

Lou Waters –Larry Crider and Friends

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SP5 Lou Waters, USA, on Dragon Mountain, 4th Division Base Camp. Camp Enari would be to the right of Lou. Behind him is one of the Montagnard villages.

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Lou holding a captured Chinese SKS rifle. The Detachment traded something to the Military Intelligence guys for this. They were always coming up with something they found. On one occasion they had a Thompson sub-machine gun, which Lou carried to Cam Rahn Bay on one of his trips. That thing got more looks than the M-2 Carbine they normally carried.

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Some of the guys headed down the mountain going into Pleiku. SSgt Joe Schwetz, USAF, in the center was from Mobile, Alabama and did a Country and Western show on the radio. He was a former C-47 Radio Operator.

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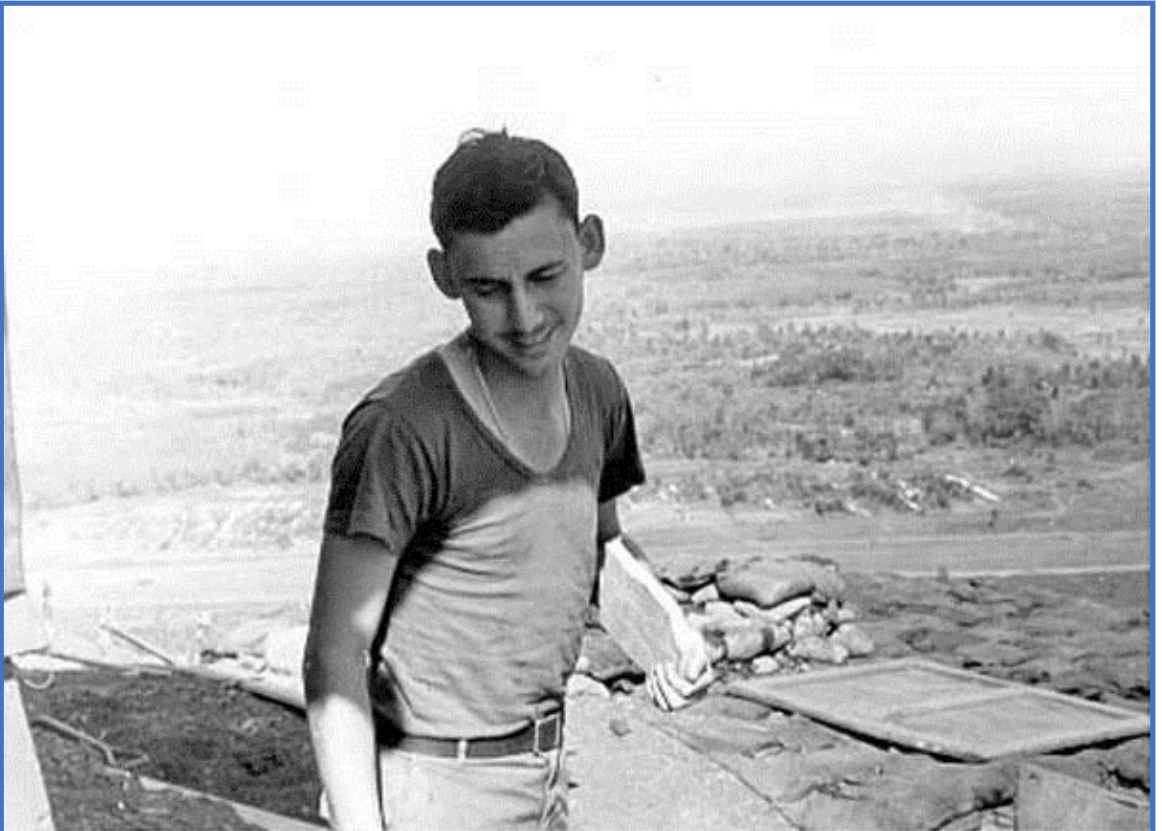
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Lou and SP5 Mike Sarkin, USA, were going through some thick jungle when this old guy and a kid popped up out of no where. It was hard to say who was the most frightened but he was nice enough to give us a photo op and along he went. The Australian bush hat was adopted as the “official headgear” of Detachment 3, but from this picture it is obvious that the weren’t very coordinated when it came to how the brim was supposed to be turned up.

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SP4 Larry Crider, USA, was from Texas.

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1LT George C. Lawrence, USA,
OIC, Det 3, Pleiku, holding a puppy.

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Lou with an M-60 and a Marine Flag

Since Lou was the tallest (biggest) guy there, he was immediately handed the M-60 upon his arrival. This was a sweet firing gun and he was able to put a lot of rounds through it during his year in Vietnam, mostly at inanimate objects. Of all the countless times they were on alert, he only fired it once at a VC/NVA and that was one night when the Base Camp was under fire.

Lou had a perfect line of sight on a machine gunner firing into the base camp several hundred yards away. In the heat of the moment Lou let go a quick burst with out getting permission to fire. The VC gunner stopped firing and Lou got chewed out.

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Lou after a patrol around Dragon Mountain.

For some unknown reason it was decided that we need to patrol the base of the mountain to see what we could find out.

Everyone on the mountain top was a techie with no real combat training. Cpl Rob Carlidge, uSMC, the lone Marine on the patrol, at least had some training as all Marines are supposed to be riflemen first. But you couldn't prove that by Rob thanks to the fact that one of our tricks was to strip Rob's M-16 and leave it on his bed. He was seldom able to put it together by himself.

GySgt William Rich, USMC, was not amused when we messed with Rob's mind.

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"Shirtless" Lou

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They used VC POW's for working parties on occasion. On this particular day, they were rebuilding one of the bunkers at the Base Camp.

The End