

The North minesweep team of Charlie Company, 39th Engn Bn, has a habit of locating the unexpected, and sure enough, Christmas Morning was no exception. About a mile north of LX Max, the team came across a Christmas tree. A native pine, the tree stood about 15 feet in height and was decorated in the traditional Vietnamese style. A large white cross was displayed near the top of the tree with flowers and fish ornaments artistically placed about. A plastic bag filled with small, live fish was hanging near the center.

Finding small propaganda notes hanging from the tree, the men soon discovered who had placed the tree there. Evidently, during the night the Viet Cong had brought the tree to the worksite. One of the notes read: "To the US Servicemen who committed no atrocities against the Vietnam people and are opposing the US Government's aggressive war in Vietnam, we wish a Merry Christmas, a Happy New Year, and an early return home."

This was the second consecutive year Charlie has wished our men a Merry Christmas. The previous year they had placed a traditional Vietnamese archway across Highway QL-1 bearing the same message.

"Won't they ever give up?" ask the men of Charlie Company, who find their Season's Greetings to be quite amusing indeed.