



***** THE BEE-LINE ***** 116TH ASLT HEL CO ***** 18 September 1967***

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***** HORNET 5 *****

As we go about our tasks of flying and supporting those who fly the daily combat assaults, I think we often tend to overlook some of the fine persons and sections who are directly involved with our combat mission. I would like to take this opportunity to single out one section that most of us take for granted because they are doing such a fine job we just naturally expect it of them. Those that I have in mind, if you haven't already guessed, are SSG Austin and his mess section. In case you haven't brushed against a wall in the mess hall recently maybe you haven't noticed the fresh paint that is around. We now have the best looking mess hall at Cu Chi and before Sgt Austin finishes we'll have the best appearing mess in RVN. But looks isn't everything and the quality of meals that we have come to expect is really deserving of a vote of thanks. Some other improvements you'll be seeing soon in the mess hall include a thatch ceiling which not only will add to the appearance but will have a cooling effect as well. Recently the mess hall carried ~~chow to go~~ bravo so that the flight crews could enjoy a hot noon meal, a rare treat since they are used to eating "C's" on the run at lunch time. Another fine service we have come to expect as normal is the support we get from our platoon parties and the fine barbequed chicken and steak prepared by First Cook SP/5 Valenzuela. The mess section of the 116th certainly in keeping with the traditions and high standards of the Hornets. To SSG Austin, SP/5 Valenzuela, SP/4 Mamlin, SP/5 Hartsfield, SP/5 Hill, SP/4 Tate, PFC Myers, BFC White, PFC Dykes, and SP/4 Cantu, go the sincere thanks for a job well done from the rest of the HORNETS.

***** 1ST PLATOON *****

FINCH'S FIGMENTS

In the Yellow Jacket Platoon are several new arrivals from the states:

WO Frederick P. Manke became a Hornet 21 Jul 67. He is from Santa Barbara, Calif. Fred is married to Linda L. Manke. They are expecting a little Manke in December. WO Manke attended Santa Barbara H. S. and excelled in track and football. After high school he went to Humboldt State College, Arcata, California and the University of California at Santa Barbara. Fred enlisted in May 1966 for the flight program. He graduated from class 67-7 in Jun 67, ranking 26th in a class of 298. Fred says he like the Army so much that he would like a commission in the Armored Branch.

WO Ronald L. Algren arrived in country 24 Aug 67. His home town is Riverside, California. He went to Riverside Poly H. S. majoring in girl watching. He graduated June 1965 ~~entering~~ Riverside City College for the fall ~~semester~~ ^{semester} and majoring in police science. He was aspiring to become a "copper" in his home town. He had a change of mind and joined the "Action Army" to learn how to fly. Ron enlisted Jul 66 and went through basic at Ft Polk, La. He began flight training 1 Nov 66, class 67-11. WO Algren graduated with the same class 1 Aug 67.

WO Ross Barlow is from San Benito, Texas. A farm boy all the way, he has a hobby of raising Herford cattle. He decided to give flying a try and enlisted 28 Jun 66. After basic, he entered flight school 10 Oct 66. Ross was in class 67-9 and won his bars and wings 13 Jun 67. WO Barlow arrived in "Sunny Viet Nam" 13 Aug 68. As of now, he has well over 130 combat flying hours and still going strong. Glad to have y'all with us.

Looking at the rest and recuperation list, we find WO Neil Townsley in Penang enjoying the sights, etc. Strap Hangar 6 (WO Mike Albert) is going to be making the scene in Tokyo for a week. He is not a total stranger to Japan; His family lived there for a year and-a-half.

***** 2ND PLATOON *****

CLARK'S CORNER

Greetings Hornets, time has come again for me to leave my "pole position" in the Beehive and pass along a few words of wit when possible and explanations when necessary.

Mr. Harrington has returned from a seven day R&R in Hong Kong. One of those "Stinger fellows", Lt Tom Pool, accompanied him. Both came back broke but full of praise for what I call the "San Francisco of the Far East".

WO Scott Miskimon is getting so short that he isn't even starting conversations with anyone. Scott has less than 25 days. We sure will miss him when he leaves us.

The Wasps have been graced with five brand new pilots. We proudly introduce them to you. They are: Henry "Hank" Meyers of Latrobe, Penn. He was graduated from flight school 6 Jun 67 and assigned directly to VN. His wife, Pat, and one year old son, Michael, are presently living with relatives in Latrobe. Prior to joining the Army, Hank attended Duquesne University, located in Pittsburgh. He hopes to return to the University and continue his education as a pharmacist.

Donald J. Cool is from the Dixie Capital, Atlanta, Georgia. He was graduated from flight school 29 Jun 67. His wife, Sharon, is residing with her parents in Atlanta. Donald was a student at Georgia State, studying business and management prior to answering Uncle Sam's call. Hobbies are "varied interest", hmmm! After his tour in VN, Donald would like to continue his schooling.

WO Donald Floyd Reuser hails from Northridge, Calif. and was graduated from flt. school 1 Aug 67. Water skiing and ~~surfing~~ tops his list of favorite sports. Donald attended Pierce College in Calif. prior to joining the Army and would like to continue in aviation.

WO Joseph B. Ankrom Jr., from the "Fabulous South", makes Columbia, S.C. his home and was graduated from flt. school 1 Aug 67. A student at the University of South Carolina, he studied anthropology prior to his enlistment. Donald is an avid football fan. He hopes to make aviation his career.

WO Warren H. Bauer claims Mountain Home, Idaho as his home. He was graduated from flt school 30 Jun 67. His wife, Remona, is presently living with his parents in Idaho. Warren was a salesman for a tire co. before his enlistment. Let's hope he can sell Charlie on the idea of not shooting at us!! Warren claims no particular hobby, but admits a desire to piddle around the garage on Hot Rods--Something we Chevy owners do from necessity.

There they are; we are very proud to have them with us. All of them have displayed outstanding flying skill, as all Wasps do!

SP/5 Ralph B. Charles of Salmon, Idaho is now the NCOIC of the 2nd Plt crewchiefs. Prior to his assignment to the 116th, Specialist Charles was stationed at Ft Eutis, Va. as an instructor in general mechanics. His Army career is indefinite at this time. Ralph has a hard and challenging job with numerous duties. We feel that he will do an outstanding job.

The Wasps have had many fine disnataries flying with them in the past; some of the more recent ones are:

LTC Stencil, CO of the 242nd Chinook Co.
LT Pierce of the 2nd Bde
MAJ Andrews, our very own Hornet 5
WO Cook, 2nd Bde
WO Riley, 2nd Bde
LT Henard, 25th Div

We would like to offer our thanks and appreciation for giving us a helping hand on our tremendous work load.

The Wasps are boasting of seven new SP/4's. Trading in their "Skeeter Wings" for the "bird" are:

John L. Sloke, CE
John Carta, Gunner
Richard Robinson, CE
John Brakefield, CE
David Mathias, CE
Jerome Klein, CE
Thomas Major, 3/4 six

Specialist Steven Wynkoop was promoted to the grade of E-5. Steven is the crew chief on 370.

Wasps to the rescue!! On 29 Aug Lt Sturgis courageously braved enemy fire to successfully rescue a Stinger crewman. Hornet 6 cited 31 for an outstanding mission accomplished.

The Wasps would like to take this time to make known our deep appreciation for the Stingers. They have truly done an outstanding job in the past of giving close (I do mean close!!) fire support to the slicks. Getting shot at is certainly no fun and purposely flying low and slow to actually draw enemy fire from the lift ships is courageous. Keep up the fine work!

We would like to wish a speedy recovery for Specialist Holman and Cathy; both were wounded in action.

The new Hornet 33 is WO Townsend- Congratulations!

***** GUN PLATOON *****

THE STINGERS

The Stinger "Crash Crew" has been at work again. Much to his disapproval, Cpt Henry was forced to join in with the old pro's, Lt Adkinson, SP/5 Horn, and SP/5 Holman. SP5 Holman was wounded in the leg and SP5 Cathy tried to catch one in his teeth. It is good to have Specialist Cathy back with us and to see Specialist Holman up and around.

The Stingers are now boasting five aircraft. We have made pictures of all five hovering at the same time. To the surprise of everyone, we have managed to keep them up for a few days. Perhaps our good luck will continue.

Welcome to WO "Tank" Huntington, a new Stinger from the 2d Plt and to SP/4 Brooks of the 1st Plt.

SP/4 is now the lowest rank in the Stingers. Congratulations to new SP/4's Linder, Wunderle, and Szentmiklosi.

Since the last Stinger party, Hornet 6 and 5 seem to be trying extra hard to find time to fly a gunship. We appreciate their renewed interest and hope to have them join us soon.

***** SERVICE PLATOON *****

After having two weeks to recuperate from the I.G. inspection, the service platoon is still looking bakkk with amazement at all that was accomplished in preparation for the inspection. While we've been mentally resting we've been physically exterting ourselves trying to maintain our Hornet aircraft.

To help us perform the highest quality of maintenance that we've been noted for, a new Technical Inspector in the form of SP5 Rux has joined the company.

In order that we may keep the Stingers happy, we hope to have Big Daddy operational by the time the paper goes to press. May he see a long and trouble free career from now on, and if he does, most of the credit can go to Sergeant Arrowood, First Sergeant Caudle, and the crew chief SP4 Brooks, who have spent every fleeting moment disassembling and reassembling wires, tubes, stringers, and clamps in order that Big Daddy may live to "STOMP" again.

***** EDITOR'S NOTE *****

Today, while walking to the PX, I happened to see a couple of welcome newcomers sitting in the 2nd Bde area. They were none other than two impressive looking Huey Cobra gunships. Each one was equipped with two rocket pods (38 rockets), two pods housing mini-guns, and a 40 MM automatic grenade launcher in a turret. The rocket and mini-gun pods are mounted on little stub wings protruding from the fuselage. The 40 MM is mounted on the nose, similar to those now in use on Bravo and Charlie models.

Being a mere three feet wide, the Cobra will offer a slim target, indeed, and the increased fire power should be more comforting to pilots and ground troops.

The Cobra is just one of the ever increasing number of new weapons and machines the Army is providing for its fighting men.

***** CLOSING QUOTE *****

I think that this is the first war in history that on the morrow the victors sued for peace and the vanquished called for unconditional surrender.-
Abba Eban, Israel's foreign minister.