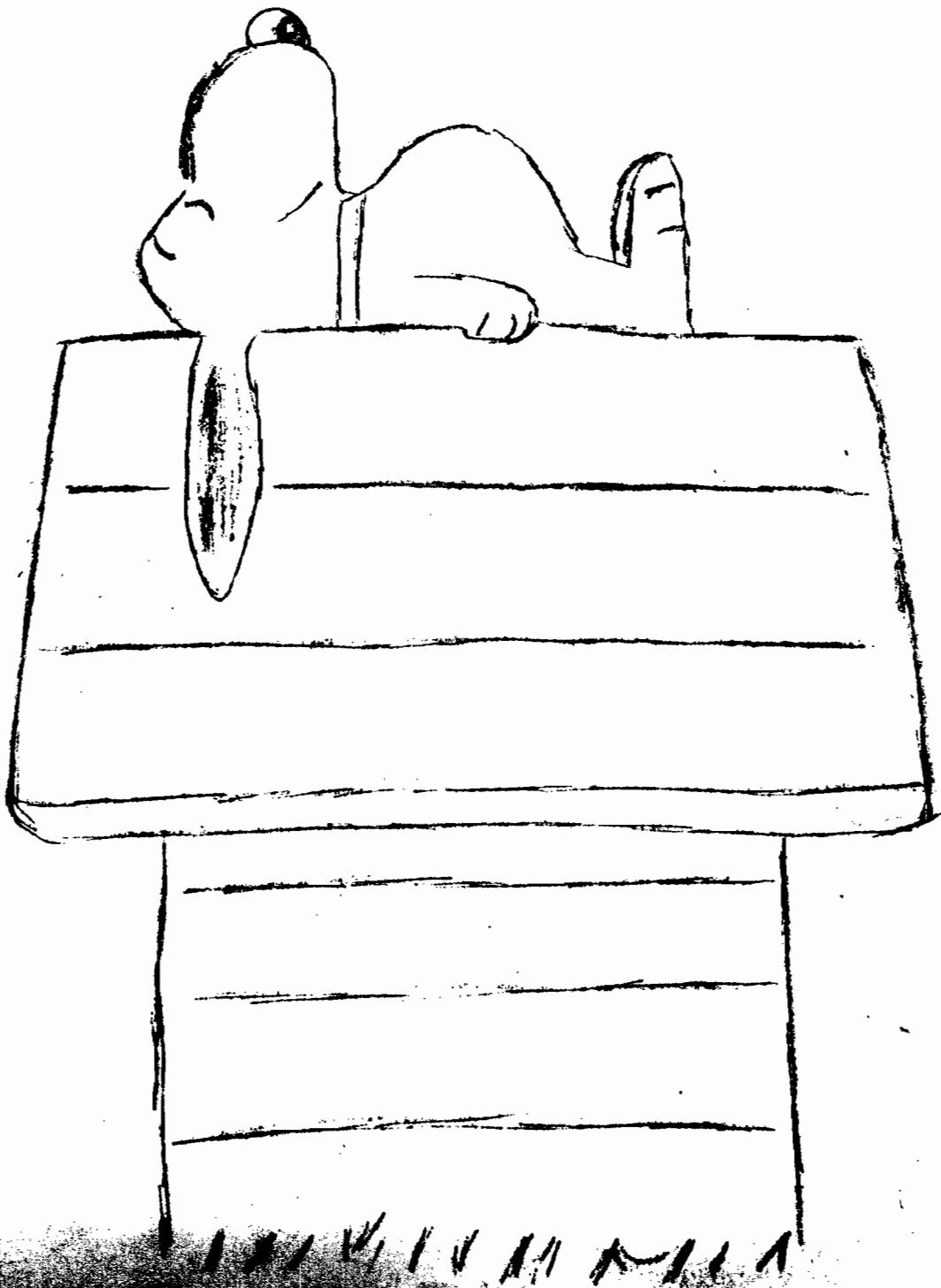




# BLACK LIGHTNING STRIKES

BATTALION NEWSPAPER '268" CBTAVNBN

ANTOGENY  
CAPITULATES  
PHELOGENY



## BITING AND STRIKING

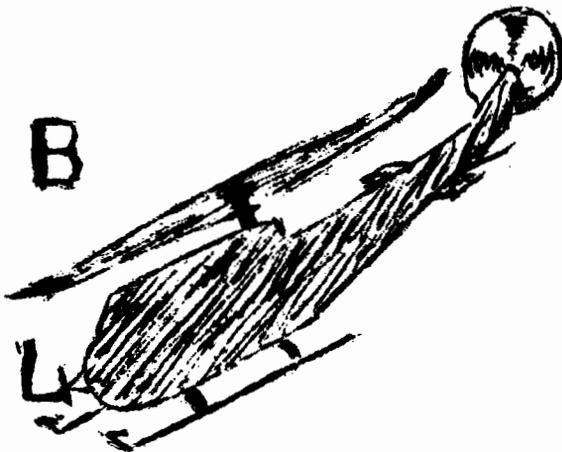
Three members of the 129th Assault Helicopter Company were honored this week in award ceremonies at Tiger Division Headquarters. WO Mellon, SP5 Atkin, and SP5 Caulder received the Order of Merit Medal and a citation from the President of the Republic of South Korea for their activities in operations in support of the Korean Tiger Division. The awards were presented by Major General Chung, CG, Tiger ROK Division. Attending the ceremonies were Lt. General Bruce Palmer, Deputy Commander USARV, Major General Robert Williams, 1st Aviation Brigade Commander, and Colonel Bill G. Smith, 17th Combat Aviation Group Commander.

The Cobra's had one of their infamous parties last week and invited all the boys from Avionics. Avionics' personnel have been helping the Cobra's humping ammo and rockets, when the ships come in to rearm and have to return to station ASAP. Everyone seemed to have a good time, but SP5 Montgomery's spirits were dampened a little.

Captain Wagner and his boys at the 394th Maintenance Detachment have found out this week how much flying the 129th actually does. About half of our ships are in PE at one-time. The 394th won't be idle for the next month, Service Platoon will be jumping too.

Many changes have taken place in our administration pertaining to extra duties. Now Commissioned Officers are taking over the extra duties and the Warrants are taking second seat. Things just won't be as smooth and efficient as before. When are Commanders ever going to learn that this "New Action" Army is run by Warrants and NCOs?

My thanks to SP5 Friedig, who types this article for me each week



## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Battalion PIO

I read Black Lightning Strikes religiously every Monday and I enjoy it very much. I like reading the rambling banalities about all the Companies in the 268th CAB and the occasional digs at members of the Battalion.

However, I have a gripe about one column. It seems the BLS, being a battalion newspaper that more real news could be written in the HHC column. Not just regular type news items about functions of men in HHC. What I want to hear about are the sinister intrigues and the complicated plottings of those who live and work in the Huey Pentagon in the sub area of the Atlantic City of the South China Sea.

Sincerely,

PVTE1 DUD O'NOMINUS

Well!

Thank you for your letter, PVT O'Nominus, however, a candid response to your query would put this office in a very delicate situation. But the letter does pose an interesting question. What does go on up there?

In the S-1 office we found CPT Young, the adjutant, quickly briefing his new assistant, LT White, on such things as; where the starter is and how the lights are turned on in a  $\frac{1}{2}$  ton vehicle, and explicit direction to "The Cage"....

The S-2; CPT Flagle and MSG Thomas were in deep consultation over, under, around and through a map of Tuy Hoa and a fifty mile radius, 1:1 ratio.

The most striking thing encountered in the S-3 shop was a picture of a man with a problem, captioned with the legend: "Everybody's got Problems. Is this yours?" MAJ Emery was yelling rapidly into a field phone. CPT Stofer was smiling, as usual and CPT McBride was scowling—as usual. We were told that CPT Hunter was "Ghosting" someplace up north.

In the S-4 shop MAJ Burke was flipping a coin to decide whether to hire his own Hooch Maid or not. LT Lentz and SSG Edwards were hatching a plot to set a new record of loading and unloading the ammunition in a single CONEX container seven times in one day.

\*\*\*This is the first in a series of seventy-two articles aimed at unearthing what goes on in the Pentagon.

(268th IO)

FROM THE DEPTHS OF HELL  
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The general opinion among the enlisted men is that their new club is on the way to being number one. Future projections are for a ceiling and a new bar in the existing building, and an annex for NCO's.

Our source at the officer's club had this to say: "It isn't too much now, but it's our's." Gentlemen, the EM will soon have a lead on you if construction continues at its present rate. The one inspiring note that we did receive from the Officer's Club was that they changed 192 to 134 by only 7 moves in the bar's tile top.

The laugh of the week comes from the Gunnies, who armed with unloaded brooms, got their first KIA on the 15th. Would anyone believe a mouse?? I've but one thing to say, remember David and Goliath!

Everybody, but everybody extends sympathy to WO Marshall for the new "mess" that he's been dropped into. Seriously, we are all well pleased with the decor, plans for improvement, and the caliber of food produced by SSG Walker and his "Spoon Platoon" under the auspices of the new Mess Officer—WO Marshall.

The Devils have jumped the gun on the Demons by finishing construction on "Satan's Starlite Theatre." We'll have walk-in movies regularly now.

Many of the enlisted men have commented lately that if the Officers don't want all of the water pipe (which is laying idly by the BOQ's on top of the ground) the EM will be more than happy to install the running water in their quarters. This would be quite a convenience for shaving in the morning.

SP5 Tom Prout and PFC Les Demorest have collected their case of beer from LT Gause and WO Sawyer, but they don't want to collect the same way again. That stinger was buried deep! With 57 hours on a new engine, 316 quit at 25 feet altitude just one quarter of a mile from Nha Trang. Need we say that it landed hard? Specialist Prout was sincerely glad that nobody was dozing, and PFC Demorest is still pale. Heck fellas, it only lost cross tubes, skids, and chin bubbles. I think that much credit should be given to the men "up front" for putting this aircraft down with so little damage.

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER  
 CHAPLAIN DONALD B. DOGGETT  
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James Allen has written a most thought provoking book entitled: "AS A MAN THINKETH." In this book he dwells on the fact that purity of mind leads inevitably to purity of life.

He compares a man's mind to a garden. This garden may be intelligently cultivated or allowed to run wild; but whether cultivated or neglected, it must, and will bring forth. If no useful seeds are put into it, then an abundance of useless weed seeds will fall therein and will continue to produce their kind.

It is therefore most important that we place our sense of values on the higher things of life. For after all, our thoughts today become our deeds tomorrow. Let us then follow the words of our Lord when He said, "Set your affection, (your love, your thoughts) on things above!" This doesn't mean that we go around in a "heavenly daze" all the time. Certainly not! But it does mean that a man's thoughts and a man's character can only manifest and discover itself through environment and circumstances, the outer conditions of a person's life will always be found to be harmoniously related to his inner state, his thoughts.

Guard your thoughts carefully;  
 THEY ARE YOU!

(Chaplain Doggett)

From the Depths of Hell, Continued:

618th welcomes SSG Boniford who will be working with the maintenance crews; and the Fighting 832d welcomes SP5 Esparza and PFC Young to the Avionics shop.

On the evening of the 15th, the Officers of Gun Platoon challenged the Officers of both slick and headquarters platoons to a game of "combat rule" volleyball. Even considering that WO Labier supported (??) the guns, they severely trounced all comers two out of three games. Not even MAJ Thorpe could pull the "S&H" team out of the hole. Could it be that Gunnies are just born fighters?

SP5 Fick - 134th Aslt Hel Co

BLUE STAR BULLETIN

With the flood of recent replacements into the 48th also came the new Blue Star 6, Major Jerry L. Fleming. Fresh out of Cobra transition, he came to the 17th Group and was promptly assigned to the 48th. The new XO is Major Henry A. Douglas Under the new leadership many new plans are under way. A new EM club and a new "O" club are in the active planning stage in attempts to improve the living conditions of the Tent City before the new area is built.

Among the flood of new guys are 2LT Larry Van Nortwick, SSG Scoville, PFC Jerry R. Whitehead.

The 390th has more help in the persons of PFC Nelson Young, SP4 John L. Gladden, PFC James W Blackie, PFC Willard G. Barrow, PFC Louis R. Shrinnger, SP4 Bynurer, SP5 Rubin F. Rogers and SP4 Stanley C, Smith.

Enjoying their well-deserved R&R are WO Joseph Bremseth, WO T. R. Runnels going to Kuala Lumpur and PVT. Robert Newell going to Australia.

Two new chiefs around Blue Star are CW2 Brad Baum and CW2 John Taylor. New SP4s are Dave W. Berry, Paul J. Hampton, Jose A. Lira, Richard J. Marshall and David L. Dry.

Somethin's brewing in the line of awards from the Koreans for WOs Rice, Smith and Welser all of the Second flight platoon. Details are rare at the time of printing.

An old bit of sports news that got lost during the recent excitement with Victor Charlie was the 2nd platoons smashing victory over the 1st in the "H" Model Championship Basket Ball Game. The games four quarters were divided between the officers and enlisted men with the officers taking the first

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QUESTION OF THE WEEK  
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Where is Frudo? (Frudo??)

While we're at it; Can anyone identify the "Hippie" who roams the perimeter at night asking inane questions?

(ED.)

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BLS would like to take this opportunity to congratulate SFC Robert A Sayre on his recently appointed office as First Sergeant of HHC.

third quarters and the EM taking the other two in the mop-up.

The officers put up WOs Foster Kelbaugh, Bremseth, Kodadek and Weidner for the 1st platoon and 1LT Brutnell, WOs Baum, Tamburro, Welser Taylor for the 2nd platoon. The 1st quarter saw the 1st soar ahead in the lead for the only time in the game, finishing 9 to 3. The 2nd quarter saw the 2nd pl. EM including Brown, Tinkham, West, Marbley and Calmeyer soar past the 1st EM who were in part, McFaddin, Peneley, Jones, Lincolnback and McClean. The impartial referee was Capt. Smith, who enforced his decisions with his .45 and survival knife. Half time score was 2nd pl 13 and 1st pl 11

During the half WO Scruggs served as grounds-keeper and remarked the out of bounds lines and free-throw line with his pick.

The 2nd pl officers almost made up for the first quarter with a 7 point barrage during the 3rd quarter and ended the period 20 to 13, 2nd pl still leading. The final period was a field day for the 2nd pl as they allowed only 2 points and scored 13 in spite of such penalties as blowin' in his ear assessed against Marbley. West led the team to a repeat 33 to 16 victory for the 2nd pl which gave them the first of the new uniforms that are coming to the 48th. After the game, the referee was impartially showered to symbolize the clean job he had done.

(48th IO)

CREDITS

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BLACK LIGHTNING STRIKES is an unofficial publication of the Information Office of the 268th Combat Aviation Battalion. All questions and comments should be addressed to the Information Office, 268th.

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| 129th          | WO MELLON      |
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| HHC            | BN IO          |

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