VIETNAM GI WRITES OF PLATOON'S AMBUSH

"I tell you it was a regular massacre," an Army specialist in Vietnam wrote to his brother last week of his outfit's being ambushed by Viet Cong—his Christmas present for 1966.

The brother, Moses J. Thomas, who is also an Army specialist/4 and is stationed at Fort Meade, forwarded the letter to the AFRO, explaining, "I just want people to know what's going on, instead of that general blah, blah we get every day."

The letter from Spec./4 Clarence A. Simmons, 20, a Calhoun, La. native stationed with the 1st Air Cavalry near Anh Kehe, makes clear "what's going on," and what it feels like to be ambushed.

He suggests no training prepares you for an ambush.

Spec./4 Simmons wrote that his job is presently to "pound the deck" for Viet Cong.

THE REMAINDER of his letter:

"We were doing all right until the other day when we were ambushed.

"They cut us up and I do mean bad. We have seven people left in our platoon. We started out with 24.

"Every one of my buddies are dead except three Even my platoon sergeant is dead.

"I tell you it was a regular massacre, people falling, screaming and dying.

"That ambush was set up so perfectly there was not any place to hide. The hedgerows were nothing but weeds. There wasn't anything to hide behind.

"THAT DARN ambush killed 13 and wounded three more in our platoon.

"The bad part was that every one of the guys was shot from the top of the chest up.

"We found the helmet of . . .with 19 holes in it. After dark the V. C. came out of their bunkers and killed the wounded and robbed them of their valuables such as watches and rings.

"One friend of mine climbed up into a pile of dead and red ants to keep them from shooting him again. He stayed there all night until we picked up the dead the next morning

"Most of my buddies like — — — and — — — were shot right between the eyes. We never had a chance. The place was filled with snipers and there we were walking in on them."

* * *

HE ADDED that the training and tactics taught in the states are insufficient for what they are forced to face.

"So that was our Christmas present for 1966," he concluded. "We only got 50 people left out of a company of 93.

"I hope you have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year, because I'm not. Everybody is dead but me and a few more.

"Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year, and don't spoil your holidays worrying about me."

Review Of 1966 In Photo-Story
(SEE PAGE 12)

Baltimore Afro-American

Picture Prevues Of Football Bowls
(SEE PAGE 17)

75th Year, No. 48

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BALTIMORE, MD., DECEMBER 31, 1966 32 PAGES ★★★★★★★ 15 CENTS

Mayor Assures Zoning Board Slot

MRS. RUTH SIMMONS

MISS JANICE BLACKWELL

MISS EDITH AYDLETT

MRS. MARY ROSE

MRS. SYLVIA LEE

CHARLES LOVE

CHARLES BYRD

AFRO talks to man-on-street about 1966 and 1967 outlook

With the New Year fast approaching, the AFRO's Roving Reporter set out this week to talk to people, find out what they found exciting in 1966; what they look forward to in 1967, and — oh yes — how about resolutions.

Scene: Mondawmin

Mrs. Sylvia Lee, Dolfield Avenue housewife:

I lost my job this year during a labor dispute at Baltimore Luggage. The best thing this year is the letter I received today saying I won my case.

In 1967 I look forward to finding a job. Resolutions? Well, one I will make is not to argue with my husband as much as I did in '66.

Charles Love, Ashburton St.; government worker:

There was nothing exciting for me in '66, except, maybe, for the family dinner we had Christmas. We had 32 people.

I shall make two resolutions — to lose weight and to stop smoking.

Mrs. Peggy Satchell, Mondawmin Ave.; housewife:

Nothing really special happened this year. I just hope for peace and a better world in 1967.

No, I won't make any resolutions — I never stick to them. And please take a picture of my little boy, Steve, instead of me. He's ten and in the third grade at School 21. Thanks.

Mrs. Mary Rose, Riggs Ave., beautician:

My most exciting moment in 1966 was when my granddaughter was born on July 29. I am looking forward to a better 1967.

My chief resolution will be to strive to live a more Christian life. I will also strive to do better business next year.

Miss Edith Aydlett, McKean Ave., cashier:

My most exciting event of this year was receiving this anniversary ring — we had been going together a year.

For 1967 I am looking forward to graduation from Eastern High and to an engagement ring.

I will resolve to study harder next year.

Charles Byrd, Hillsdale Rd., postal worker:

Well, I just work harder than usual in '66. For '67 I

—See Man-on-street, Page 2

Two servicemen jailed here in holiday deaths

A Christmas morning shooting, which took the life of a 25-year-old mother of two children, resulted in homicide charges against her estranged husband, a Marine Corpsman.

Fatally wounded by a bullet which passed through her head was Mrs. Quinceann Stewart, of the 600 block Willow Ave.

Also wounded in the arm during the shooting was Edward Lovelist, 28, of the 600 block Willow Ave., where the shooting occurred.

Charges have been placed against Robert Julius Stewart, 25, on whom police gave former addresses of the 2400 block E. Chase St. and the U.S. Marine Corps.

OFFICERS arriving at the house shortly before 10 a.m. to investigate "a man with a gun" found Mrs. Stewart slumped on a living room couch bleeding from a wound

—See Wife shot dead, Page 2

AFRO helps GI get his medicine

By GEORGE W. COLLINS

"You'll have to excuse me. I'm crying again. You see. I cry when I'm happy and I cry when I'm sad. Today, I'm happy."

Mrs. Debarco Edison, of 4021 Belle Ave., had good reason for crying tears of joy Wednesday.

She was reading the latest letter from her son, Sgt. Herman R. Jones Jr., who is fighting two wars on the other side of the world. It was written Dec. 24.

As an American doughboy, the 24 - year - old Baltimorean is dueling with the Viet Cong on the one hand, fighting a chronic case of asthma on the other.

While he and his comrades are locked in a stalemate in the former instance, Sgt. Jones has won his battle in the latter case.

"I love you, mama, and I am doing fine. I'm getting my medicine now and everything is alright," the latest letter says. Another excerpt tells her:

"Please thank everybody for what they did for me. Especially Mr. Collins and the AFRO. Tell them I will always be grateful."

* * *

THIS IS in reference to efforts this newspaper made in behalf of Sgt. Jones after his mother appealed for help in getting him medicine for his asthmatic condition.

In a letter received by Mrs. Edison on Nov. 28, Sgt. Jones said he was in a war zone and couldn't get medicine. He feared that he would suffer a seizure while under enemy fire and would be a hazard to his comrades.

"It's not so bad to be killed by the enemy," he wrote in the November letter, "but I don't want to die from asthma."

In the Wednesday letter, Sgt. Jones told his mother that his commander is looking "out for my welfare" and everything is "just fine."

* * *

A COPY of the original letter was conveyed to the Defense Department and Lt. Col. Howard Smith, Southeast Asia press officer said they would "get on it right away."

The results of the Defense Department check was relayed to the AFRO late Thursday by Maj. Victor Reilly, another press officer. The report said in part:

"Sgt. Jones is a platoon

—See AFRO helps, Page 2

Real estate trio holds inside track

By MAX JOHNSON

Mayor Theodore R. McKeldin promised Thursday he will integrate the city's Board of Municipal and Zoning Appeals, with one of two pending appointments.

This salaried board (chairman $8,600; members $8,062) has never been integrated, despite strong community pleas.

The terms of Richard P. Gilbert, attorney, and Edward N. Kowzan, real estate broker terminate on this five-member board this Dec. 31.

"I am definitely going to name somebody (colored) to that board," the mayor told the AFRO Thursday. "You can count on that."

Mayor McKeldin said the appointment would likely be a real estate man.

Among those who have been recommended in this category, it was learned, are Daniel W. Spaulding, Roger J. Johnson and James Crockett.

Walter E. Black Jr. attorney, is board chairman. Other members are David M. Blum, attorney, Frank W. Cuccia, businessman, with Gilbert V. Rubin, attorney, permanent executive secretary.

Fight pledged for earnings tax, housing

Mayor Theodore R. McKeldin will enter the New Year, an election year, pledged to fight to retain the earnings tax and bring about a fair housing ordinance.

"We can't get along without the earnings tax income," Mr. McKeldin declared this week. "You can't tell the governor the money from the proposed tax reform program will be enough if it won't be.

"You just can't do that to the governor. It would be dishonest."

Mayor McKeldin was critical of daily newspaper editorials which suggested he should wait until after the reform program is through to state that the city would need more funds.

He predicted that politicians who oppose his effort to retain the earnings tax, cannot possibly come up with a satisfactory alternative program to raise the balance of the 40-50 million dollars Baltimore will need. He expects 25 million next year from the earnings tax.

The opposition leaders include City Council President Thomas D'Alesandro, Comptroller Hyman Pressman, Marvin Mandel (D., 5th), speaker of the House of Delegates, and Murray Abramson (D., 4th), head of the city delegation to the General Assembly.

* * *

MAYOR McKELDIN believes that opponents who say the earnings tax is a political liability while fighting for a tax reform, may be overlooking an important factor.

"Many of the counties that are going to be asked to help Baltimore with its problems in the past very often have been critical of some of our spending programs, and I don't think we ought to go up simply with our hands out like beggars," the mayor said.

"We want to show them that we are ready and willing to do all that we can to help ourselves. We want what they give every other subdivision but we also want the right to tax our own people for our needs."

His idea is that some of the poorer and possibly some of the wealthier counties may be more prone to vote Baltimore extra funds in a tax reform program if they see that the city is not trying to live high off them

He said he still is not sure

—See Earnings Tax, Page 2

Powell supporters see attack racial

By RONALD SCHWARTZ

WASHINGTON

Colored people are already outraged across the nation because of past discrimination, according to the Rev. Jefferson P. Rogers, a member of the Committee of 100, and he took the setting of a national press conference, under glaring camera lights, to warn that "when a group is outraged, anything can happen."

The subject was the powerful seat of Adam Clayton Powell threatened by a number of Congressmen alleging that he has engaged in conduct unbefitting a Congressman.

The Washington minister further outlined the handwriting on the wall, in addressing himself to the leading line in the statement made by the Committee of 100, that "a sense of outrage" now exists over the unseating effort, by forewarning that "all outrage will come to the fore" if the effort is successful.

* * *

REPLYING to a question of whether or not he felt the Congressional action to unseat the Chairman of the House, Education and Labor Committee was racially motivated, the Rev. Rogers speculated that some want Powell out simply because they are not accustomed to a colored man wielding such power.

Concerning the latter reason, which seemingly differed little from the first, the Rev. Rogers declared that "Congress should understand" . . . "this is the time of change."

"Insensitivity by Congress" toward the colored man in the past," the Rev. Rogers added, has created "again and again, tinderboxes in this land."

And if the unseating effort is successful, he further warned, it will "'fire and nurture a reaction that could be bad for the entire country."

* * *

THE REV. ROGERS was the most outspoken minister of the Committee of 100 whose representatives had assembled, Wednesday, to criticize the unseating drive and announce plans for a Ministers' and Laymen's Assembly, Sunday, 3:30 p.m., at the Metropolitan Baptist Church, to mobilize pro-Powell forces.

The Rev. Walter E. Fauntroy, a key representative in Washington for the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, affirmed that it is "sheer mockery" for Congress to consider unseating Powell when five Congressmen from Mississippi gained seats last year "by use of intimidation and the denial of the colored citizen's right to vote."

Addressing himself to one of the proported grounds on which Powell should be denied his seat, that of his trouble with a libel suit in New York City, the Rev.

—See Minister, Page 2

Cites Philly teen curfew

Philadelphia's juvenile curfew ordinance, according to Juvenile Aid Bureau commander Inspector Joseph O'Neill, has made a noticeable dent in juvenile crime during the first nine months of 1966.

In the Police Department Juvenile Report issued in December, from January to September 1966, juvenile arrests and curfew violations increased, while juvenile offenses and remedial, or parental referral (non-arrests) cases, decreased.

The violations increased from 9,294 in 1965, to 11,264 in the same period in 1966.

City Council president Tommy D'Alesandro is pushing a similar curfew for Baltimore.

Inspector O'Neill cites the increase in curfew violations to a beefed-up night patrol of police personnel during the curfew hours.

"We have more men and women on the streets during those hours," he said "consequently surveillance and apprehension increases.

* * *

PHILADELPHIA'S curfew

—See Philly curfew, Page 15

Powell's wife scheduled again

Mrs. Yvette Powell, the wife and $20,578 - a - year secretary of Rep. Adam Clayton Powell, failed once again to appear before a House Subcommittee investigating her husband's activities. The subcommittee chairman said he thought she might be "stalling."

Rep. Wayne Hays, D-Ohio, chairman of the panel, said Mrs. Powell's attorneys had been notified in Puerto Rico that her appearance was rescheduled for Friday.

"If she does not appear, "Hays told newsmen, "I will recommend that the clerk of the House be directed to take her off the payroll."

* * *

HAYS SAID he might also suggest to the subcommittee that it ask the House to cite her for contempt of Congress if she fails to respond to her subpoena.

"I don't know whether she has any intention of coming or not but it looks to me like a big stall," Hays said.

Subcommittee members were kept in doubt until

—See Powell's wife, Page 23

City may never elect that predicted mayor

A political scientist said this week that Baltimore well may become part of a metropolitan unit before it reaches the point of electing a colored mayor.

Dr. G. James Fleming, of Morgan State College, expressed that view to the AFRO after Dr. Furman L. Templeton, executive secretary of the Baltimore Urban League, predicted election of a colored mayor here in 10 years.

Dr. Templeton, who joins a number of others in predicting a mayor for the city within a decade, foresees a coalition of colored and white voters as a key factor in the election.

He expects the one-third percentage of colored voters who now make up the city total to increase, and he looks forward to greater solidarity and a greater participation among these voters — some of it a result of the inspiration of the anti-poverty program.

"The establishment of firm and effective coalitions between colored and white voters, and a good candidate who can appeal to both" could make his prediction stand up, Dr. Templeton said.

He sees in last year's election a maturity that bids well for the future and he expects evidence of the strong coalition he hopes for to be noticeable in next year's election of delegates to the Constitutional Convention.

* * *

WHILE NOT ruling out the possibility of a colored mayor, Dr. Fleming warns that governmental changes could make it impossible.

"I would say," Dr. Fleming told the AFRO, "that having a colored mayor in 10 years may very well happen because the tempo of progress is very much on the increase.

"We must beware, however, of using the anti-Mahoney election as too certain a sign of things to come.

"To be very realistic, there is no guarantee that the coalition of voters in the last general election will repeat itself under different circumstances.

"More important, with all the plans for metropolitan or regional governmental organizations, it is quite possible that in 10 years Baltimore City may not exist as a political unit electing its own political head, but may very well be part of a larger political unit where there will be an entirely different point of view of race, religion, liberality etc.

"I hope that people who think like Dr. Templeton will be giving some hard thinking to the changes to which I refer."

DR. FLEMING'S analysis of the political situation is quite similar to what has happened in Baltimore in the past.

Once the city elected City Councilmen by wards but when colored voters were able to gain seats in several areas the district system was brought in.

And despite the fact much of the inner city is colored, Congressional District lines have managed to be changed so that they now have less of a chance to name a non-white representative than before.—NEWSON.

Viet casualties 687 in week

SAIGON (UPI) —American troop casualties in Vietnam soared to 687 the week ending Christmas Eve, an increase of 166 over the previous week, a military spokesman said.

He said 109 were killed in the week before the Christmas cease fire went into effect, bringing the combat death toll to 6,516 since Dec. 22, 1961, when Spec/4 James T. Davis of Livingstone, Tenn., became the first American to die in combat in Vietnam.

* * *

THE FIGURE of 109 dead was up 21 over the previous week. In addition there were

—See Viet casualties, Page 23

MUHAMMAD ALI

Clay to fight in Washington

By SAM LACY

Cassius—oops Muhammad Ali — Clay is going to give the people in Washington D. C., and its environs the treat of their lives.

"I'm gonna defend my title here sometime in June," the world heavyweight champion declared at an elaborate get-together at the home of promoter Goldie Ahearn Wednesday evening.

Ahearn, who never has completely relinquished his mastery of the promotorial reigns in the District, stood proudly by with a tray of food and drink as the nattily-clad Cassius detailed his plans.

* * *

"I'VE ALWAYS felt the people in the nation's capital should have a chance to see me fight," he intoned. "So, I'm gonna defend my title here sometime in June.

"You've got the Capitol here, big buildings housing Congressmen, a lot of monuments, and you've got a fine (DC) stadium. I think they deserve me."

Clay arrived by train some two hours after he was scheduled to show at the California Street address. Arrangements called for him

—See Fight in D.C., Page 18

Bus strike off, travelers happy

CLEVELAND (UPI) — Thousands of holiday travelers climbed around Greyhound buses this weekend, content to leave the driving to union men whose 11th hour contract settlement kept them in the driver's seat.

Negotiations for Greyhound and the Amalgamated Transport Union reached a new contract settlement Wednesday night, an hour before a scheduled strike of 5,500 drivers, mechanics and terminal personnel in 20 states.

The strike would have curtailed service in Greyhound's Eastern Division which handles 75,000 passengers daily. The company estimated about 500,000 would have been inconvenienced by a strike during the holiday week.

NOTICE
The Advertising Dept. of THE AFRO-AMERICAN WILL BE CLOSED MONDAY, JAN. 2nd
All display (block-type) ads for Tuesday, Jan. 3rd issue should be in this office before 4 p.m. Friday, Dec. 30th — and, all classified reader (per word) ads should be in this office before 3:00 p. m. Friday, Dec. 30th.

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