



# BLACK LIGHTNING STRIKES

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## FROM THE HEAD SHED

HHC carpenters (ie; just about everybody) may finally get to work on the new EM Club. The gargantuan pleasure hall has a tentative opening date of 1 February 1968.

A big stink about latrines was made last week. The fact is that flush toilets, a fact not mentioned in last week's edition of L.S.S. Sources believe such a noteworthy luxury should not be passed up. Okay SGM? The officers however, are still sitting tight with the draft on their tails.

### EM in hot water!

The enlisted men of HHC are really in hot water now! They're taking advantage of the hot showers provided by the efficient R&U crew. Rumor has it that 1SG Ashfield has been under the shower since they were put in and is in eminent danger of "immersion body". Or did he go to Saigon?

A hardy welcome back to Captain R&R Young and SSG Catnip. Our jubilant adjutant returned from a wild week of fun and frivolity in the robust atmosphere of Sydney Australia. So far, the only souvenirs he brought back with him is a genuine Aboriginal Boomerang, for "the Sump." SSG Caneup finally decided to return to the 'eastern front' after playing Grandpa back in the US of A for the past month, or so, only to find that the R&U boys have eliminated one of the jobs for which he had become quite notorious, (REF: Para 2).

Congratulations are in order for the right troopers who received new stripes this past week. SSG Booker our latest addition to the Conno Coup, sewed on his fourth gold strip. The new SP5's included: SP5's Lawson and Schumacher (the R&U boys), Jose Romero (a Papa-san of twins); McInroe & Rodgers (Mutt & Jeff); G.H.W. Blobeg (alias Broberg); and last but not least, SP5's Indish and Nelson. Alexander Bell is the latest SP4 in the Puzzle Palace.

## BITING AND STRIKING

New security precautions are now being taken at Lane AAF to discourage any possible sabotage of the aircraft or attacks. Even though Lane is considered quite secure at this time, these new measures are being taken to make Lane a maximum security position.

The mountainous area behind Lane has permanent Korean base camps with nightly patrols to insure against possible mortar attacks. The mountains are also covered by artillery and mortars both from these Korean positions and tubes here at Lane. Gunships from the 129th and 61st always have a reaction team, which could go up in such situations.

Each company at Lane has a perimeter area they are responsible for and maintain. The Koreans also help, again, and maintain the back side of the perimeter.

The newest security precaution is the arrival of German Shepard sentry dogs. From personal inspection I can assure you these dogs are not house pets by any means. The dogs and handlers are patrolling the flight lines and the perimeter. Standing orders for the handlers will be to release the dogs on anyone between the fences.

This brings up a very serious point, which Major Crouch is deeply concerned over. It has been brought to his attention that some personnel from different companies are going over the fences at night to visit the little village just outside of Lane. This in itself is very dangerous, because one is then outside the perimeter and has no protection. Korean patrols are always around, and they could mistake you for a V.C. Now with the addition of the dogs and their duty around the perimeter, a man would be very foolish to attempt such an act. MAJ Crouch wants to emphasize the seriousness of unauthorized personnel around the perimeter and gates at night. This should be sufficient word to the Wise. Lets not have an incident. There will be some new surprises for anyone who tries!

## BLUE STAR BULLETIN

TUESDAY NIGHT MOVIE HAS COMPETITION  
&  
JOKERS RAISE FLAG

Last Tuesday night's rerun, "Georgy Girl", had quite a bit of competition as the Air Force put on a show near Big Charlie. The planes had one advantage in that they were in living color and another in that they weren't such a recent repeat.

The Jokers combined their vast resources and came up with \$28 to finance their new blue battleflag, dedicated with it's flagpole on 17 Jan 68 and flying proudly. They also came up with theme song titled more-or-less "Hey, Hey we're the Jokers!"

Unsung heroes of the Blue Star are the men of the combined 390th TC Det. maintenance and the 48th maintenance. With Major Rhodes at the helm and CW3 Wright as his right-hand man, maintenance continues its constant fight to keep 'em flyin' in spite of being 60% undermanned. Mechanics work their 10-hour day, seven days a week job with very little hope for time off except half days and for pulling guard. As expected, most mechanics work in the maintenance area they call the "graveyard." However, many mechanics work in unexpected places, such as the allied shops and as production and control clerks. I happened to wander into the TI office, which because of lack of space is also production and control office, and maintenance office, and found several clerks running around pushing their ton of paperwork that goes with a maintenance unit. As it turned out the clerks, SP4s Petty and Bowman and SP5 McManus, were all mechanics filling the role for lack of someone more qualified for the clerical duties. The TIs were there too, SP6s Pedro Cuellar, Daniel Cate and Alvin Bruss and acting TI SP5 Charles Laavs who was really you guessed it, a mechanic. I asked them for the story in a nutshell of a TI and got the response: "A big headache." And there doesn't appear to be much relief because two of those four TIs are leaving within 40 days.

Rounding out the office were WOs Fichter and Runnels and SSG Perez, test pilots doubling as maintenance supervisor. All in all it was a full office and it represented the one full and over-flowing job that they have on their hands. All were in good spirits which shows their willingness to get the job done that has to be done. Everyone of the Blue Star ships that fly over the maintenance area represents a great amount of team-work by many people, no small part of which is the fine maintenance effort put out by the 390th and 48th maintenance

units. A great job well done.

Enjoying a well-deserved R&R is Kinchi 33, Major Maddox. In his place, Blue Star 3 is acting the part as Kimchi 33.

From a usually reliable source, it is revealed that Blue Star 3 will soon be taking his R&R in beautiful Hawaii. It's said he's way up in the clouds, on about Cloud 10½.

A new pilot addition to the 2nd platoon is WO Joe Parisian. Other new additions to the company are PFCs Barry E. Zahr, James L. Murphree, Ronald J. Montagna, Warren L. Connors, and PVT John F. Sumerix. To all, welcome aboard!

The 390th has a new arrival too, SP4 Kerim L. Jennings. On R&R from the 390th are SP4 Pal C. Lavengood, Enjoying Bangkok, and SSG Geronimo, Perez with his sights on Taipei. A promotion in the making will result in the new rank of SP5 to Marvin L. Yett.

The 279th Sig Det has Richard Melanson making SP5 along with Carlton C. Dollar, Donald L. Wurst and Jonathan I. Stone of the 48th and Robert G. Norton along with Ralph D. Sifuentes are going for SGT. Another promotion goes to new SP5 Jose R. Romero working with liason.

A new PFC in the 48th is Steve E. Pules. To all new arrivals and promotions, welcome to the Blue Star area and congratulations! "Come Home - Colonel Joe!" According to Lt. Brutnell, WO Gallagher is coming along quite well and should be home by the time this is printed.

Big John is back and reports that the "States are still there."

The nursery carpenters have a new bar now installed for their convenience. They also report that they want their hootchmaid "Wormy" to get well, and come back quick.

The first platoon has many leaving on R&R soon including JB, JT, TR, GD, AND HF.

A recent demonstration at the University of North Dakota at Grand Forks, N.D. showed that the anti-Vietnam war demonstrators were outnumbered by pro-war advocates by ten to one.

The Jokers were flying more this week, averaging three hours a day, mainly because of CAs. They claim they got 7 KIAs during a recent lift, but it may have been artillery?? They now have a new ship, rebuilt 596 in trade for their, 085.

WO Scruggs was in a little hurry when he left for R&R, enough of a hurry to forget his orders. He got 'em in time though.

With the addition of a new net, made out of a hammock, and plywood backboard, basketball has come into its own in the Blue Star area. Unfortunately, the ball busted. Until we get a new one, Monopoly, anyone??

*Use tent was called the nursery because all the FN&S (New Guys) came into it until there was space in the regular platoon tents. We have it fairly clean now and Tom Richter, Brownell, Hans and myself are going to check it out for a month now. I don't know what our house maid (Mickey) got named Wormy. I guess she still sick.*

## BIG WINDY BREEZE

The "Big Windy" glad mat was rolled out this past week to welcome our newest arrivals. Captain Gerald Stofer, formerly assigned to MOI at Fort Rucker, was first of the group to arrive. CW3 Mike Redriguez, our SIP, wasted little time starting his "in-country" indoctrination. Thus far, CPT Stofer has already gone out on two RON missions and, at this writing, in on TDY in the Central Highlands.

Major Milton Benz who has assumed the duties of Executive Officer, came to us from the US STRICOM, Mac Dill AFB. Thus far, he has warmed the pilot's seat far more than his executive chair.

Both Major Benz and Captain Stofer are visiting in the Republic of Vietnam for the second time.

SP4 Kenneth Warner and PFC Martin Wood were received with open arms by the mess personnel who have been bemoaning the shortage of cooks.

Captain Jim Fuller, Service Platoon Leader, has a special reason to broaden his smile. A number of aircraft mechanics, headed by Technical Inspector SP 6 Kenneth Johnson, have arrived. Everyone is looking to them with great expectations.

In every military family, however, the elation of greeting new arrivals is inevitably co-mingled with the dejection associated with departures. CW2 Dennis Leverett who has pulled the purse-strings as Indigenous Personnel Officer, monitored construction and repairs as R & U Officer, while flying his share of missions, is about to depart. Our loss of his talents musical and otherwise will be the 178th ASHC's gain. Mahzeltorf!

## CREDITS

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.

## STAFF

EDITOR	SP4 COOPER
CORRESPONDANTS	
HHC	SP4 DEGENHARDT
129th	WO MELLON
48th	WO DEER
180th	CWO PAQUIN
ASSISTANCE IN PRODUCTION	SP4 BURRUS
ASSISTANCE IN HHC	
	2LT SHIELD

## CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for the number one reception that you have given me upon arrival here at the 268th. It is a real pleasure to be working with such a fine group as you have here. As your chaplain, I stand ready to be of any assistance I possible can to the members of this command. Please feel free to call on me at any time.

As you know, we are in great need of a chapel here at the 268th. The plot of ground has been approved for the chapel and we hope to begin construction as soon as it is possible. It is our desire to reach more men in our religious services. Right now, services are being held in the Conference Room at Battalion Headquarters, and Catholic services are being held at the 335th AHC Mess Hall. As your chaplain, let me encourage you to renew your spiritual strength by worshipping each Sunday. The times for Protestant and Catholic services are 1900 and 1930 hours respectively. The writer of the Psalms said, "Be still and know that I am God." So often, we become so busy that we forget to stop and let our souls be refreshed and strengthened by the presence of the Lord. Just as our bodies need food, so our spirits need to be fed by God's Heavenly Food. Jesus said "Man does not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God."

Prayer for the Week: Oh Lord, Maker of our lives, we pray that You will also be Master of our lives. Help us daily to put our faith and our trust in You. Strengthen us by Your Power, guide us by Your Spirit and forgive our sins through Your Love. Amen.

(Chaplain Donald Doggett)

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## QUESTION OF THE WEEK:

Any speculation as to the true identity of the Aviator pictured on the back page of this month's HAWK magazine?

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## QUOTE OF THE WEEK:

"Mine is not to reason why, mine is but to do or die."