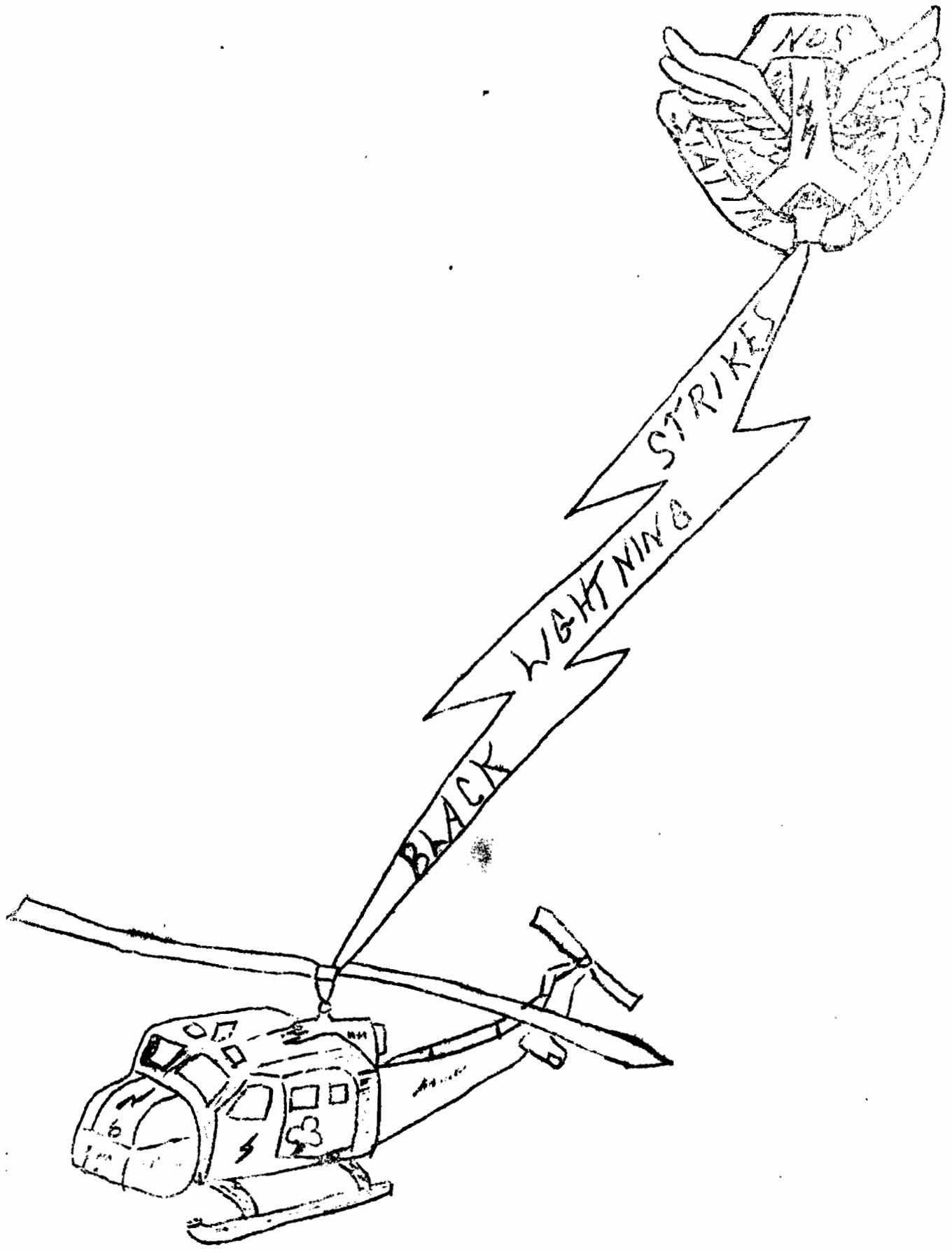


268<sup>TH</sup>  
COMBAT AVIATION BATTALION



## BITING AND STRIKING

With all of "Charles" activities this week, one could easily mistake Lane AAF as the motion picture set of "Combat". The way our Executive Officer, Captain Marshall has been organizing everyone, we are sure he was once a technical advisor for this program. But of course we all must realize how Gung-Ho Infantry Officers are in situations like this. There are reports that he sleeps in his steel pot and web gear. It would be so good for his morale if by some means we could let him capture a real VC.

Even with the yellow alerts about every other night one just can't put down our NCOs. SSG Foster secured the steaks and SFC Green and SSG Matsuda slaved over the hot coals cooking them for everyone. Even if Lane was being over run, I have my doubts if that could stop the monthly Boss's Party. Every one seemed to be enjoying himself. LTC Smith and SSG Miedowicz gorged themselves with an average of about 13 steaks a piece. SSG Miedowicz must remember he is no longer in the Marines and LTC Smith should be thankful that he no longer has to take the PCPT. SSG Caldwell, SSG Thompson, SSG Weymouth, and SP5 Smallwood drank dinner. The way they consumed beer, I think they were afraid there may have been some left over. Congratulations there wasn't.

A new order has come down from Brigade. "There will be no more aircraft accidents." OK--You bet. Major Crouch is a believer when an order comes from Brigade. So he has started Crouch's School of Aeronautics (Crouch's Copter College). This week our first class was given by SP6 Meeks and SP6 Guethling both who are experienced T.I.s. They explained what a helicopter is. Actually they gave a very informative class on Pre-Flight and areas to check, which are the most vulnerable to combat maintenance deficiencies. Everyone came away with a better understanding of points which were not brought out in Flight School. In the future weeks we shall go deeper into maintenance and understanding the aircraft. Even though these classes dig into club time, they can only be to our advantage, which after this first class everyone has realized.

## BIG WINDY BREEZE

Some anonymous philosopher once said: "Happiness is like jam. If you try to spread it around, you can't help get some on yourself." It must be true if one can judge by the happy, cheerful atmosphere that prevails around the "Big Windy" cantonment. Like many good things this feeling of good will may have started at the top and worked its way down. Major Woith not only found out he had been selected on the LTC list, but he's also delighted with the orders he received, assigning him to the USAAMS Staff at Fort Sill, Oklahoma.

Both flight platoon leaders and the CO of the 403d TC Maintenance Detachment have returned from R&R. Needless to say, all three appear to be well recuperated.

As reported in last week's issue, CW-3 Flohr is looking forward to his retirement and the only thing I begrudge him is the fact that he's going to beat me to it by three months. Both he and I are grateful to LTC Ahrens, Phu Hiep Army Airfield Commander, for the perimeter road around the airfield. However, we're debating whether that road should be called Flohr Avenue or Pappy's Parkway. In either case, we are putting that perimeter road to good use and we're grateful it's in existence rather than still in the planning stage.

During the past week, "Big Windy" has continued to provide lift support to the 4th Infantry Division. As in the past, the 179th ASHC has provided mission coordination and quarters for our crews. It's a pity that after all this time, we haven't had the opportunity to return the favor. In order to be prepared to receive them and make them feel at home, we are looking around salvage yards for a suitably decrepit tent, General Purpose. In order to match our present accommodations in the Central Highlands, this tent should feature numerous rips and tears, and a livoral coating of dirt, both inside and out. Anyone knowing of the existence of such an item is asked to contact "Big Windy" Operations at his earliest possible convenience.

(180th IO)

## HEADQUARTERS HIGHLIGHTS OF THE WEEK

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Our revered Battalion Executive Officer, LTC Billy R. McKelvey, silently slipped away from our midst during the height of the Tet "festivities". Of course we all hope he has a safe journey.

Free from the oppressive tensions of administrative bureaucracy, "Field First" Ashfield has seemed to have taken his new title literally. He now devotes his talents to "fertilizing the fields" around Lo Ba.

The HHC "Commandant" has made known his pleasure with the encouraging progress made in his indoctrination of the "Five Month Plan". He foresees a bright future of continued development under the "New System" in this, the month of the Monkey.

After his "Grand Debut" last week, SP4 Wilberg has moved on to bigger things. With an AWOL bag under one arm and his Guitar under the other, our Barnyard Balladeer has departed for the "Big City" in search of his fame and fortune. Due to other engagements, the inebriated half of his unexpected duet routine will not be able to accompany him in the auditions.

During SP4 Wilberg's absence we can look forward to being entertained by the first Topless Review to come to the Black Lightning Lounge. Appearing on stage will be the only two male topless Au Go Go dancers in RVN. This brisque act is billed; "Bucky & Freddie", Go Go get 'em UPS!

Recently in the Stars & Stripes was an article expounding the glories and beauties of the island paradise of Hawaii. It told of the marvels of the islands that the GI's who take their R&R there are missing, and explores the possibilities of why they ignore the breathtaking scores of the panoramic loveliness of these emeralds in the Pacific.

This article prompted me to search out the question of why ordinarily alert servicemen would virtually ignore some of the natural wonders not only of Hawaii but of most all the other R&R sites as well. The answers I got, though sometimes not printable were never-the-less amusing. For instance, when I asked one man what he thought of Kuala Lumpur, he replied, "Which one's she?"

SGM Butler when questioned about "the Outback" and the fishing in Australia said he spent his R&R searching for Red Cross workers and donuts.

LT Dowling, however, admittedly enjoyed everything Hong Kong had to put out, but then one would expect a Pathfinder to seek out the hidden wonders of the Mysterious City.

## BLUE STAR BULLETIN

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Events of the past week have made for quite a bit of excitement. Bunkers that were built two months ago, were finally tested under real conditions and a First Platoon slick accounted for six KIA's. Mr. Taylor didn't get them 'low-leveling' either.

Many of us were forced to wash our own laundry while the "Hooch Maids" took a brief leave of absence because of certain happenings in and around Ninh Hoa. When they returned several days later, cheers could be heard coming from all parts of the compound. I wonder why?

Warrant Officers Bremseth and Dodd will give a demonstration on how to hit two flares in one night, without really trying. All interested parties are invited to attend.

Reports from the "Jokers" indicate; "They can hold their own", and that quite a few Charlies finally reached immortality. Also chalked up on the casualty list was a bunch of ducks who allegedly had TNT up their ends and were being herded towards our perimeter.

New arrivals in the Blue Star are Specialists Miller, Cooley and Malnik and Privates Hogan, Shinholster, Simones, Richards, Franklin and Miller. Additions to the Red Ball crew include Specialists Hrumetz and Williams and Private Gale Webster. Don't worry fellas, we're not mortared too often and these tents aren't permanent...we hope!

(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 Officer, 268th.

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