hillis St. Miklos has been in Southeast Asia four months.

SAIGON, South Viet Nam (AP) — Christmas dawned as a day of peace for American troops and their allies in war-torn Viet Nam. A cease-fire that began Christmas Eve brought a temporary halt to the conflict that has ravaged this Southeast Asian nation for years.

A truce ordered by U.S. and Vietnamese forces began at 6 p.m. Friday night and was to continue — unless a need for self-defense arose — until Saturday midnight.

The Communist Viet Cong earlier had proposed a 12-hour halt to the fighting and it was scheduled to end at 7 a.m.

Seven mortar rounds were fired Friday night by the Viet Cong near the U.S. Marine base at Chu Lai, south of Da Nang, but U.S. military spokesmen said that this was not considered a violation of the cease-fire.

"It was no more than a matter of poor communications" with men in the field, the spokesmen said.

They said three mortar rounds were fired about 8:30 p.m. and four about an hour later.

"They fell well short of the Marine perimeter," the spokesmen added. "There were no casualties and there was no damage. It was only a matter of poor communications — and that is the way we have chalked the incident off.

"In no way can this be considered a breach of the cease-fire."

The Marines, on the alert even with the cease-fire in effect, did not respond to the mortar fire.

No reports of an outbreak of fighting had reached military authorities here by 8 a.m. — one hour after the terms of the truce proposed by the Viet Cong had expired.

Military spokesmen said there had been no indication, at that early hour, that the enemy planned to renew the battles before the end of the cease-fire set by the allies for Saturday midnight.

They were quick to point out, however, that in the event of an abridgement of the truce, it easily could take some time for reports of renewed fighting to reach Saigon.

As of 8 a.m., however, as far as U.S. Army headquarters here knew, all was peace and quiet along the Vietnamese battle lines from the Mekong delta in the south to the border of North Viet Nam.

On Christmas Eve, Saigon itself set the mood for the embattled country with a jubilant and carefree air. Its wide tree-lined streets were packed with old and young.

Dispatches from the distant bases, jungle outposts and U.S. 7th Fleet vessels in the South China Sea reflected an easing of tension. Various detachments called in Vietnamese friends to Christmas dinners, shows and parties.

"All's quiet," was the report of Associated Press correspondent Bob Poos from Ar. Khe, headquarters of the U.S. 1st Cavalry, Airmobile, Division 240 miles northeast of Saigon.

Though Vice President Hubert H. Humphrey, some congressmen and such world figures as Pope Paul VI and U.N. Secretary-General U Thant have expressed hope that negotiations might develop, a senior U.S. Army officer said:

"We shall resume normal operations at 2400 hours—midnight — Dec. 25 unless we are forced to do so before that."

Even so, the Vatican City paper L'Osservatore Romano said the truce opened a beam of light "in the long, difficult and deadly Asiatic war." It echoed the Roman Catholic pontiff's appeal for peace and negotiation.

Thant made a new call for

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Prayer For Today

O Thou Who art always coming to us, we thank Thee for the Christmas season. For the gift of friends and loved ones, for life itself, we are grateful. For Thy coming to the world in Jesus Christ we are held in awe, wonder, and great joy. Through all the expressions of these days cause to be born anew His spirit in our lives, that hope and trust and peace may live in all hearts. We pray in His name. Amen.

—F. Kenneth Pope, Dallas, Tex., bishop, The Methodist Church.

LBJ, On Ranch, Keeps Vigil Over Viet Truce

AUSTIN, Tex. (UPI) — President Johnson kept hopeful watch on the Christmas truce in Viet Nam Friday and celebrated the holiday with his family at the hearth of the LBJ Ranch.

The President was awake early Christmas Eve to hear intelligence reports from all over the world — and the quiet Viet Nam battlefield — from Col. James U. Cross, his armed forces aide.

He also checked with McGeorge Bundy, special assistant for national security affairs, who manns the White House 24-hour situation room. Johnson stayed at his desk reading government documents and reviewing budget requests on which he will have to make final decision soon.

A pile up of budget decisions and the need to scrutinize personal appeals of department heads raised speculation that Johnson may cut short his stay in Texas and return to Washington before the New Year holiday. He had planned to remain at the ranch until Jan. 8.

It was a peaceful Christmas at the Texas hill country ranch and a time to be with kinfolks and friends.

Acting Press Secretary Joseph Laitin quoted Mrs. Johnson as saying she was "able to draw her first deep breath." Her household chores were done.

Mrs. Johnson placed poinsetta plants around the house and hung mistletoe to complete her

Continued on Page 11; 6th Col.

4 More Persons Die In Highway Mishaps

By THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Hazardous driving conditions and foul weather prevailed through much of Maine during the long Christmas holiday as four persons lost their lives in highway accidents.

The latest highway victim, a Fort Fairfield man, was killed Christmas Eve. Police said George Flannery, in his early 50s, was fatally injured in a two-car crash on the East Limestone Road about two miles north of Fort Fairfield.

Police said freezing rain was falling in the area at the time.

Earlier Friday, two women were killed, and a youth was killed late Thursday night in other fatal accidents. The official holiday death count began at 6 p.m. Thursday.

The weather was anything but seasonable in the southern half of the state where rain fell most of the day. It wasn't much merrier in northern sections, which received mostly freezing drizzle and rain.

Only in extreme northern Aroostook County was the Christmas scene brightened by several inches of fresh snow.

Heavy fog in southern Maine Friday night hampered highway traffic.

The U.S. Weather Bureau forecast rain showers for most of the state during Christmas day, but colder temperatures are expected to change this to snow at night.

Bus lines reported a rush day in transporting travellers in and out of state. Air travel was also heavy during the day.

The Maine Turnpike, however, reported only a moderate increase in traffic through its Kittery toll house Friday afternoon. A spokesman said many motorists apparently got a head start by traveling Thursday night.

A highway accident between a compact car and a sanding truck at Welchville killed two women Friday. They were identified as Anita Boynton, 41, and Marilyn Hewey, 19, both of West Poland.

Late Thursday night, Jeffrey Doyen, 18, was killed when a car skidded into a utility pole at Rumford.

These deaths raised the state's 1965 highway fatality toll to 225.

Highway Fatalities

1965	1964
226	194

No Evening Express Published Today

The Evening Express will not be published today, Christmas Day. Comics and other regular features of the Express will appear in today's Press Herald.

By Staff Photographer CURRAN

French Crew Lands Safely

Capt. Roland Terrier, second right, discusses the Atlantic crossing with, from left, Chief Engineer Jean Richard, Bernard J. Lewis, of Cumberland Cold Storage, and Hue Christian, the ship's cook.

French Dragger Reaches Local Port Foodless, Skippered By Brave Captain

By WILLIAM A. LANGLEY
Staff Reporter

The first of two former French fishing draggers steamed into Portland harbor Friday with an empty larder, an heroic captain and an oversupply of French wine.

The vessel, Godefroy de Bouillon, ran out of food Thursday after the rough 17-day crossing.

Capt. Roland Terrier piloted the boat over the southern route (Azores to Bermuda) by navigating via the stars. The electronic gear was stripped before the craft left France.

The U.S. CUSTOMS immediately impounded 60 liters of wine when the boat docked at Brown's Wharf. The weather had been so bad the 10-man crew didn't get a chance to drink any of it.

The Godefroy de Bouillon and the Fortis, both built at the Bath Iron Works in the late 1940s under the Marshall Plan, have been purchased from the French government by George I. Lewis, owner of Cumberland Cold Storage.

Most of the Bouillon's crew will fly back to France today to sail the Fortis here in January.

CAPT. TERRIER, called The Fox by his crew because of his navigational skill, said his arrival in Portland was delayed two days because of gale-force winds and heavy

Continued on Page 8; 3rd Col.

Little Town Of Bethlehem Hails Feast Of Nativity

BETHLEHEM, Jordan (AP) — This little town where Christ was born hailed Christmas Day with pealing church bells and voices raised in song.

The stars twinkled in and out of scattered storm clouds and passing showers but thousands of pilgrims gathered at the ancient Church of the Nativity for the solemn services marking the birth of the Prince of Peace.

They knelt in worship as a doll-like figure of the infant Jesus was placed on a 14-point silver star inscribed, "Here Jesus Christ was born of the Virgin Mary."

A Roman Catholic midnight Mass was celebrated in the massive Church of the Nativity above the rock-hewn stable where Joseph and Mary took shelter.

A few hours earlier worshipers sang carols in the "Shepherd's Field" where the Bible says an angel brought the first "good tidings of great joy."

Bethlehem was bright with colored lights and decorations. Public address systems blared Christmas carols out in Manger Square for Christmas morning's jostling crowds of tourists.

Bethlehem's municipal Christmas tree, a leaning umbrella pine, splashed Manger Square with red, blue, yellow and green lights.

Neon lights outlined the minaret of a Moslem mosque across the square and enterprising shopkeepers flashed on their signs — "Holy Manger Store," "Nativity Supplies," and "Milk Grotto Grocery."

Tourist officials estimated that more than 20,000 pilgrims and other visitors had crowded

Continued on Page 8; 1st Col.

Maine AAA Head Is 'Unimpressed' By Reed's War On Traffic Fatalities

The executive secretary of the Maine Automobile Association Friday lashed out at "panic proposals" in the war against highway fatalities.

Arlyn E. Barnard said he was "unimpressed" with Gov. John H. Reed's concern over traffic deaths, and questioned the governor's leadership in trying to implement highway safety.

Barnard, a former chairman of the Maine Highway Safety Committee, called Reed's attention to former publications of the MHSC: "Priority Legislative Needs Proposed By The Maine Highway Safety Committee" and "Blueprint For Action."

He said the publications "contain specific proposals dealing with the drinking driver, the need for more traffic safety education, traffic law enforcement and license control."

BARNARD ASKED, "What leadership did Gov. Reed provide the committee in these matters which had been deliberated at length and were arrived at after exhaustive study and then drafted into legislative proposals?

"His active interest was limited to seat belt legislation, and that somewhat belatedly," Barnard declared.

He cited driver license control as a "prime example of lack of action." He said the individual's right to drive is contingent on "sane and sensible use of streets and highways," and is an important key to the problem.

"But how far are our enforcement and court agencies prepared to go to carry out statutes dealing with license suspension and revocation," he asked.

HE SAID MAINE statutes dealing with driving penalties after revocation of licenses are "ample," but the penalties "generally applied" don't make the best use of the statutes.

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Rockland Area A-Power Plant Plan Unveiled

By JAMES A. MOORE
District Correspondent

ROCKLAND — The Legislature's special session must pass a public power enable act if this area is to get a $223 million nuclear power plant.

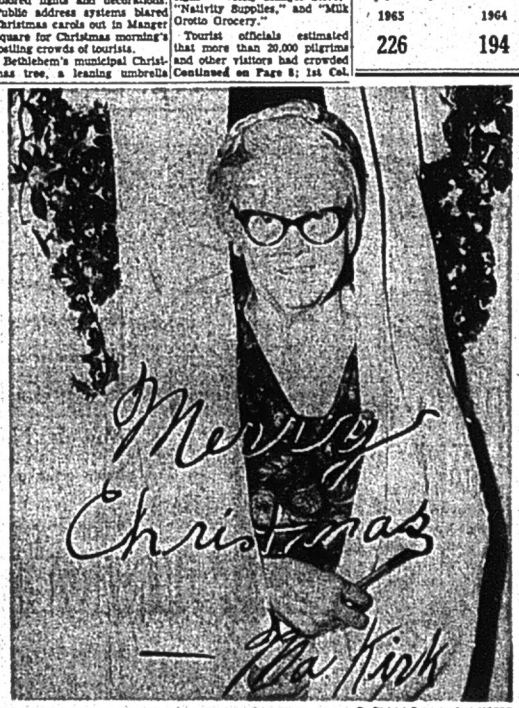
John H. Harris, an engineer for the proposed Maine Power Authority, said Friday that the Lucia Beach area of Owl's Head has been picked as a site for the proposed plant.

But, in his talk with City Manager Thomas L. LaPointe, Harris said the lawmakers must set up the Maine Power Authority if the idea is to become a reality.

HE SAID BANKS across the the country have indicated they'd supply funds to construct the giant facility.

Continued on Page 8; 6th Col.

Wishing You All A Very Merry Christmas from Channel 13



By District Correspondent MOORE

All Wrapped Up

Mrs. Persis Kirk, who heads up the Knox County Well Doers Christmas Caravan, smiles with satisfaction at the thought of all the caravan articles — $16,000 worth — for needy youngsters under Christmas trees this morning. (More pictures and story on Page 14)

Thank You--One and All
who contributed so generously
to the
Bruce Roberts Santa Claus Fund
thereby brightening the
Christmas Holiday Season
for hundreds of deserving children

Today's Chuckle

Wisdom is knowing when to speak your mind and when to mind your speech.

News, Features On The Inside

The Weather

Cloudy and mild with showers today; rain changing to snow tonight. Sunday, partly cloudy and colder. Full report on Page 7.

PRESIDENT JOHNSON has been named newsmaker of 1965. Page 19.

BUS FILLED with holiday passengers skids on ice and plunges into a ditch, kills 12 and injures 37. Page 2.

POPE PAUL VI addresses envoys, says divine love can unify mankind. Back Page.

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