

Lou Waters – Photos of Dragon Mountain, etc.

01 of 20 Photos



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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Lou Waters, SP5 Mike Sarkin, USA
SP5 Richard Brooks, USA (kneeling)
and Cpl Rod Cartledte, USMC, on patrol.

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Lou and SP5 Mike Sarkin, USA, were going through some thick jungle when this oldguy 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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This is one of the maids doing the laundry. Someone would have to go into Pleiku every morning to pick up the workers and take them back each evening. It was a bad sign if the maids didn't show up for work and it usually meant that we or the basse camp would get hit that night. Several of these workers were killed in a truck accident on 12/24/68 when the 2-1/2 truck they were in went off the road and rolled over on top of them.

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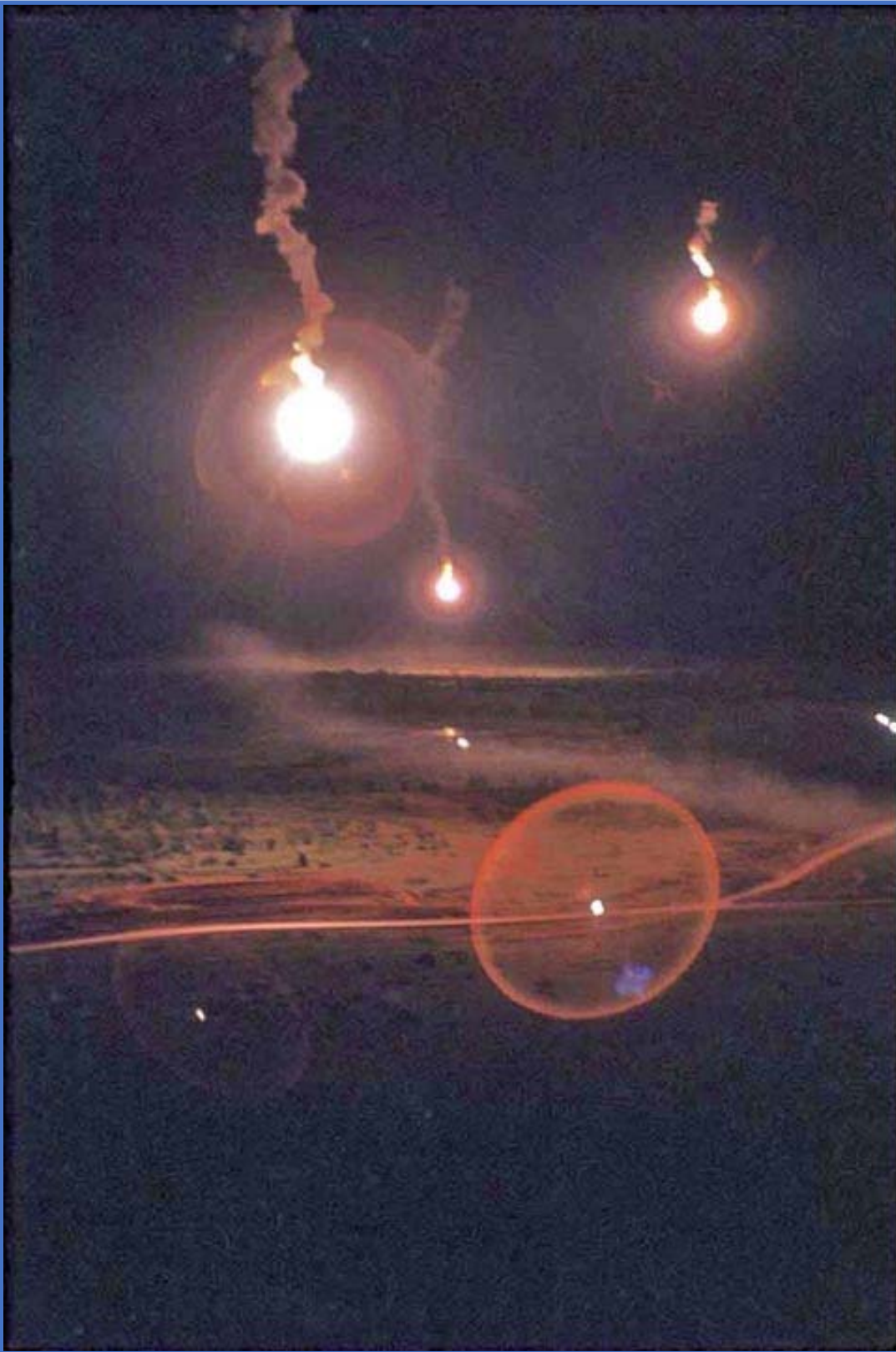
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Every time the base camp was attacked they would launch flares from many different sources. Some of the huge flares dropped from choppers and aircraft would last several minutes and light up huge areas

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More
flares.

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You can see a ravine in the center of the picture. This ravine went for several miles and the VC used it as a means of getting close to the Base Camp for their attacks. On this day, we spotted some VC and opened up with the Dusters. You can also see all the bunkers in the picture. When they expected an attack they would put a tank or APC in between the bunkers as well as the Dusters and Quad 50's. When they opened up at night it was totally awesome. On several occasions, they would launch gunships and work the perimeter with rockets and mini guns. A few times they called in Puff the Magic Dragon (C-47 Gunship) when the mini guns fired all you could see was a solid red line of tracers (tracers were every 5th round). They had a real unique sound.

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A Huey landings on the "Saddle." In the foreground Army 1LT Ed Morrison and Marine Cpl Carlidge unload water. 1LT Morrison was the Detachment OIC when Lou arrived. Every day or two someone from the Detachment would have to make a water run to the base camp. All of the water for drinking, showers, etc. had to be hauled up to the site. On occasion they brought up blocks of ice. Someone also had to bring gasoline up for heating the water and make a mail run every day to get the mail. The mail always included all the films, news footage, etc. aired by the station.

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Dragon Mountain up fairly close.

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“Saddle” because the mountain was horse-shoe shaped. The US troops were on one side and the ARVN troops were on the other side. Most of the 90 or so troops on the mountain were assigned to various 4th Division units and they were responsible for re-transmitting signals from the field to the Division Headquarters. The Hooch just below them was occupied by a military intelligence ground station that received IR and camera footage from Army Mohawk aircraft. It was extremely interesting watching these guys work. Lou was down there the night Nixon stopped the bombing of the North. There was a Mohawk flying along the border and a huge buildup of NVA troops and tanks came across just as soon as the bombing stopped. It was quite a sight to see.

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Storm clouds behind Dragon Mountain.

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Another very late evening shot.

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Det 3, Pleiku at dusk.

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A Huey landing on the "Saddle." The area was called the "Saddle" because the mountain was horseshoe shaped. The US troops were on one side and the ARVN troops on the other side. Most of the 90 or so troops on the mountain were assigned to various 4th Division units; they were responsible for re-transmitting signals from the field to the division headquarters. The "hooch" just below them was occupied by a military intelligence ground station that received IR and camera footage from Army Mohawk aircraft. It was extremely interesting watching those guys work. Lou was down there the night Nixon stopped the bombing of the North. There was a Mohawk flying along the border and a huge buildup of NVA troops and tanks came across just as soon as the bombing stopped. It was quite a sight to see.

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Untitled

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This is looking at the ARVN side of the mountain. The sunsets were beautiful looking out to the west.

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The view from one of the bunkers.

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Lou Waters sitting on top of the bunker.

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Again, Lous and his M-60 on top of their bunker.

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Lou and his M-60 on top of their bunker.
Everyone in the Detachment wore the
Assuie Bush hat with the AFVN pin on
the side.

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End

The End