

## Viet Cong Action Smashes Truce

SAIGON, South Viet Nam (AP) — The Communist Viet Cong resumed the war "with vengeance" after a Christmas truce called for from 6 p.m. Christmas Eve to midnight Christmas Day, but also carried out attacks during a 12-hour period they themselves had set for a cease-fire.

Guerillas made an attack with mortars on Tan Ky, a provincial capital 350 miles north of Saigon on Highway No. 1 — the road linking the U.S. Marine bases of Da Nang and Chu Lai.

It was learned here that the number of Communist-instigated incidents during the cease-fire had been deliberately played down because of the U.S. desire to make the truce work.

The U.S. command here refrained from saying officially that the cease-fire was over, but its attitude became known unofficially.

An announcement, carefully phrased, said there had been three attacks against U.S.

Marines late Saturday, that the Marines suffered casualties and that they had returned the enemy fire.

Other Viet Cong attacks were reported in the 3rd and 6th Corps areas in the southern part of the country. The attack on the Marines was in the 1st Corps, the northernmost corps area.

The nature of widely scattered attacks appeared to rule out the possibility that they might be called misunderstandings and not violations of the cease-fire. On Christmas Eve, Viet Cong mortars were fired in the Chu Lai area, but U.S. military spokesman said that was the result of misunderstanding due to lack of communications and was not considered a violation.

The spokesman early Sunday declined comment when asked if the attacks late Saturday were considered a violation of the cease-fire.

The Viet Cong themselves had announced they would observe a 30-hour cease-fire from 6 p.m. Christmas Eve to midnight Christmas Day. The Viet Cong incidents occurred within that period.

The guarded announcement of the action during the truce period said:

"Preliminary information indicates that some Viet Cong elements have conducted several

### Dangerous Bikini

BIEN HOA, South Viet Nam (AP) — The 1st Infantry Division lost a 165mm howitzer Saturday with cease-fire all the while.

The driver of a truck pulling the 165 past the 95th Evacuation Hospital spotted a woman sunbathing in a bikini. He stopped. The driver of the truck behind him, also pulling a 165 spotted the bikini, too. He didn't stop.

low-level actions against U.S. units and government posts in the area. The 165mm howitzer was available but there is fragmentary information on some.

There were three attacks Saturday against U.S. units in the 1st Corps. In all three instances, the Marines suffered casualties and returned the enemy fire.

The 3rd Corps, the Trung Lang training center in Nau Nghia Province was reported under attack this — Saturday — evening by a Viet Cong force utilizing armor and armor.

The attack was broken off.

"In Bien Hoa Province, the Thanh Binh Special Forces camp reported an unknown number of 60mm mortar rounds this evening.

"In 4th Corps, an estimated 100 Communist fired automatic weapons on Chon Thanh in Dinh Tuong Province.

"Pho Sinh outpost in Bao Loc received 60mm mortar fire."

Only the 2nd Corps, which includes the area of recent bloody battles in the highlands, had no reports of any incidents, the spokesman said.

Word of the Viet Cong attacks was disclosed after midnight in Saigon. It earlier had been believed the 30-hour truce period had been observed by both sides without major violations.

The spokesman said, however, that all the attacks reported took place Saturday, well before the end of the cease-fire period.

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Next Best Thing To Being Home

Dick Brown's Christmas dinner is brought to him by his grandmother, Mrs. Mildred Brown, and his father, Ruel E. Brown. In the foreground, his brother, Everett, sister-in-law Charles, and sister Priscilla, using a bed for a table, prepare to sample the turkey. (By Staff Photographer Johnson)

## Browns Come To Dinner

By LEE LORING  
Staff Reporter

Richard Brown couldn't go home to Dover-Foxcroft for Christmas. His doctors decided against it. But the next best thing happened—his family came down to spend the day with him.

Dick, a husky 18-year-old in Ward C of the Maine Medical Center, is undergoing physical therapy and vocational rehabilitation after a swimming accident last July which left him paralyzed from the neck down.

The weather outside the hospital was hardly Christmas-like. Steady rain fell from a glooming sky.

But room C114 was aglow with happiness as Dick's family, including his grandmother, father, sister, brother, and sister-in-law, joined him in a traditional Christmas dinner, complete with turkey and the trimmings.

Above his head dozens of Christmas cards from well-wishers hung from a string stretched from wall to wall. Beside him was a large box filled with gifts.

And with him in spirit were a host of friends who understandably couldn't make the 300-mile round trip from Dover-Foxcroft.

SINCE THE accident, the south has rallied behind Dick in an outpouring of generosity that leaves him at a loss for words.

Last fall, members of his class at Foxcroft Academy and Future Farmers of America chipped in to buy a television set that now sits at the foot of his bed, and which he can operate himself by remote control.

When the townspeople heard that Dick might be able to come home for a Christmas visit, the Women's Auxiliary of VFW Post 2311 began a fund-raising campaign to pay for the roundtrip transportation by ambulance.

Tin cans piled at various places of business around the area were quickly filled, some people phoned in donations and pledged their assistance in any way possible and one woman drove several miles across town in snow and freezing rain to donate a dollar to the cause.

A funeral home offered its ambulance service for half-price.

When Dick's doctors decided the trip would be too risky at this time, the money was deposited in a Dover-Foxcroft bank, becoming the Richard Brown Fund.

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Cabin Cracked Open

Six persons were reported dead after 18 vacationers fell from a cable car like this one. The accident occurred on a ski lift up Puy de Nancy, a mountain in south central France when the cabin cracked open. Thirty-four other passengers managed to stay inside. (AP)

## Mountain Spill Kills At Least 6

CLEMONT-FERRAND, France (AP) — A lurching aerial cableway cabin cracked open and dropped a score of Christmas vacationers 230 feet down a snowy mountainside Saturday. Police reported six dead and 11 injured.

Officials at the scene earlier reported eight killed and a dozen injured. Later they said five bodies were found in the snow and one of the injured died in a hospital. Confusion apparently arose in the count between a shuttling helicopter and the ground crew.

Thirty-four other persons managed to stay inside the gaping cabin. The doorman was reported to have hung on by one hand and a child was suspended by one foot before being pulled to safety.

The cabin was reported to have been set swinging by a gust of wind and broke open as the occupants hung against the front when a momentary cut in electrical power brought it to a sudden stop. There were earlier reports that it had hit a support pylon or a protruding rock.

As it neared the terminal on the summit of 8,137-foot Puy de Nancy, a volcanic cone in the Central Massif in south-central France.

Authorities identified all the dead as French, including the director of an Orleans vacation club and three youthful members on a ski trip. The victims fell on a steeply slanting, snow-covered rock face and skidded to the bottom.

Firemen and tendresse sped to the rescue by foot and helicopter. Most of the snow had drifted into the area. The Val d'Enfer — Valley of Hell — in a storm Friday night. The injured were taken to hospitals in nearby Mont Dore, a resort town, and Clermont-Ferrand.

The aerial cableway was built recently near another one which went into operation in 1957.

The accident was the worst of its kind in France since Aug. 29, 1961, when a French air force jet snagged the low line of a cableway in the Alps near Chamoni, releasing a string of small cabins which struck the support cable and plunged into a valley. Six persons were killed.

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## Road Death Toll Nears Record Rate

By THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

The Christmas weekend death toll in highway traffic rose Saturday at a record rate as millions of motorists moved through dangerous driving conditions.

The fatal toll reached 439. Snow, freezing rain and strong winds spread into the heavily traveled eastern section of the nation.

Howard Pyle, president of the National Safety Council, said: "The traffic death toll is running disturbingly ahead of last year's Christmas season when the final toll was 378. Unless the rate falls off, this could be the worst three-day Christmas."

The present record for a three-day Christmas period is 609 set in 1953.

The council had estimated before the holiday that 500 to 600 persons would be killed in traffic during the 78 hours from 6 p.m. local time Thursday, to midnight Sunday. The current rate of deaths would far exceed the preholiday estimate.

It appeared, on Saturday afternoon, to be climbing toward the all-time death toll for any Christmas — 706, which was set during the four-day period in 1958.

For comparison with nonholiday week-end fatalities, The Associated Press counted traffic deaths throughout the nation but highways at that time were not excessively icy.

## Rain, Fog Makes Holiday 'Messy,' Driving Dangerous

Christmas came to Maine Saturday in a foggy, rainy guise.

"I'd call it generally messy," said the weatherman at Portland Municipal Airport.

The rain and fog caused a number of minor accidents on slippery highways but there were no serious injuries, a sharp contrast to the day before when three were killed.

The only fatality of the day was George G. Gunning, 52, of Gardiner, who died in an early morning house fire. His wife escaped by leaping through a window and was treated at a local hospital for cuts and bruises.

Firemen said they discovered Gunning's body in the hallway of his home. They theorized he had been trying to get out of the house but was overcome before he was able to escape.

The weatherman predicted a lull of the rain sometime Saturday night. But he forecast snow through early Sunday morning.

State Police late Saturday issued a hazardous driving warning for all Maine highways.

They reported temperatures hanging at about the freezing mark between Kittery and Augusta in the late evening hours, but highways at that time were not excessively icy.

Some troopers expressed worry that the low lying fog which was evident in their area was expected to become much heavier.

The rain and heavy fog Friday and Saturday resulted in the cancellation of several flights out of Portland Airport.

A Northeast Airlines supervisor said he expected "heavy outboard traffic" Sunday if the weather permitted.

Bus terminals reported they were busy and were putting on more buses to take care of a record number of passengers.

On the accident scene, State Police reported a fire wrecks on the Maine Turnpike.

In Scarborough, two Tuoham brothers escaped injury Saturday when their car skidded on slippery Route 207 and hit a tree. They were Charles, 14, and his brother, Herman, 16.

Mrs. Aurele Corbin, 34, of Brunswick, was hospitalized in Scarborough after her husband's car was involved in a three-car smashup on Route 130. No one else was hurt.

Other minor accidents were reported in Portland, Biddeford, Saco, Augusta and Sanford.

## It's Christmas! So Tavern Owner Gives Away \$10,000

NEW YORK (UPI) — Tavern owner Joseph Bonavita gave away \$10,000 in crisp new \$2 bills to passersby Saturday in midtown Manhattan. Why?

"It's Christmas, ain't it?" he said.

His only worry was that his wife Emma would get mad at him as she has done in previous years when he gave away huge sums of cash to total strangers.

"The night he was over the head," she grousing Santa Claus from Brooklyn said with a shrug.

"The hell with her. I make money and I like to give it away."

Bonavita, 56, came over from Brooklyn and took up his stand early Christmas Day in the lobby of the Daily News Building near the United Nations. He began distributing \$2 bills to all comers.

"I like to do good," he explained. "I want to get rid of

the money. I do it every year."

The hour was early and there were not many people in the lobby. Those who were there received \$2 bills, one or several, depending on Bonavita's mood.

"There ain't enough people around here," he complained.

"The guy's a small mob that had gathered, along with a policeman and a squad car to guard him and his \$10,000."

"Mister," she replied sternly, "right now I'd believe anything you said."

Bonavita, delighted, peered off two \$2 bills and handed them to her.

And so on into Christmas Day till his stacks of currency were depleted. When it was all over, Bonavita turned to the newsmen.

"We had a good time, right?" "Joe," the reporter answered. "We had a ball."

In Italian, Bonavita means "the good life."

NFL Western Division  
Title Playoff!  
BALTIMORE  
VS.  
GREEN BAY  
2:00 P. M.  
Channel 13

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