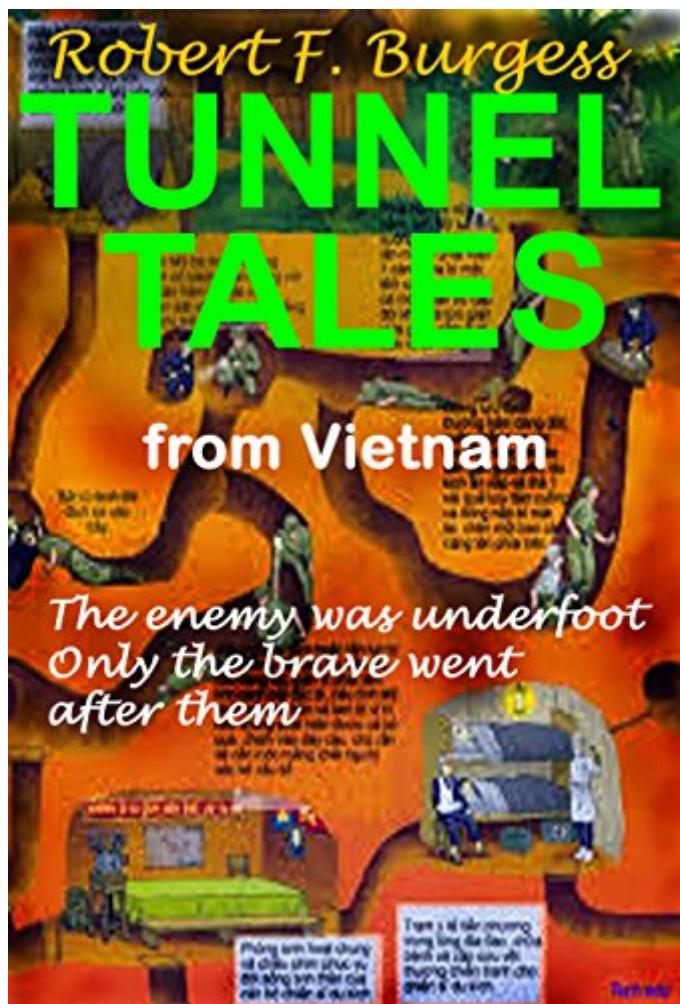


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TUNNEL TALES: From Vietnam



Synopsis

Those of you who fought in Nam
did you ever have a buddy disappear in a firefight but his body was never found? Did you ever think you had the enemy cornered when they suddenly disappeared? Did you ever sweep a village clean, and then have the VC suddenly appear where they weren't before? Most of you know what I'm talking about. But most of you might not know that these disappearances — including your buddy's body — were just the enemy trying to mess with your head. This 15,000 word short story digs into the details of how they did it through a system of underground passageways some of which were three levels deep and stretched up to 100 miles in length. A vast network of tunnels that was virtually under your feet! Not many of you would believe that back at your base of security eight feet down under your hooch the enemy could be resting in his coffin-sized hole reading in the flickering light of a bottle lamp. But those bases that were over-run in the middle of the night by their suicide squads might wonder how the hell all of those crazies got through their perimeter defenses without triggering a firefight! This is about how the Vietnamese built and maintained those black tunnels and who our brave Tunnel Rats were who went down into those deadly traps to fight them. It was the stuff of nightmares. It is said by those who know that of all the U.S. servicemen in Vietnam, only the Long Range Reconnaissance Teams (LRPS) and helicopter pilots had such close brushes with mortal danger and consistently enjoyed that reputation. Tunnel Rats that were good at what they did, and were able to survive did so because they were extremely lucky. Hot, dirty, and gasping for breath, a rat squeezed his body through narrow and shallow openings on all fours, never knowing whether the tunnel might collapse behind him or what he might find ahead around the next turn; getting a jolt of adrenaline at every sound. They were loners who gained respect from the men they soldiered with because they took on missions no other soldier would even consider doing. But once you read this you will know what kind of special bravery it took to do what these men volunteered to do. If the tunnel rat had any experience at all he knew that there might also be booby traps that could be set off merely by touching a concealed wire in the darkness as they fumbled their way along; or perhaps in the darkness sat one or more of the armed enemy just waiting for them. While our rats were concerned about turning on a hand light for fear it might make them an instant target, not lighting that light was also a hazard. In the dark they could bump into all kinds of trouble, not to mention enemies of another kind: Real rats, ants, scorpions, deadly vipers and something as simple as a fine copper wire attached to a hand grenade's pin that had already been pulled most of the way out. All it took was one touch on that wire and you would never even hear the explosion. Dead and buried and who you were carefully noted because you always left your dog tags

behind! But you readers are lucky. You get to go where only the very brave Rats go to do their deadly thing. Or not. And all of you will. I promise. I will come back in one piece, but I can't do anything for that hammering heart you might have.

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Customer Reviews

For years I had heard stories about tunnel rats from Vietnam veterans. First you could find Vietnamese soldiers then they were gone. There was no evidence that they were ever there. When the American troops finally started searching the tunnels they discovered that there were miles of these tunnels. Ammunition and food were stored everywhere. It was near impossible to defend against the tunnels. The Americans who battled the tunnels were called "Tunnel Rats". This turned out to be an interesting book. You should read it.

Nothing to dislike in this book. The description of suspense and impending action was truly spellbinding. The author had balls bigger than an elephant for sure. I could never do what he did.....

The book is easy to read and gets with the program on the life of one soldier, chosen to go into tunnels to look for the enemy. The work is dangerous, scary, and requires special talents. This is a must read and I highly recommend it to all Americans. The men who did this type of work were truly heroes and courageous to a fault. Welcome home.

I had a friend in the Navy who wanted to be a Marine. He was a little guy but tough as nails. He went to the Marine Corps recruiter who told him they had the perfect job for him, going into the tunnels after VietCong. Only smaller men could fit into the tunnels. Well, he thanked the recruiter and walked next door to the Navy recruiter and ended up in Spain. I never really knew what these guys did in Vietnam until I read this book. It's short, written in spoken rather than literary English, but absolutely fascinating. I recommend the book for its historical value. It's really good.

In the Marines I was a little too big to be a rat but we had dogs and I'm telling you they did not play. When they would come out of a hole we found they would be blood faced. Tunnel rat I only knew one found a underground Hospital needless to say everyone died in that tunnel Semper Fi. You're writing pacified my wonders God bless you

A short story but full of excitement. You have to admire these men, chosen because of their size, but discovering the had the guts to do what most were glad they were too large for.

Very interesting fast read. Lot's of details about the construction and history of the tunnels without being boring or bogging down. Most of it written as seen through the eyes of Short Round a U.S. special forces tunnel rat who is utterly fearless. A true story and a real good read.

This book has answered many questions about the tunnels in Vietnam. I have enjoyed the story and the author's presentation very much. A MOST ENJOYABLE READ.

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