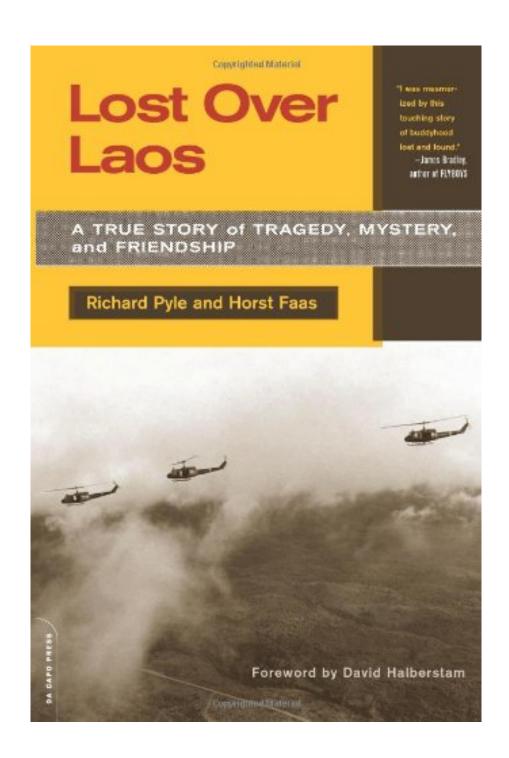


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# From Publishers Weekly

This deeply moving and personal recollection of the lives and work of the only four combat journalists killed during the 1971 U.S. invasion of Laos is an excellent short history of an important part of the Vietnam War as well as a fascinating insiders' look at the rugged life of civilian photographers during wartime. Former Saigon bureau chief Pyle (Schwarzkopf: The Man, the Mission, the Triumph) and Pulitzer Prize-winning photographer Faas (Requiem: By the Photographers Who Died in Vietnam and Indochina) worked together for the Associated Press in Vietnam and were close friends with the men who died, which adds depth to their biographies: Larry Burrows, whose famous work for Life magazine made his name "the most closely identified with pictures of armed conflict in Indochina;" the Vietnamese-born Henri Huet, whose work earned the Overseas Press Club's Robert Capa Award; the passionate young Kent Potter, who threatened the United Press International "to resign if forced to leave the war zone;" and Keisaburo Shimamoto, a seasoned Vietnam correspondent with the "high-powered" French agency Gamma who had just returned for his third tour of Vietnam as a freelancer. Pyle provides an excellent look at the history of North Vietnam's use of Laos for its Ho Chi Minh Trail to arm its soldiers in South Vietnam, and he shows how its success provoked President Nixon's invasion of both Laos and Cambodia. Most moving is Pyle's account of how he and Faas returned to Laos 27 years later to search for-and successfully find-the wreckage of the dead journalists' helicopter, along with some of their personal and photographic effects, a journey that becomes a tribute to every journalist who covered the Vietnam War.

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### Review

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# Lost Over Laos: A True Story Of Tragedy, Mystery, And Friendship By Richard Pyle, Horst Faas.

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In 1971, as American forces hastened their withdrawal from Vietnam, a helicopter was hit by enemy fire over Laos and exploded in a fireball, killing four top combat photographers: Larry Burrows of Life magazine, Henri Huet of Associated Press, Kent Potter of United Press International, and Keisaburo Shimamoto of Newsweek. The remoteness of the crash site made a recovery attempt impossible. When the war ended four years later, the war zone was sealed off and the helicopter incident faded from the headlines. But two journalist colleagues-the authors of this book-returned to Laos twenty-seven years later to resolve mysteries about the crash and pay homage to their lost friends.

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#### Review

"A solid addition to the shelf of books about the Vietnam War...."

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Highly recommended.

By jvonhartz

Pyle knows his stuff and he knows how to tell it. He zeros in on a chopper crash during the Vietnam war in which several veteran correspondents and combat photographers are killed and uses it as a pivot point to relate the hazards and adventures of covering the war. He was there and he recalls a lot. He also remained dedicated to the mission of following up after to war to find out exactly what happened in the crash, why and exactly where it happened. It is an intriguing search that brings back in a rush the entire traumatic experience. An exciting read that sparks memories of a compelling era. Highly recommended.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful.

Gone but not forgotten by their peers.

By Fedoradude

Dead professionals remembered thru the eyes of their peers - who decades later found their crash site.

The photojournalism world lost probably four of the top 10 of the time when their VNAF helicopter got blasted from the air by the NVA. Each are profiled as individuals from how they came into the profession until the day they died.

Then this book continues with Faas' and Pyle's interest in finding their final resting place. They joined a team of military anthropologists and archaeologists and investigated possible sites in the jungle.

A very interesting read.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful.

Memories

By Art Giberson

Lost Over Laos brought back many memories and a few surprises. The biggest surprise was learning that Kent Potter was probably one of my students at the Naval Schools of Photography in 1966.

Although the authors referred to the school as "The Marine Corps Photography School" in Pensacola, FL, it was actually the Naval School of Photography. All Navy, Marine Corps and Coast Guard photographers received their training there from 1925 until 1998 when the school was relocated to Fort Meade, MD

As it so happened, I was an instructor at the school from 1965-1969, I don't recall actually instructing Kent, but if he went through the school in 1966, he would had to have been in one of my classes.

Wonderful book with a lot of memories. Highly recommended.

Art Giberson Chief Photographer U.S.Navy, Retired

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