

Vol. 1, #22/LZ Bayonet, Vietnam/Nov. 10, 1969

SPECIAL ADVANCE ISSUE BRIGADE CHANGES COMMANDERS

LZ BAYONET--at 10 o'clock this morning COL Jere O. Whittington relinquished command of the 198th Inf. Bde. to COL Joseph G. Clemons in a change of command

ceremony here, as MG Lloyd B. Ramsey, Americal Div. commander, passed the brigade colors from the old commander to the new.

5/46 GETS NEW C.O.

LZ GATOR--COL Jere O. Whittington, 198th Brigade Commander, passed the colors of the 5th Bn., 46th Inf. from LTC Julian F. Wagner (Green Cove Springs, Fla.) to LTC Melvin C. Snyder (Kingwood, W. Va.) in a recent change of command ceremony at LZ Gator.

Wagner has left to assume new duties in the Office of the Asst. Chief of Staff for Intelligence in the Pentagon.

The new commander, a 1951 West Point graduate, began his military career in Korea first as a platoon then company commander. Returning to the U.S., Snyder attended the Army's Infantry Advanced Course.

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MG Ramsey praised COL Whittington's efforts as commander of the 198th, and noted the brigade's achievements since May when Whittington assumed command.

Joining the division band for the ceremonies were the commanders and troops from the 1st Bn., 6th Cav.; 5th Bn., 46th Inf.; 1st Bn., 52nd Inf.; H Troop, 17th Cav.; HHC, 198th; and 57th Inf. Plat. (Scout Dog) elements.

With his departure, COL Whittington was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross, the Bronze Star and the Air Medal with 3rd through 10th OLCs.

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H Trp., Engrs Pass Colors

LZ BAYONET -- H Troop, 17th Cav. changed commanders in a recent ceremony held at the troop headquarters here. Out-going commander CPT John A. De-thorn (Jersey City, N.J.) passed the colors to the in-coming CO, CPT Max K. Natzet (Bronx, N.Y.), as 1SG Donald B. Stoddard (Hughes, Ark.) and the men of H Troop stood by.

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LZ BAYONET--Co. B, 26th Engr. Bn. received a new commanding officer in a recent change of command at the company area here. CPT Roy A. Prince (Montgomery, Ala.) replaced CPT Warren R. Sullivan (Fredericksburg, Va.), accepting the colors from the 26th Engr. Bn. Executive Officer, Maj Wilbur C. Hogan III (Lepancon,

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EDITOR'S NOTE: This is a special advance issue of The Bayonet, covering the recent changes of command in the brigade. Because of the advanced publication date, the next Bayonet will appear Dec. 1.

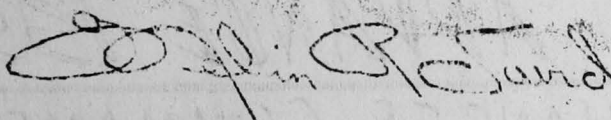
Also with this special issue, The Bayonet sports a new front page.

THANKSGIVING DAY MESSAGE TO MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES

Among the various holidays which we observe, Thanksgiving Day presents the most opportune time for all of us to reflect on the blessings granted us by Almighty God.

Down through the years Americans have drawn inspiration and strength from the spirit of sacrifice shown by the Plymouth colonists in the face of hardship. We can give thanks as they did in the traditional holiday celebration. Moreover, we can dedicate ourselves anew to preserve those ideals of liberty, equality and justice which are so basic to our heritage.

Those of you far from home and loved ones are due special thanks from a grateful Nation for the protection of this heritage and for the strength you give to our country's defense. All Americans join me in honoring you on this day.



Melvin R. Laird

NCOs HONOR 198th C.O.

LZ BAYONET -- Departing 198th Bde. Commander COL Jere O. Whittington was honored Monday night by NCOs of the brigade at the HHC Mess Hall here.

The men gathered for a buffet-style dinner to pay their respects to COL Whittington, who this week assumes new duties as the commander of Long Binh Post -- home of Hq USARV -- near Saigon.

Brigade CSM Buford W. Parnell, on behalf of the NCOs, presented the colonel with a memento of his tour of duty with the "Brave & Bold" -- a four-by-six-foot white rug woven in the colors and design of the brigade patch. The rug had been specially made for the 198th in Hong Kong.

Parnell also voiced publicly the comments of the men present, complimenting HHC mess personnel on their evening's efforts.

Speaking informally, the

out-going commander expressed his thanks to the NCOs of the brigade and its attached units.

Displaying an understanding of the situation, he remarked that many times an NCO's only reward for his work is his own knowledge that the job had been well done.

He pointed out the progress made by the 198th Bde., recalling that earlier this year the 1st Bn., 52nd Inf. had difficulty moving in their AO because of enemy forces; the 5th Bn., 46th Inf. found it advisable not to move in the Batangan Peninsula area in anything less than a company-sized element; and the 1st Bn., 6th Inf. had been hard put to cover a zone less than half the size of their present area.

Whittington said those and other advances made by the brigade would not have been possible without the help of the NCOs.

COOKS PREPARE TO TALK TURKEY

LZ BAYONET -- Mess halls in the 198th Bde. are gearing up for their big effort one week from today. Plans are being put into operation to get things rolling and momentum gathering for the project which will peak next Thursday when brigade mess personnel will raise the curtain on a Stateside-type of Thanksgiving dinner.

"We don't have all the supplies in yet," says CW3 Richard W. Vander Henst (Aberdeen, Md.), brigade food service advisor. "Right now there is no way of knowing if and when any given item will arrive. But the mess people are working pretty hard on it, and if we had to we could come up with a good effort using just the things we already have on hand."

"If everything comes in, this is what we'll have on Thanksgiving Day:

THANKSGIVING MENU

- shrimp cocktail with crackers;
- roast turkey with gravy;
- bread and cornbread dressing;
- cranberry sauce;
- mashed potatoes;
- glazed sweet potatoes;
- buttered mixed vegetables or buttered peas;
- assorted crisp relishes;
- hot rolls and butter;
- fruitcake;
- mincemeat or pumpkin pie;
- assorted nuts;
- iced tea, coffee or milk



COMMANDERS-CAPSULE CAREERS

Colonel Jere O. Whittington begins a new phase in his 23-year Army career as he leaves the 198th Inf. Bde. to take over command of USARV's Long Binh Post.

Since graduating from West Point as an infantry lieutenant, he has had a variety of assignments which have taken him to every corner of the globe. Col. Whittington's overseas tours include Japan, Spain, Germany, Ethiopia and two tours in Vietnam.

Between service in foreign countries, Col. Whittington has spent time as a commander and as a student in the United States, including his return to the U.S. Military Academy as a foreign language instructor. He has also attended the Army Language School, the Command and General Staff College, the Army Special Warfare School, and the Army War College. Before beginning this tour in the Republic of Vietnam, the colonel commanded a battalion of the 24th Inf. Div. at Ft. Riley, Kans. and then served on the staff of the Joint Chiefs of Staff in the Pentagon.

His flair for languages sent him on some unusual assignments, such as to the Universities of Madrid and Mexico to study Spanish. His European tours included command of an infantry company and serving as side-de-camp to MG Halley G. Maddox. In Africa, Col. Whittington was a military attache to Ethiopia. During his first tour in Vietnam, he was a MACV sector advisor at Tuy Hoa in 1964-65.

Although he is a native of Kilgore, Tex., Col. Whittington now makes his home with his wife and four children in McLean, Va. His awards and decorations include the Legion of Merit, the Distinguished Flying Cross, the Bronze Star,

Colonel Joseph G. Clemons is no stranger to the Americal Division or to the operations of the 198th Inf. Bde. From July to September he held the reins of the Division Support Command and since Sept. 23, he has been the Chief of staff.

Col. Clemons enlisted in the Army in February 1946 and served with the 5th Photo Reconnaissance Squadron in the Pacific until June 1947 when he received an appointment to the United States Military Academy.

He graduated from West Point in June 1951 and, like Col. Whittington, was commissioned an infantry lieutenant. He served as a platoon leader with the 31st Inf. Regt. in Korea in 1952 and received the Distinguished Service Cross and the Silver Star during that conflict.

Upon his return to the United States in 1953, the colonel was assigned as an instructor at Ft. Bragg, S.C. and later at the Airborne School at Ft. Benning, Ga. A tour in Europe saw him as the commanding officer of the 2nd Bn., 54th Inf. of the 4th Armored Div.

After he returned to the U.S., he was assigned to the Office of the Assistant Vice Chief of Staff in Washington, where he was promoted to colonel.

Besides the Military Academy, Col. Clemons has also graduated from the Infantry School, the Army War College, the Air Command Staff College, the Armed Forces Service College and other schools.

The colonel's wife and three children reside in Kailua, Hawaii.

the Air Medal (10 OLC), the Combat Infantryman's Badge and two Vietnamese Crosses of Gallantry.

THE BAYONET

BRIGADE COMMANDER.....COL Joseph G. Clemons
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10 NCOIC.....SFC Herb Hearnith
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SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBERS' SAYS A.G.

WASHINGTON--The Army's Adjutant General wants all mail addressed to Army personnel to carry Social Security numbers (SSANs) in place of Service numbers (ASNs).

The Army moved to the nine-digit Social Security numbers on July 1.

Since then, MG Kenneth G. Wickham said, the longer set of numbers has become the key for establishing positive identification of the addressee.

He asked for "whole-hearted cooperation" from the public. (AFPS)

H/17 CAV.

(Cont. from Page 1)

Dethorn moves to brigade headquarters to become an assistant operations officer.

Natzet comes to the brigade from the Americal Divs.'s 1st Sqdn., 1st Cav., where he commanded Hq & Hq Troop.

Completing his eighth year in the Army this month, he arrived for his second tour in Vietnam in late May. He previously was a MACV advisor in Quang Duc, 96 miles northwest of Saigon on the Cambodian border. He has also served overseas with the 1st Cav. Div. in Korea and the 3rd Armored Cav. Regt. in Germany.

His wife and child, Max Jr., 2, currently reside in Makaha, Hawaii.

Departing from H Troop, Dethorn said, "They're a great bunch of men; I really hate to leave them."

Natzet agreed, saying, "They're by far one of the best troops I've ever seen."



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198TH BDE.

(Cont. from Page 1)

Whittington will fly to Long Binh shortly to assume the duties of commander of Long Binh Post.

COL Clemons comes to the brigade from two previous positions within the Americal Div. He has served as commander of Supt. Comd., and more recently as Div. Chief of Staff.

B/26 ENGR.

(Cont. from Page 1)

Conn.). Also present for the ceremony was En. CSM Paul Walz (Trenton, N.J.).

CPT Sullivan returns to the United States, and will study at the University of Florida (Gainesville, Fla.) to complete work on his degree.

CPT Prince comes to RVN from Ft. Benning, Ga., for his second tour of duty in Southeast Asia. He previously served with the 14th Engr. Bn. of the 18th Bde. in the Dong Ba Thin and Quang Tri areas.

A graduate of Auburn University (Auburn, Ala.), Prince has been with the Army three and one-half years. His wife plans to teach school in San Antonio while he is in Vietnam.

"This is a good company," Prince said. "Our aim is for it to maintain as good a record as it has had in the past, and there has been no let-up; the hard-working and cooperative men of 'White Lion-Bravo' are continuing their efforts along these lines."

"Bravo Co. did a fine job under CPT Sullivan," said 1SG Russell Morris (Ravenna, Ohio), "and he was proud of them. I have no doubt that CPT Prince will accomplish equally fine results, and that he'll be proud of them too."

5/46 INF. BN. NEW C.O.

(Continued from Page 1)

After completing the school he was assigned to France for a three-year tour. He then served in a civil schooling capacity for two years, followed by three years with the Defense Atomic Support Agency at Sandia Base, N.M.

He was then selected to attend the Command and General Staff College and was then assigned to the G-1 section of the 8th Army headquarters in Korea.

Immediately prior to coming to Vietnam he served two years in the office of the Chief of Research and Development.

The departing LTC Wagner praised the officers and men of his former unit as he recalled moments of anguish, pride and humor while commanding.

"A commander and his battalion are what the men under his command make him. There is no doubt in my mind that you men will give LTC Snyder the same outstanding support you gave me," said the former commanding officer.

LTC Wagner was presented the Legion of Merit, the Distinguished Flying Cross and four through ten Oak Leaf Clusters for his air medal.