Frederick GIIn Vietnam Says 'Get To the Editor, Sir: This is a copy of a letter I Teceptly sent to Mrs. I will V. Were going to liberate them and we have. We've liberated many Vietnamess from Augustian V. Vietnames

recently sent to Mrs. Lucille V. Gross of South Street in Frederick in response to a package she sent me on behalf of the Amvets Auxiliary of Post No. 2, Frederick, as part of their S.O.S. (Serve our Servicemen) project.

I hadn't originally planned to share this letter with your readers, sir, but now I ask you to print it in the hope that it will help my fellow Fredericktonians to understand more clearly what's going on here in Vietnam. Also that you may realize what this "fight for freedom" has become.

LARRY K. PORR 528 Trail Avenue Frederick, Maryland 21701

25 December, 1972

Dear Mrs. Gross,
This is to thank you for the
package I recently received from you on behalf of the Amyets Auxiliary of Post No. 2. Most of what was included in the box is virtually unobtainable in the PX here at Danang, and for one who takes his meals in the chow hall or in the base cafeteria it's good to have some "real" people food for a change. So your kind thoughtfulness is really appreciated!

It's Christmas Day now, about 4 o'clock in the morning. I work the night shift (6 p.m. to 6 a.m.) here in the base transient alert aircraft maintenance section. One of the men I work with (in reference to the last paragraph of your letter, there are no "boys" here in Vietnam) has a small portable radio tuned to the Armed Forces Vietnam Network (AFVN) listening to some football games being broadcast from the states.

One game just got over, and now they are playing Christmas carols until the next one starts. The station we are listening to (AFVN) is fading out and drifting into a Vietnamese radio station.

into a Vietnamese radio station.

They are playing carols like
"White Christmas' and
"Sleighride," and I'm wondering
how many Vietnamese, like the
one talking on the other station,
have ever seen a white
Christmas! Another one is
"Silent Night." Yes a "silent
night" would be hip, if it weren't
for those 122 millimeter rockets
Charlie enjoys throwing at us Charlie enjoys throwing at us. But I can't help but wonder what Christmas really means to these

After promising them so much we sure haven't given them much to look forward to. We said we

were going to liberate them and we have. We've liberated many Vietnamese from everything they ever had, even their lives.

And now that North Vietnam has infiltrated enough supplies and men into the South to keep going, we've decided to resume bombing the North. Why? In quest of a military victory that may have been possible some years ago but that we have now

let slip from our grasp.
The same president who told us that our prisoners of war could be home for Christmas is now using the Christmas holidays to send

more prisoners up north.

There is no longer any question in my mind, Mrs. Gross, that this war must be stopped immediately. Not tomorrow, not "sometime soon," but now. Voices all over the world cry out in indignation over America's prolonging of this sorry chapter in history.

And now I must ask you, what have you done today to help stop this war? I mean, have you actively done anything at all to help bring us home? Writing your Congressman would be one way. Engaging in forums and peace demonstrations is another. But you must do something!.

Only by the people themselves showing Nixon that they will no longer be led down his blind

alleys will this strife be over. Yet it looks pretty bleak. Seems to me that most people in the states think the war is over. You won't do or say anything because you "don't want to get involved."

Well whether you know it or not, you are involved. It's your Country that's disgracing itself before the eyes of the world. It's your people who are needlessly dying down here. It's your money going down the drain for this wasteful venture when it could be used to help you and all the people of the world toward a better life. So the war is not as far

away as you think.

But we need your help Mrs.
Gross. We need everyone's help.
Sitting in front of your television and complaining to the 7 o'clock and complaining to the 70 clock newsman won't do it. Remembering us once a year with packages and well wishes won't help either.

I don't want to be patronized. I don't want people feeling sorry for me, I've outgrown that. What I do need is someone willing to

I do need is someone willing to stand up with me when the chips

The War Over'

To illuminate this exceptional letter: this is an ultra-reactionary area and this sgt. undoubtedly had that orientation from the home before the Army implanted its own. The paper is of the same orientation. And the Mrs. Lucille Gross is the lazy wife of a cop. She worked for a friend of us in his bookstore and he had to let her go, laziness being only part of the reason. The peace movement here has always been small, even in the days of the Ft. Detrick vigils. That this man could have been influenced by any movement stateside is close to impossible. This, then, is a case of a marked change seemingly brought about by his own experiences and observations and overcoming a strong disinclination. Note the remnants of his past thinking, as in the suggestion the war could have been won earlier. HW 1/13/73

are down. That's what friendship is all about!

To you and to Amvets Post No. I offer my thanks for your Christmas greetings, and a fervent hope that this year will bring the peace that this world so badly needs.

SGT. LARRY K. PORR FR 214-48-4280 6498 O.M.S. Drawer I Box 1903 APO San Francisco 96337