

ALLIES IN VIETNAM RESUME THE WAR AFTER QUIET TRUCE

55 Clashes Within 24 Hours
Are Reported, Compared
With 116 a Year Ago

DEC 26 1970

By IVER PETERSON

Special to The New York Times

SAIGON, South Vietnam, Dec.

25—Allied forces resumed the routine of war today after ending one of the quietest 24-hour Christmas truces in Vietnam.

Spokesmen for the South Vietnamese and United States forces said that 55 clashes took place during the 24-hour allied truce, compared with 116 incidents initiated by the enemy last Christmas, when the allies similarly observed a one-day cease-fire.

One American soldier was wounded—and none were killed—in the 10 incidents involving United States troops reported during the truce, which lasted until 6 P.M. (7 A.M., New York time). Three American servicemen were wounded in clashes described by the United States command as initiated by the enemy.

The South Vietnamese Army spokesman said that 10 Government soldiers were killed during the same period, while last year 14 lost their lives.

Vietcong Also Had Truce

The Vietcong announced earlier that Communist forces would observe a 72-hour truce, which began at 1 A.M. yesterday Vietnam time.

The one American soldier wounded during the holiday respite was a member of the 173d Airborne Brigade whose base area was briefly under rifle fire in central Vietnam.

Spokesmen said that during the cease-fire the allied troops continued to perform routine security patrols around their base areas as a precaution against enemy attacks. An American officer explained that any enemy soldiers encountered during such a patrol would normally be fired upon and the incident would be reported as "enemy-initiated." The officer said final reports were not yet available on the causes of the 10 clashes reported today.

Fewer Troops This Year

The worst incident of the Christmas holiday occurred yesterday afternoon—before the allied truce began—when an American artillery shell was unintentionally fired from one American position at another in Thuathien Province, killing nine Americans and wounding nine others.

For most of the 339,000 American troops in Vietnam—136,000 fewer than last year—Christmas was spent eating turkey with cranberry sauce and cleaning weapons and equipment for the resumption of the war tonight. About 22,000 watched Bob Hope and his troupe of show-girls at their annual Christmas show at the Longbinh base near Saigon.

For most of the Christmas season, Christmas time