

At Queens Bar, Rejoicing Over Cease-Fire Is Subdued

Continued From Page 1, Col. 7

the United States should have bombed harder as long as it was fighting; one man said all draft-dodgers should be murdered; but nobody felt the United States had any duty to fight Communism in Vietnam—or any other duty.

"Nazdrovie," Eddie said, raising his rum and Coke. "That's Polish expression for 'cheers—drink up.' How do you spell it? I don't know—I'm Polish. Just drink up.

"Don't talk about the war. The war's a dead issue. Been a dead issue for years. We had no business being in there. Now we're getting out. Fine. Nazdrovie."

Eddie—around 50 years of age—did not want to give his

last name but he was generous with his opinions. And nobody in Wally's disagreed about getting out.

"I'm not saying we did a bad thing," said Mr. Gross. "I was over there. I kept telling myself we must have been right. But when I was there, we didn't bomb enough. We could have ended this stinking war five stinking years ago."

Mr. Gross is no stranger to the brutality of the war. ("I had to kill a 7-year-old kid who threw a grenade at me," he said.) But looking back, he finds that he respects the people he was told to fight.

"They're better fighters than us—the North Vietnamese," he said. "We were back in our barracks shining

our shoes. They were out in the woods getting in shape.

"Then I saw that Lieutenant Colonel Herbert telling off Barry Goldwater on television. He said Goldwater didn't know what went on. It's true. The only people who are for this war never got near the front."

Lack of Trust Cited

"What worries me now," Mr. Gross continued, "is the way that lousy Nixon put it last night on television. I was watching the N.B.A. all-star game. At halftime, they put Nixon on. The way he said it, I figure we'll be back in there in six months. I don't trust any of them any of them any more."

It was a familiar theme in the spacious old bar on Grand Avenue, Maspeth had helped

President Nixon come close to carrying New York City last fall, quite a feat for a Republican, but there was little affection for him yesterday. The men looked back to 1960, when Maspeth voted for John F. Kennedy.

"It was the last two guys," Mr. Gross said. "They got us in deep."

"What are you talking about?" said Vinnie Burgis. "It was kindly old Ike who sent in all those special agents."

And the debate was on Wally's, back and forth, covering the last 20 years, the pacts and the proclamations, the man and the money and the bombs. But when anybody asked the question "Why?" nobody came up with an answer.

NYT 1-25-73