

Wed. Dec. 31st. 69.

The Viet Cong radio - in a New Year's Eve broadcast - called on Communist forces to deliver what it termed - "decisive blows" against the Allies during the coming year. The broadcast came as American and Allied troops began a twenty-four hour holiday truce; <sup>while</sup> ~~even though they~~ <sup>did</sup> ~~remained~~ <sup>on</sup> ~~an~~ <sup>the</sup> alert status. Just before the cease-fire began, military spokesmen in Saigon reported that at least two-hundred-fifty enemy troops were killed during the past two days - in the heaviest fighting since December 1st.

In Washington, the ~~State~~ State Department sent an expression of regret to the Cambodian government - over casualties inflicted upon Cambodian forces during a battle along the border last month. The Cambodians claimed twenty-five of their military personnel were killed in fighting between the Viet Cong and the American troops.

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A Pentagon survey shows that one thousand

47  
four hundred and three American servicemen have  
deserted to foreign countries since July of Nineteen  
Sixty-Six. In ~~only~~ one hundred seven of these cases,  
we're told, ~~is~~ there <sup>is</sup> ~~any clear cut~~ evidence that the  
desertion is a protest against the Vietnam War. Nearly  
six hundred American ~~of these~~ deserters are in Canada -  
eighty-eight in Mexico - and eighty-five in Sweden. The  
rest ~~is~~ scattered through a score of countries.

Five new Israeli gunboats and their crews were given a heroes welcome today when they arrived safely in the harbor at Haifa - ending a thirty-seven hundred mile dash ~~down~~<sup>along</sup> the Atlantic ~~Ocean~~<sup>coast</sup> and through the Mediterranean. ~~Sea~~ Cheering crowds stood on the jetty - ships in harbor sounded their whistles and sirens - as the dark gray gunboats came into view. ~~The~~ French built craft can travel ~~at~~ more than forty knots - and are capable of carrying guided missiles - although Israel says that <sup>the</sup> vessels will be used for peaceful purposes. ~~Meanwhile~~, the storm of controversy over the boats - which began Christmas Day when they sailed out of the French harbor of Cherbourg - continues, ~~without a letup~~. In Paris, the French government suspended two defense ministry officials charging them with collusion in the affair. Originally, ~~it seems~~ the ~~five~~ vessels were built for Israel - but delivery was held up because of <sup>De Gaulle's</sup> ~~the current~~ ~~French~~ embargo on arms to Israel.

One thing is certain, however, the Israeli secret service appears to have pulled off its most spectacular coup since the kidnapping of ~~Adolf~~ Eichmann from Argentina ten years ago. It might be said that the Israeli secret service has come of age - taking ~~its~~ its place in the annals of espionage along with Britain's M-15 and 16 - the Soviet K-G-B - the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency - and the French Deuxieme Bureau which operated before World War Two. Little is known about Israel's espionage network, <sup>but we hear</sup> ~~except that~~ it operates from a group of dingy buildings in a Tel Aviv suburb - and that its agents are scattered throughout the world - particularly the Arab world.

# TREASURE

49  
The Boston Museum of Art has among its  
collections an art treasure - of one hundred thirty-seven  
gold pieces dating from the Bronze Age - three thousand  
years before Christ. This was disclosed today by Mrs.  
Emily Vermule, a Wellesley College archeologist, who  
says the treasure also includes a cylinder seal owned by  
an Egyptian overseer; <sup>a</sup> ~~the~~ seal bears <sup>ing</sup> the name of two  
Pharaohs <sup>20</sup> under whom the overseer served. <sup>This providing a</sup> ~~allowing a~~  
precise dating of the collection. Mrs. Vermule didn't say  
exactly where the treasure was found - only that it was  
from the burial place of an eastern Mediterranean  
princess.

## EARTHQUAKE

Another sharp earthquake shook the already shattered city of Banja Luka in Yugoslavia today - sending ~~many of~~ its fifty thousand residents running through the streets in terror. Many of those same residents lived through two disastrous earthquakes last October. At least one person killed in today's tremor. - though little new damage was reported. The government has banned all New Year's Eve gatherings, fearing a general collapse of many already shaky buildings should <sup>there be</sup> another ~~earthquake~~,  
~~at the~~

# VOLCANO

50  
~~The State of Hawaii~~, of course, <sup>doesn't</sup> ~~can't~~ have a  
— except at the top of *Mauna Loa!* —  
white Christmas <sup>^</sup> but it may have some ~~mental~~ fireworks  
to usher in the New Year. <sup>the</sup> ~~The~~ Kilauea Volcano, <sup>with a huge crater,</sup> erupting  
for the twelfth time this year, <sup>has</sup> sent a fountain of fire  
sixteen hundred feet into the sky <sup>and</sup> ~~with~~ rivers of lava  
flow <sup>down</sup> ~~down~~ its side. Rangers in the area ~~some two~~  
~~hundred miles southeast of Honolulu~~ say there's no  
immediate danger to <sup>anyone</sup> ~~homes~~ <sup>^</sup> but they're keeping <sup>an</sup> ~~a steady~~  
eye on the unpredictable volcano.

30 1/2  
 Bimbo's Club in San Francisco - where Rita Hayworth once danced and a generation of tourists stared at a tiny, nude girl in a fish bowl - will put on a big New Year's Eve show tonight - then close its doors for ~~once~~ <sup>good</sup> and all. One of the last of the big time nightclubs, it's a victim of high overhead and too much competition from Los Vegas. Bimbo's opened in Nineteen Thirty-One <sup>and has</sup> had many big name stars as entertainers. <sup>However</sup> ~~it~~ it was the "girl in the fishbowl" that gave the club its fame. Thousands paraded through the bar to peer at the eight inch unclad female figure. ~~San Francisco women are bigger than that. It was~~ <sup>a</sup> trick done with mirrors. Below the tavern floor was a real young lady - lying on black velvet - and her image was reduced by a series of mirrors until she became the tiny figure in the bowl.

So Bimbo goes into limbo, Warren.

# PORTRAIT

Mystery at the Vatican - the case of the missing portrait. <sup>The</sup> ~~A~~ portrait of Chinese Communist leader Mao Tse-Tung <sup>has</sup> vanished from the walls of the Vatican Press Office - almost as mysteriously as it ~~had~~ appeared. When the office opened today, the painting of Mao was gone from its place near a portrait of Pope Paul the Sixth. Officials won't say who removed it. Rome artist Luigi Carnevali says he painted Mao's portrait on commission - but he doesn't remember <sup>just who gave him that</sup> ~~who~~ commission,

TF.



# POPULATION

The Census Bureau says the United States began the New Year with a population of two hundred and four million three hundred and thirty-four thousand - ~~this is~~ a gain of <sup>just over</sup> ~~more than~~ two million during Nineteen Sixty-Nine.

Happy N.Y. and so long until next year!