

Aerogero in Kenya

„If you denounce people, you have no time to love them.“

Mother Teresa (or Agnes Gonxha Bojaxhio)

It is a fine line ...

... between criticism and judgement. Here in Africa it is not necessarily known that critics can be something positive.

After a few days (or weeks) in the North, when I return a plane to our maintenance base in Nairobi, I usually bring a long list of things to be fixed: dirt, settings, tolerances close to the limit, and sometimes a failed unit. I do this in order to avoid things getting worse, and to keep the plane airworthy.

Do I criticize our maintenance personnel? Usually not, as most of the issues only occur after a while. Do I judge them or their work? By no means! But every now and then, I am being seen that way.

Of course I have to be careful how I say it, so it won't be misunderstood. A change of perspective can help both me and them: to feel motivated for doing even better work, and to think ahead a bit further, instead of being offended by a "negative" comment. Quasi something like a friendly competition? That's how it should be: we help each other to become more and more excellent!

Let me thus extend the saying of Mother Teresa slightly (see above):

“And when you criticize them, you should immediately take time to love them as well!”

The Bible says.:

“Encourage one another daily, as long as it is called Today, so that none of you may be hardened by sin's deceitfulness”

Hebrews 3:13



In **Germany** I could meet a lot of friends between March and May! It was a fun-tastic time, but as always, more hectic than planned. Still, I enjoy these over-full days!

The first 5 weeks after my return to Africa, I had to spend in **Juba**, instead of making myself a home again in Lokichoggio; duty is more important. Luckily, Bono could come along. The other pilots cared for my house during my absence: it was their cheap overnight facility.

Mid July, I could finally return to **Loki**. Our Base manager and his wife were absent for another month, so I was also monitoring the office duties.

Rainy Season always brings challenges. Most of the airstrips bear a real chance to get stuck in the mud, for example (see left).

Almost every flight into Sudan, we can only decide minutes before departure whether the flight is possible, or not. Unfortunately, not all bush weather reports are reliable; on one hand, they don't necessarily have the knowledge about it (the airstrip can look dry, but still be unlandable due to soft surface), on the other hand, of course, they want to be picked up etc.; therefore, it may happen that they report the airstrip as "dry", and I find water in every footprint ☺.

Recently, I had 1 ton of freight for Pariang, which is a 3-h flight (1 way!). So you think twice before you turn back... After a first low overflight I thought: "Not beautiful, but landable." When touching down, though, I felt some heavy resistance, so I decided to immediately go around. Although still fast, it took me 2 times the distance of a normal takeoff! Doubtful, if I would have been able to get airborne again after a "Full Stop". Just after that, I found out that this organization had another station only 20 minutes from here; why didn't they tell me earlier?

Agriculturally, Rain means life or death. Too heavy rain, on the other hand, has the opposite effect, carrying away the fertile soil!

Usually, it only rains at night, while during the day, it is nice and dry and warm - at

Old Fangak in July:



5 h of digging out ...



... and a night in the plane: too late to return to base



3 planks to avoid sinking in ...



... 3 guards to avoid intruding!



slides in Longuchok:



I always thought, the nose wheel would run closer to the outer ...

Hey kids,

did you get the cooking instructions from last riddle? Wasn't too difficult, was it? Put them into **500 ml** water, wait **3** minutes for the result and spice it.

Now I need your help: As you can see, Bono can jump very high. But I still couldn't make him stop attacking Africans on the streets. Do you have a good idea for his training? Thank you so much for your help!!

Yours, Flying Tiger



Rainy season in Nasir: Oops ...



Nagishot:



This is INDEED the runway!

least in Kenya! In South Sudan, due to the White Nile, you can find heavy thunderstorms any time. A lot of clouds are present as well, which doesn't ease the flying bit.

In Loki we have 2 rainy seasons: a short one in Nov./ Dec., and a longer one between Mar. and Jul. But still, even now it rains here and there at times. This is so good for the soil, which would otherwise dry up completely after July.

The **Turkana**, living in this half desert zone, don't have an easy life. Their huts of straw, branches, and sometimes clay are not really waterproof. The permanent search for water, to feed themselves and their cattle day-to-day, is quite ex-



haustive. But don't even think they would always walk around having a sad mood. We Westerners could learn a lot from them! Wherever you go, there is always at least time for a smile. Indeed, this makes you happy right away.



Visitors I had from my family! My brother decided to share my life for a week in July, and shortly later, a nephew showed up. We hadn't met for 20 years, but it was such a nice time

together. So great weeks, and I could even take both of them onto a flight into Sudan. Very impressive!

Bono got a permanent visitor in his neighborhood: another pilot family from Aim Air has moved in, and they brought their young German Shepherd along! Now they run together in the riverbed every evening.

Check my [Homepage](#) for new **Diary-Extracts**. I have to admit, not all of them are translated into English, but I am working on it. The aim is to have one more every month. I won't announce it every time; just go and check it out every now and then. It gives you even more insight.

*My little private school fee project to support needy kids is continuing! While being in Germany, I did manage to "sell" each airplane for the equivalent of 1 year primary school, and **Eliudi Charles** is continuing to make them. Every single one is unique - and beautiful! If you don't have one yet, please check the mini shop at my [Homepage](#). Don't be afraid! It is very easy (and for a good purpose ...).*

100% of the money will be used for the education of (mainly primary) school stu-

dents in Tanzania.

Thanks to a former colleague of mine, who started his own charity in order to help students full-time, I can be sure that every dime arrives where it is supposed to. Guaranteed!



Now our **Swahili lesson:**

When different languages meet, there will be surprises. Recently, we had a delegation from Singapore in our church in Nairobi; one of the group members wondered why his name was written all over (he is called Choo). Later he learnt what "choo" means in Swahili: Toilet!

That's it for this time. And soon there will be new photos on my homepage.

All the best, GOD be with you! I am looking forward to your answer!

Yours,

(Aero)gero



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