

POEM FROM HOME CHRISTMAS 1070

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 ...