

## Spectre Animals

**From Dave Burns**

### **The one-eyed Hawk**

This ain't no shit! (I guess that's how these things start off). Grody Oley lived downtown with a roommate and one day a samlor driver that Oley "Owned" gave him a sick looking hawk that had one eye. His right eye was gone so Oley cleaned him up, fed him and put him on a string so he could fly around.

As he had only one good eye he could only fly a left hand orbit! When he wasn't flying, he would perch on Oley's balcony so the critters wouldn't get it.

Oley told us that the one eyed hawk could tell the future and of course we asked him to ask the hawk every time we went on a mission, this started off as a joke. Well one day at mission briefing Oley came in without his gear. The AC asked him where his gear was and Oley said, "I asked the hawk if we were flying today and he shook his head and said no." Sure enough later on the crew chief came in and said the Airplane is broke!

This went on for about a month, and we began asking him what the hawk had to say about the upcoming missions. Then one day Oley came in and had his helmet, flak vest, and was loaded for bear. The AC asked him why all the gear at a briefing and Oley said that the hawk told him that we were in for a hell of a night. Sure enough that night we took almost a thousand rounds and got run out of dodge in a hurry!

So some people were taking him seriously.

Then one day Oley came in crying, he put his arms around The Hump, who was our IO, went around thanking everyone for being his friend, saying how he hoped we would all be together and such. The Pilot Maj Floria asked him what was the matter and Oley said, "I asked the hawk what kind of mission we were going to have and he looked at me with his one good eye and rolled over and died!"

Major Floria damn near didn't fly that night. It was a hairy mission but we all got back. Turns out that the hawk was a little messy and Oley's room mate tried to wash it and drowned it!

The Hump damn near squashed Oley the next day!

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**From Lil Pete**

On the lighter side of things.....

I remember when I first landed at Ubon at the air terminal, there was an officer and enlisted representative (Msgt Jacob Mercer) who introduced themselves, looking for new Spectre

arrivals and welcomed us to the unit. When we were all accounted for they lead us out to the Spectre bus. Standing next to the bus door, was some joker 2Lt anxiously standing there with a turkey in his arms asking all the 2Lt's what was their DOR (Date Of Rank) was. He seemed very disappointed and left.

Once on the bus, I asked MSgt Mercer what that was all about. Jake said "That was the TCO, Turkey Control Officer and that he was looking to turn over custody of the Herky the Turkey, who was the Squadron mascot, over to the lowest ranking officer of the squadron.

Any of you officers got some more history on the Turkey?????

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