

# TROPIC LIGHTNING NEWS



Ready To Strike.... Anywhere, Anytime

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## 25th Div Needs Artists

The 18th Military History Det has a requirement for a limited number of artists to work in the 25th Inf Div Combat Artist Program. Talented personnel interested in performing as combat artists should submit through channels three samples of their work to the Division Adjutant General.

# MASSIVE TUNNEL FOUND

2ND BDE—U.S. Army tunnel rats aided by members of the Vietnamese Province Reconnaissance Unit (PRU) have uncovered what 25th Div intelligence officials believe to be the main Viet Cong underground infiltration route through the Iron Triangle centered 48 Kms north-northwest of Saigon.

## ARVNs Work With Recon Plt

3RD BDE — As part of a 25th Div program, two Vietnamese soldiers have recently been assigned to the reconnaissance platoon of the 2nd Bn (Mech), 22nd Inf.

Nguyen Van Thanh and Nguyen Van Ton were selected to attend the Quang-Trung Military School in Saigon, after which they were attached to the 3rd Bde, 25th Div, for duty with American units.

Their assignment to the reconnaissance platoon of the 2/22nd at first brought some mixed reactions from the members of the platoon. The men felt that the language barrier would prove too great, and were hesitant about having the two Vietnamese with them. They couldn't have been more mistaken.

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The tunnel complex was uncovered during the land clearing portion of Operation Atlanta. According to 1LT Thomas Seitzinger, a 4th Bn, 23rd Inf, platoon leader, his team of tunnel rats have searched some five miles of the tunneling which generally runs in a north-south direction.

The exact length of the tunnel network is not known, however the PRUs stated that it takes three days and nights to travel its length.

At several points the main  
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## BULLETIN

Elements of two Viet Cong regiments tried unsuccessfully to overrun the 25th Inf Div's fire support base Burt on the evening of Jan. 1 and morning of Jan. 2. More than 355 communists of the 271st and 272nd VC regiments were killed in the 10-hour truce-shattering battle. See next week's Tropic Lightning News for details.

## 800 Pound Patient Just Too Heavy For Dust-off

2ND BDE — A dust-off was out of the question—the patient weighed 800 pounds. They could have put him out of his misery—and faced the reaction of the half-angry, half-curious crowd of Vietnamese.

So the men of Bravo Co, 1st Bn, 27th Inf "Wolfhounds," did the only thing possible: they called for the doctor to come to them.

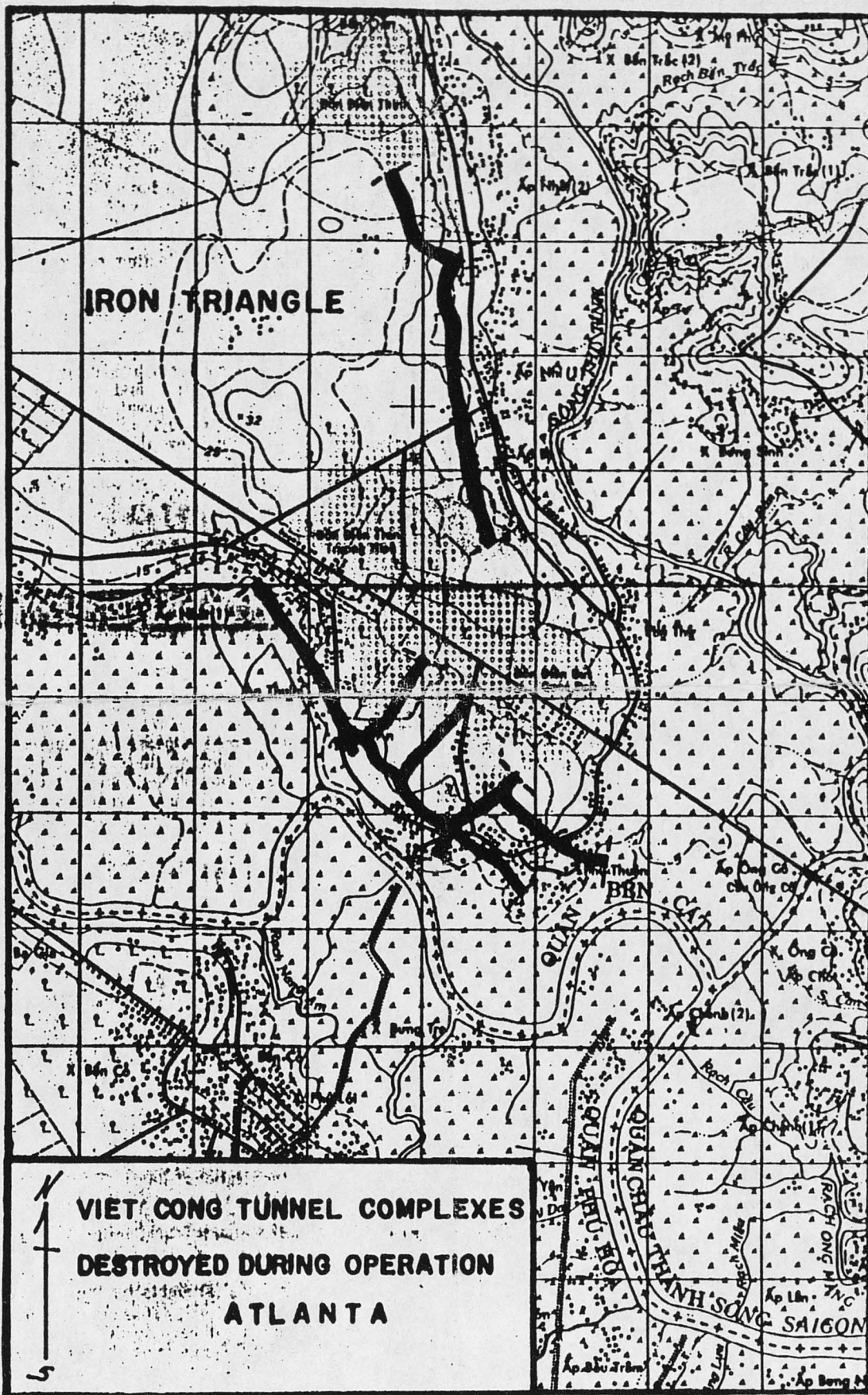
While the soldiers eyed the farmers and the farmers eyed their wounded ox, CPT Clark A. Gwin from Centralia, Mo., and an assistant hopped aboard a helicopter for their first "house call" in Vietnam.

Moments before, a Wolfhound

had wounded the animal when it charged him during a search and destroy mission on the 25th Inf Div's Operation Saratoga.

Gwin, the division veterinarian, arrived to find the animal tied, the wound in its left rear leg already cleaned by a medic. Working with his assistant, SP4 Wayne R. Gromely of Port Angeles, Wash., the veterinarian sutured a severed tendon and bandaged the animal's leg.

"The people looked worried about the animal," said the doctor. "So I just had the interpreter tell them how to change the bandage and not to work the animal for a week, and it would be okay."



## Three Large Viet Cong Base Camps Destroyed

1ST BDE — U.S. Air Force Control (FAC) pilots and the 4th Bn, 9th Inf, have combined to spot and destroy three regimental-size Viet Cong base camps during the opening phase of the 25th Div's Operation Yellowstone.

A spokesman for the infantry battalion said that until recently

the camps had been home for the so-called "palace guard" — the Viet Cong regiments guarding COSVN headquarters.

Flying for the 1st Bde, Air Force MAJ Bogue Harrison of Downs, Kans., discovered the first site. It lay about 5 kms south of the Cambodian border and 5 kms west of the brigade's

base camp at Ketum.

Harrison called in to blast off cover over the camp with three air strikes that dumped over 15,000 pounds of bombs on the installation.

Meanwhile, on the ground the Manchus had been operating in the same general area. They uncovered 440 tons of rice and

had killed seven Viet Cong in a brief but furious fire fight while sweeping just to the south. With the report of the base camp sighting, Bravo and Charlie companies moved in for the search.

They found a complex measuring 1500 meters in diameter containing 10 bunkers approximately 12 by 20 feet to 14 by 40 feet,

and some 20 of smaller dimensions. Many had been destroyed by the air strikes and there were pools of blood on the ground.

The camp yielded 400 pounds of rice; 40 pounds of plastic explosive; 5 bicycles; a typewriter; finance records for 10 VC companies; a CHICOM and a  
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