

**POEM FROM HOME  
CHRISTMAS 1970**

from Robert Oakes [REDACTED]  
This is not a combat historical item but it  
reflects the times. My wife wrote this to me  
for Christmas 1970. I think it is for all of us.  
Jo-Ann passed away 4 years ago and  
writings like these keep me going. Bob

**CHRISTMAS 1970  
By Jo Ann Oakes**

The tree in place  
The tinsel shining  
The decorations hanging  
The light glowing  
Presents gathered,  
Tightly wrapped  
Children happy in anticipation  
The cold wind carrying  
The white snow

.... And the Nativity  
With angels and wisemen  
And Mary and Joseph  
And the Babe ....

The bright star shining  
Promising PEACE

My body here  
Witnessing these artifacts  
Of Christmas

Elsewhere ...

The trees in place  
Shining only in those  
Places where the raindrops cling  
And the sun illuminates  
The air heavy from the  
Humid heat  
The bugs of the jungle  
Crawling  
The mines in their places  
The men in drab green  
In tense anticipation

.... And the Nativity  
Placed respectfully in the  
Room constructed of old  
Ammunition boxes  
With angels and wisemen  
And Mary and Joseph  
And the Babe ....  
The bright star shining  
Promising PAEACE  
and the bullets and rockets  
And mortars glittering in mockery

My heart here witnessing  
These artifacts of Christmas 1970  
Through the eyes of my husband –  
The soldier ...