



# River Cities News



**River Cities Detachment 1090**  
Marine Corps League—Evansville, Indiana

Volume 19  
Issue 4  
April 2022

## Commandant's Corner

by Jim Johnson

It looks as if spring has arrived early this year. I hope everyone is healthy and enjoying this beautiful weather. I hope the weather is as nice for our gathering on Saturday the 9th of April. It will be held at the Robinson Township Conservation Club. The Detachment will be furnishing BBQ Pork Ribs and hot dogs. Each family attending is requested to bring a covered dish and drinks. the address is 1015 Stierley Road N. Wadesville. You should have received an E-Mail with all this information, if not contact an Officer of the Detachment.

At our March meeting the following nominations were made: Commandant—Bob Reutter; Senior Vice—Melissa West; Junior Vice—Gary Burk; Adjutant—Tim Jones; Judge Advocate—T. C. Shane Jr.; Paymaster—John Bryant. Our 2nd round of nominations, vote to elect our new officers and installation of the new officers will be in April. These

meetings are very important and I hope to see a very large gathering. Come early and enjoy an evening meal before the meeting. We swore in two new members and had a great meeting. After the meeting, the remaining officers did an audit of the paymaster's activities from the past 12 months. Excellent job from Paymaster  
(continued on page 13)

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When celebrating the life of a loved one, personalization is the key. Every life is unique and valuable, and in order to celebrate that life, the service should be tailored to bring out the aspects that make them one of a kind. We will brainstorm with you, offer ideas and suggestions, and listen to your loved one's life story to help you create a final tribute that is personal, healing, and meaningful so that you can honor your loved one's life personally and specifically.

**738 E. Diamond Avenue, Evansville, IN 47711**

**812.425.2896**

11/2024

## Matanikau Offensive

By Gary Burk

*(Editor's Note: This is the second part of a three part story. The conclusion will be in the May River Cities News.)*

### **Battle for Henderson Field**

Between 1 October and 17 October, the Japanese delivered 15,000 troops to Guadalcanal, giving Hyakutake 20,000 total troops to employ for his planned offensive. Because of the loss of their positions on the east side of the Matanikau, the Japanese decided that an attack on the U.S. defenses along the coast would be prohibitively difficult. Therefore, Hyakutake decided that the main thrust of his planned attack would be from south of Henderson Field. His 2nd Division (augmented by troops

from the 38th Infantry Division), under Lieutenant General Masao Maruyama and comprising 7,000 soldiers in three infantry regiments of three battalions each was ordered to march through the jungle and attack the American defenses from the south near the east bank of the Lunga River. To distract the Americans from the planned attack from the south, Hyakutake's heavy artillery plus five battalions of infantry (about 2,900 men) from the 4th and 124th Infantry Regiments under the overall command of Major General Tadashi Sumiyoshi were to attack the American defenses from the west along the coastal corridor. (Continued on page 24)





Marine  
Spotlight On:

## Spring Social Gathering

At the River Cities Detachment 1090 Awards Banquet in December, we decided to hold a quarterly gathering to encourage family participation in our Detachment. The 2022 Spring Gathering will be held on **Saturday, April 9th, beginning at noon** at the Robinson Township Conservation Club located at **1015 Stierley Rd N, Wadesville, IN 47638**. The Detachment will supply the main course with each family being asked to supply ***one covered dish*** and ***their own drinks***.

There will be some games and other entertainment for the children, cards, board games and other things to keep the adults entertained as well. Please feel free to bring any family games you and your family find enjoyable. We may even have a family movie to show.

**Detachment 1090 Spring Gathering**  
**Saturday, April 9th**  
**Noon til 1700**  
**Robinson Township Conservation Club**  
**1015 Stierley Rd. N.**  
**Wadesville, IN 47638**

## Chaplain's Comments

by Bob Reutter

Twice in the last 30 days the weather has interfered with our detachments activities. First our February league meeting needed to be cancelled due to a forecast of very icy conditions and the very real possibility of one of our members falling in the ice at the Funkhouser American Legion Post. Then our scheduled quarterly social gathering was cancelled due to the forecast of snow rain sleet and other icy conditions. Even if it were only the cold, it would not be as much fun to have all of our families captive in the building by the weather.

Postponing our February meeting caused us to change our procedures for electing new officers. Typically, we would do first nominations in February, second nominations in March followed by elections. Then in the April meeting we would install our new officers. With the cancellation of our February meeting, we will do first nominations in March, second nominations, elections and then in-

stallations during our April meeting. End result, we will still have our installation of new officers completed during our April meeting.

The Department of Indiana spring conference was well attended by your Detachment members. Six members of our detachment made the trek to Plainfield IN and attended the meetings and the MODD State Growl on Saturday night. One of our Pups (Mike Mitchell) made the advancement to Devil Dog during the Growl. We had such an enjoyable time, we have already started making plans to attend the 2023 National Convention to be held in Oklahoma City in August '23. If there is any way you can attend, I can assure you that you will have a good time.

### Careful what you say!

A Marine and his family were in the lobby of a restaurant and wanted to put their name in for a table. The manager asked "Do you mind waiting?" The Marine said "Not at all." The manager handed him a tray of drinks and said "Take these to table 9."

## Portrait of a Marine Legend

### Lt. General Lewis Burwell “Chesty” Puller

*Editor's note: The information in this article was researched from “FRA Today” the magazine of the Fleet Reserve Association.*



Almost everyone reading this newsletter has heard about the military career of “Chesty” Puller. His career has been reported, taught and scrutinized in minute detail. Guadalcanal, Peleliu, Chosin are all names that call to mind the grit and determination of the military man.

Less is known about the man behind the legend. His devotion to his family was as fierce as that to his Corps. He is reputed to have proposed to a teenaged girl on the night they met at a dance near West Point in 1926.

He regrouped, reorganized and wore her down until they were finally married in 1937. From then on, when ever possible his family followed his postings around the world. His career finally ended in 1955 after a series of strokes caused him to be retired from his Corps. He returned to his home town of Saluda, Va.



After his first child ( a daughter, Virginia) he and wife Virginia had twin children, daughter Martha Puller Downs and Lewis B. Puller, Jr. Jr. also became a decorated Marine Officer, being the more academic of the twins. Martha was the more athletic as well as the more rebellious twin. Both of the Puller (continued on page 8)



Did you know that as a veteran you can shop at online exchanges? **Your online shopping benefits include:**

- Tax-free shopping
- Military-exclusive pricing
- Members-only credit options
- Free shipping on orders over \$49 or more
- Free shipping on any amount when you use your MILITARY STAR™ Card.

To begin using your veteran's shopping privileges, go to one of the web sites below to get started. All require you register and verify your service status.

1. [www.shopmyexchange.com](http://www.shopmyexchange.com)

2. [www.mynavyexchange.com](http://www.mynavyexchange.com)

3. [www.mymcx.com](http://www.mymcx.com).

Once you have registered and been verified (very short process) you can log into several different online shopping platforms for everything from uniforms to electronics to, well, just about anything.

Thanks to **Ray Ko** for reminding us about this additional benefit to being a veteran. Ooh-rah!



**Puller** (Continued from page 6) daughters married Marines. I can only imagine the grit it took to date, let alone marry one of Chesty's daughters. Despite being away from home for long periods Puller's devotion to his family can be demonstrated by the following letter he sent to his son in the mid 50's while far away from home. *"My dear Big Man, I am very thankful that you are at home taking care of Mother, Virginia Mac., Martha Leigh, Grandmother and Nannie while I am away. You must always protect your Mother and Sisters from Danger and evil, regardless of the consequences and then you will be all man. I have not managed to get all the bad people here in the Brin yet but will return just as soon as I can. I miss you all terribly and I am sure that all your prayers have kept me safe."*

Puller's faith and resolve were tested in 1968 when Lewis, Jr. was catastrophically injured while leading his platoon against NVA troops. When his rifle jammed, he tripped a booby trapped artillery shell. He

lost his right leg at the hip, his left leg above the knee, his left hand and most of the fingers on his right in the blast. He lingered near death for days dropping to 55 pounds but he survived. He was awarded the Silver Star two purple hearts and several other medals. He regained his physical health and earned a law degree, had two children and raised his family. In 1991 he wrote his autobiography **"Fortunate Son: The Autobiography of Lewis B. Puller Jr."** He was awarded the 1992 Pulitzer Prize for Autobiography. Jr. had fought alcoholism for 25 years being sober for the final 12 but in 1994 he died from a self-inflicted gunshot. He was 48 years old.

Although Chesty ran his Marines, his wife ran the home. Virginia and Puller were not afraid to show affection to each other as well as their family. This, despite repeated absences while on deployments, helped them instill in the family Chesty's unshakable sense of duty in all aspects of life. The  
(continued on page 10)

## Marines at Rest

On the first Monday of each month (unless it is a holiday,) you can find a group of Marines at Rafferty's restaurant on Green River Road in Evansville. They share lunch, swap stories of the past and in general just enjoy the company of other Marines. There is an unspoken rule that we leave our ranks at the door. This is a good thing as we have everything from PFC to Colonel in the picture below. The gathering is open to all Marines,

regardless of age (or rank.) There are typically several conversations going on at the same time and you will find something to interest you here. If not, start your own line. Someone at the table will join you, I am certain. Our next gathering will be Monday, April 4th followed by Monday, May 2nd. Reservations not required but if you are interested, come join us at least once. **Once a Marine, always...**well, you know the drill. Semper Fi!



Beginning in lower right and going counter clockwise are Greg Combs, Jerry Smith, Dick Schuler, Larry Martin, Mike Mitchell, Bob Reutter, Tim Jones, Gary Burk, Roy McWilliams, Rick Wedel and Stan Rickard.

writer (Ann Norvell Gray) of the article I used for part of my research, tells of the funeral of a decorated Marine Officer (her cousin) who was killed in Vietnam. As the procession walked from the church to the cemetery a modest Marine detail was there. Among the group walking to the gravesite was a small man in a brown suit. It was Chesty Puller and Miss Virginia coming to pay their respect. It would never have occurred *not* to show up to pay his respects to a Marine.

One of our Marines (Mike Mitchell) had the opportunity to visit Puller at his modest home in Virginia. Mike tells about walking past a shadow box on the wall with Puller's medals and awards. He and a friend sat on the porch and shared a beer with a living legend.

When Lewis B. Puller died in 1971, after a lengthy illness, daughter Martha said "my mother said that he wasn't going to go to Arlington. He was going to be right there at Christ Church, our home parish in Saluda, VA." People who visit his



This is a feature I used to really enjoy in our newsletter. I want to bring it back but I need your help. If you have not already responded (or if you don't receive my emails) please send me your birthday so I can add you to this column. Email me at [rapid1@evansville.net](mailto:rapid1@evansville.net).

**Happy Birthday to:**

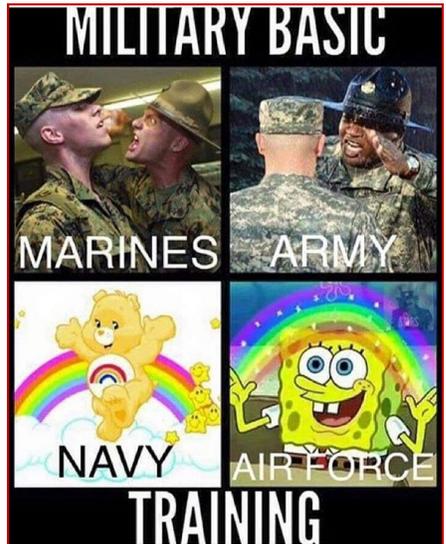
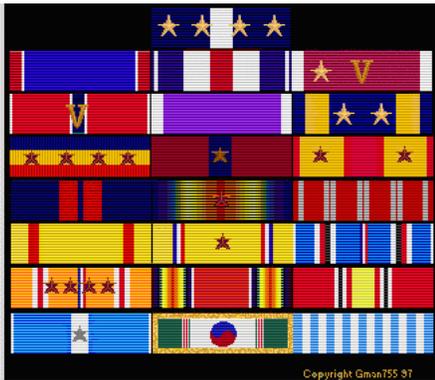
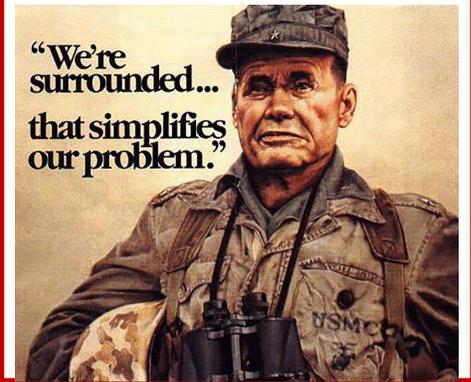
**Don Counts .....4/2**

**Tim Sherman .....4/18**



gravesite leave all kinds of things—rings, money, medals and other mementos.

Even now, 65 years after his retirement and 50 years after his death, with all the wars going on in the world and new generations of Marines being processed and upholding the legacy of Chesty, the Marines express their undying respect by saying “Good night, Chesty, where ever you are.”



### Evansville Vet Center

1100 N. Burkhardt Rd  
Evansville, IN 47715



[www.vetcenter.va.gov](http://www.vetcenter.va.gov)

812-473-5993

## River Cities Detachment—Ship's Store

***Editor's Note:*** All the items listed for sale in the River Cities Detachment 1090 Ship's Store (unless otherwise noted) are as is. The clothing has been donated by members who have grown (up or down) into a different size or by family members of Marines who have gone on. All items are on a first come, first served basis. If you want an item shipped to you, we will add the actual cost of postage to your item. All items may be picked up with no shipping or handling.

### Uniforms and Clothing

Dress Blue Trousers 34 waist	\$ 45.00
Dress Blue Trousers 38 waist	\$ 45.00
Dress Blue Trousers 40 waist	\$ 45.00
White L/S shirt with MCL patch & flag Size 18 1/2 X 34/35	\$ 15.00
White L/S shirt with MCL patch and Devil Dog patch Size 4X	\$ 25.00
Commandant Cover strip	\$ 8.00
Sgt at Arms Cover strip	\$ 8.00
MCL arm patch	\$ 4.00
 Sunburst collar emblem (pair)	\$ 12.00
Life Member Cover Strip	\$ 9.00
Life Cover Strip	\$ 4.00
Past Commandant Cover Strip	\$ 9.00
Jr Vice Cover Strip	\$ 9.00
Chaplain Cover Strip	\$ 5.00
MCL Cover Emblem	\$ 5.00
 MC Tie Bar	\$ 9.00
Black Tie	\$ 6.00
Ribbon Bar holders	
2,3,9,10,11,12,13,14,15,16,17,18	\$ ***
*** (Check with Tim Jones for cost)	
Marine Corps Belt Buckle for black leather belt.	\$ 18.00

### Military Order of Devil Dogs

Devil Dog Arm Patch	\$ 4.00
Devil Dog Cover Patch	\$ 4.00
Devil Dog Pup Collar (black)	\$ 5.00
Devil Dog DD Collar (Red)	\$ 5.00
Devil Dog PDD Collar (Gold)	\$ 5.00

### MCL Associates

MCL Associate Collar Emblem (pair)	\$12.00
Associate Cover Emblem	\$ 6.00

### New Linens

White table cloth 102x60"	\$ 10.00 ea.
White table cloth 90" round	\$ 10.00 ea.
Red Satin Table Runner 14x108"	\$ 5.00 ea.
Gold Satin Table Runner 14x108"	\$ 5.00 ea.
New 22" square Red Napkins	\$ 10.00 doz.
New 22" square Gold Napkins	\$ 10.00 doz.

### Miscellaneous Items (new)



Detachment Challenge Coin \$10.00 ea.



Min. K-bar letter opener  
Overall 7 1/2 " \$15.00 ea.



12 ounce stemless wine glasses set of 4 \$ 20.00



USMC Shot Glass \$10.00 ea.



Curved Glass Picture Frame \$ 15.00 ea.

**All items listed on the Detachment 1090 Ship's Store site are subject to prior sale. Limited Quantities on all items.**

**Ship's Store** (continued)

Crossed flag \$10.00 ea.  
tie pin/lapel/hat pin

**Miscellaneous Clothing**

George (brand) red polo w/1090 logo sz.52 \$10.00

L.L.Bean Polo with collar and 1090 logo \$10.00ea

Black size L/T

Black size L

Red size L

L.L.Bean Polo no collar with 1090 Logo \$10.00

Dark Red size L

Red size L

Navy Blue size L

**Commandant** (from page 1)

Bryant, as expected. Attending the audit and reviewing the information from the Paymaster were Commandant Johnson, Adjutant Jones, Chaplain Reutter, Junior Vice Burk and members Linda Reutter and Roy McWilliams.

Also note that with the time change in March, our uniform went back to the short sleeve shirts. Semper Fi.

**Marine Humor**

You can tell a lot about the branches of the service when you issue them an order to "secure the building."

Marines will attack the building until all resistance is neutralized.

Army will post guards around it until a ranking officer comes along.

Air Force will call their Congressman and try to buy the building.

Navy will turn off the lights, lock the doors and go out drinking.

**Information on Life Membership*****National Bylaws Article Six - Members,******Section 645 - Life Members:***

Any member of the Marine Corps League who is in good standing may become a Life Member, upon proper payment of the fee, as is required herein. A Life Member shall be subject to payment of no further dues of a Detachment, or National, such member shall have all the privileges, rights, and benefits enjoyed as a member so long as that Life Member shall live.

***Current Life Membership******Price Information***

*(As of January 2014)*

**Up to and including age 35 - \$500.**

**Age 36 up to and including age 50 - \$400.**

**Age 51 up to and including age 64 - \$300.**

**Age 65 and over - \$200.**

The cost of replacing a Life Membership Gold Card is \$10.00



# 2022 APR

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
 27	28	If you have anything you would like to submit for the M... Newsletter, the deadline for submission is April 22nd		
3 Marines with the 3rd Amphibious Corps continued to progress along their front on the Japanese island of Okinawa, clearing Zampa Misaki and seizing the Katchin Peninsula. This effectively cut the island in two, and was accomplished more than a week ahead of the schedule originally set by Marine Corps leaders. 1945		5 Breakfast at Libby's and Mom's—Everyone invited! Assemble after 0600 order at 0700	6 Stained Glass Sun Catchers Class led by Roy McWilliams. 1800 in Community Room on Gable Ave. The Villas at Theatre Commons	7
10 Lieutenant Colonel John H. Glenn, Jr. was named as one of the original seven Project Mercury astronauts selected for space training. Three years later, on 20 February 1962, Col Glenn would become the first American to orbit the Earth. 1959		12 Breakfast at Libby's and Mom's—Everyone invited! Assemble after 0600 order at 0700	 <b>M.O.D.D. 1830</b> <b>Reutter's</b>	14
 17	18	19 Breakfast at Libby's and Mom's—Everyone invited! Assemble after 0600 order at 0700	20	21
24	25 Future Medal of Honor recipient Merritt "Red Mike" Edson was born in Chester, Vermont. 1897	26 Breakfast at Libby's and Mom's—Everyone invited! Assemble after 0600 order at 0700	27 Detachment Meeting Funkhouser Post on New Harmony Road 1900 begins—come early to eat dinner from menu.	28

APRIL		
Thursday	Friday	Saturday
May d.	1	2
8		9 
15	House	16 <p>Marine Corps operational involvement in the Vietnam War began on Palm Sunday when HMM-362 with its Sikorsky UH-34s arrived at Soc Trang in the Delta south of Saigon. The task unit was called "Shufly" and its first operational employment involved lifting Vietnamese troops into battle. 1962</p>
22		23 <p>Marine airplanes made their first contact with enemy planes over North Korea. Captain Philip C. DeLong shot down two YAK fighters and 1st Lieutenant Harold D. Daigh destroyed one more and damaged another near Pyongyang. Both pilots were with VMF-312 flying from the <i>USS Bataan</i>. 1951</p>
29		30 <p>First Lieutenant Presley O'Bannon and seven other Marines, along with Greek and Arab forces, who were under the command of American Consul William Eaton raised the American flag over the fortress at Derne, a pirate stronghold in Tripoli. 1805</p>



Detachment  
Spring Gathering  
1200-1700

See info in this  
issue of the River  
Cities News.



# Support Our Sponsors -----



In memory of Detachment Members  
**2021**

**Keith Benedict**

**Joe Shimek**

**Jim Grayson**

**Gene Grigsby**

**Daniel Fuller**

**Brenda Bergwitz**

**Paula Landers**

**Richard VanGordon**

04/2022

Compliments of  
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Life Member

River Cities Detachment #1090

01/2023

Compliments of  
**Bob & Linda Reutter**

Life Members

River Cities Detachment #1090

06/2022

This space is seen by  
over 200 veterans every  
month. Your message  
should be here!

**For All Who Served  
With The 17th Rifle  
Company.....**



In fond memory of my  
life's love

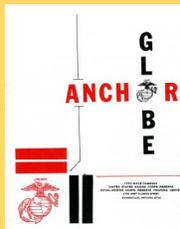
**Dorothy Lee "Dottie"**

**(McCord) Mills**

**1930-2020**



08/2022



**Semper  
Fi**

06/2023

**---They Help Make This Newsletter Possible**

**“Oorah”**

**Stan Rickard**

**Life Member**

**River Cities Detachment #1090** 05/2023



Compliments of **Casey Canfield**

**Life Member**

**River Cities Detachment #1090**

01/2023

**Semper Fi!**

**Mike Mitchell**

*Life Member*

*River Cities Detachment #1090*



06/2023

Compliments of **Joe & Kathy Filipczak**

*Life Member*

*River Cities Detachment #1090*

12/2022

In Memory Of  
**Marine Tommy Collins**



**Semper Fi**

*And All Deceased De-*

09/2022

Compliments of **Gary Burk, Life Member**

Optimist Club of  
Evansville Downtown

*Friend of Youth Since 1921*

07/2022

## Battle of Khe Sanh

researched by Bob Reutter

The Battle of the Khe Sanh was conducted from 21 January thru 9 July, 1968 in the Khe Sanh area of northwestern Quang Tri province. The main US forces defending Khe Sanh Combat Base (KSCB) were two regiments of Marines. They were supported by Army and Air Force elements as well as a small number of ARVN. The enemy consisted of 2 to 3 divisional sized elements of the North Vietnam People's Army of Vietnam or the (PAVN.)

The US Command in Saigon initially believed that combat operations around KSCB during 1967 were part of a series of minor PAVN offensives in the border regions. That appraisal was later altered when the PAVN was found to be moving major forces into the area. In response, US forces were built up before the PAVN isolated the Marine base. Once the base came under siege, a series of actions were fought over a period of five months. During this time, KSCB and the

hilltop outposts around it were subjected to constant PAVN artillery, mortar, and rocket attacks, and several infantry assaults. To support the Marine base, a massive aerial bombardment campaign (Operation Niagara) was launched by the USAF. Over 100,000 tons of bombs were dropped by US aircraft and over 158,000 artillery rounds were fired in defense of the base. Throughout the campaign, US forces used the latest technology to locate PAVN forces for targeting. Additionally, the logistical effort required to support the base once it was isolated demanded the implementation of other tactical innovations to keep the Marines supplied.

In March 1968, an overland relief expedition (Operation Pegasus) was launched by a combined Marine–Army/ARVN task force that eventually broke through to the Marines at Khe Sanh. American commanders considered the defense of Khe Sanh a success, but shortly af-

ter the siege was lifted, the decision was made to dismantle the base rather than risk similar battles in the future. On 19 June 1968, the evacuation and destruction of KSCB began. Amid heavy shelling, the Marines attempted to salvage what they could before destroying what remained as they were evacuated. Minor attacks continued before the base was officially closed on 5 July. Marines remained around Hill 689, though, and fighting in the vicinity continued until 11 July until they were finally withdrawn, bringing the battle to a close.

In the aftermath, the North Vietnamese proclaimed a victory at Khe Sanh, while US forces claimed that they had withdrawn, as the base was no longer required. Historians have observed that the Battle of Khe Sanh may have distracted American and South Vietnam-

ese attention from the buildup of Viet Cong (VC) forces in the south before the early 1968 Tet Offensive. Nevertheless, the US commander during the battle, General William Westmoreland, maintained that the true intention of Tet was to distract forces from Khe Sanh.

**Border Battles** During the second half of 1967, the North Vietnamese instigated a series of actions in the border regions of South Vietnam. All of the attacks were conducted by regimental-size PAVN/VC units, but unlike most of the previous usual hit-and-run tactics, they were sustained and bloody affairs.

In early October, the PAVN had intensified battalion-sized ground probes and sustained artillery fire against Con Thien, a hilltop stronghold in the center of the Marines' defensive line south of the DMZ, in northern Quảng Trị Province. Mortar rounds, artillery shells, and 122 mm rockets fell randomly but incessantly upon the base. The September bombardments ranged from 100 to 150 rounds per day, with a maximum on 25 September of 1,190 rounds.

Westmoreland responded by  
(Continued on page 22)



**David L. Jones**

Djones@joneswallace.com 20 N.W. Third St.  
Suite 400  
P.O. Box 1065  
Evansville, IN  
Telephone (812) 402-1600 47706-1065  
Facsimile (812) 402-7977

**JONES•WALLACE**  
ELEVATING LAW



01/2023

***In Recognition of Seven  
Family Members who  
have or are now serving  
in the United States  
Marine Corps.***

**Compliments of  
Carolyn and Roy  
McWilliams**



**Semper Fi, Marines**

04/2022

**River Cities Detachment 1090 Officers**

<b><u>Office</u></b>	<b><u>Name</u></b>	<b><u>Email Address</u></b>	<b><u>Telephone</u></b>
<b><u>Commandant</u></b>	James Johnson	<a href="mailto:devildogjd2@aol.com">devildogjd2@aol.com</a>	812-431-2451
<b><u>Sr. Vice</u></b>	Gary Burk	<a href="mailto:gaburk05@gmail.com">gaburk05@gmail.com</a>	812-499-3045
<b><u>Jr. Vice</u></b>	Melissa West	<a href="mailto:melissa_gill21@yahoo.com">melissa_gill21@yahoo.com</a>	812-589-8992
<b><u>Jr. Past Comdt.</u></b>	Bob Reutter	<a href="mailto:rapid1@evansville.net">rapid1@evansville.net</a>	270-314-9484
<b><u>Adjutant</u></b>	Tim Jones	<a href="mailto:tsjones@wowway.com">tsjones@wowway.com</a>	812-454-8717
<b><u>Paymaster</u></b>	John Bryant	<a href="mailto:akajb1@gmail.com">akajb1@gmail.com</a>	775-287-1876
<b><u>Judge Advocate</u></b>	T.C. Shane Jr.	<a href="mailto:tcshane2@gmail.com">tcshane2@gmail.com</a>	812-568-0912
<b><u>Chaplain</u></b>	Bob Reutter	<a href="mailto:rapid1@evansville.net">rapid1@evansville.net</a>	270-314-9484
<b><u>Sgt. at Arms</u></b>	Tom Kremer	<a href="mailto:conniekremer@hotmail.com">conniekremer@hotmail.com</a>	812-479-3388
<b><u>Newsletter Editor</u></b>	Bob Reutter	<a href="mailto:rapid1@evansville.net">rapid1@evansville.net</a>	270-314-9484
<b><u>Web Sgt.</u></b>	Tim Jones	<a href="mailto:tsjones@wowway.com">tsjones@wowway.com</a>	812-454-8717

Should you need to contact any of the officers listed above understand that these are personal telephone numbers and if your number is not known to them, you may need to leave a voice mail in order to get a response.

**We have space available in our ad pages.**

**Advertisements are available at the following rates.**

Business Card Size....\$15.00 for 6 months  
 1/4 page ..... \$25.00 for 6 months  
 1/2 page .....\$50.00 for 6 months  
 Full page .....\$100.00 for 6 months  
 The editor has the right to reject an ad that is not appropriate  
 such as loan companies, adult entertainment, etc.

**Booster Member Expires**

- Tom & Alice Kick.....May-2022
- Gary Burk.....May-2022
- Ned E & Rose Wellmeier.....July-2022
- Dannie & Debbie Russell.....July-2022
- Jim and Christie Johnson.....Aug 2022
- Roy & Carolyn McWilliams.....Aug-2022
- Bob & Linda Reutter.....Aug-2022
- Dorothy Odom.....Sep-2022
- Chris Boyd.....Oct-2022
- Judy & John Bryant .....Nov-2022
- Joe & Kathy Filipczak.....Dec-2022
- David Jones.....Jan-2023
- Casey Canfield.....Feb-2023
- Gary & Cynthia Cullison .....Aug 2023

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**Khe Sanh** (from page 19) launching Operation Neutralize, an aerial and naval bombardment campaign designed to break the siege. For seven weeks, American aircraft dropped from 35,000 to 40,000 tons of bombs in nearly 4,000 airstrikes. On 27 October, a PAVN regiment attacked an Army of the Republic of Vietnam (ARVN) battalion at Song Be, capital of Phước Long Province. The PAVN fought for several days, took casualties, and fell back. Two days later, the PAVN 273rd Regiment attacked a Special Forces camp near the border town of Loc Ninh, in Bình Long Province. Troops of the US 1st Infantry Division were able to respond quickly. After a ten-day battle, the attackers were pushed back into Cambodia. At least 852 PAVN soldiers were killed during the action, as opposed to 50 American and South Vietnamese.

The heaviest action took place near Dak To, in the Central Highlands province of Kon Tum. The presence of the PAVN 1st Division prompted a 22-day battle there and had some of the most intense close-quarters fighting of the entire

(continued on page 25)



### Woof Woof Devil Dogs

April is the time for another Growl of Enough Said, Pound 294. It is also time for more practice for our rifle Honor Detail. Since it is not too good to hold practice at Funkhouser, we will move our Growl to my house. If you would like to enjoy dinner with us, bring your drinks and \$7.00. We will have slice pork BBQ, buns, baked beans and macaroni salad. Dinner will start at 1800. We will then practice our rifle detail several times. As with any physical activity, the more we practice, the bet-

ter we will become. I hope we will be asked to attend graveside services at most Marine funerals in our area in the near future. As we have been having a reasonable number of Marines firing, we are asking all our local funeral homes to call us for every Marine they handle. After practice we will have our regular agenda for a Growl. I have prepared another quiz to test your Marine merit. <groan> As always there will be **outstanding** (cheap) prizes for the winner.

I would ask every Pup, Devil Dog and Pedigree to put on your thinking covers and have suggestions for things you would like to see us do at future Growls. We are the 'Fun and Honor' Society of the Marine Corps League, after all.

Remember that after being a Detachment member for 12 months, we can invite Marines to join our Pound. With six Dogs present at the Spring Conference, I believe we were the leading Pound at the State Growl. Woof, see you on the 13th. ***Pound Keeper Reutter***

*The River Cities News is the place to get all the information about what is going on in the Detachment. We need you to be an active part in your MCL.*



**IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT**

National changed the due date, so that everyone is paying dues at the same time.

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**Matanikau** (from page 3) Sumiyoshi's forces, including two battalions of the 4th Infantry Regiment under Colonel Nomasu Nakaguma, launched attacks on the U.S. Marine defenses at the mouth of the Matanikau on the evening of 23 October. U.S. Marine artillery, cannon, and small arms fire repulsed the assaults and killed many of the attacking Japanese soldiers while suffering only light casualties themselves.

Beginning on 24 October and continuing over two consecutive nights, Maruyama's forces conducted numerous, unsuccessful frontal assaults on the southern portion of the U.S. Lunga perimeter. More than 1,500 of Maruyama's troops were killed in the attacks while the Americans lost about 60 killed.

Further Japanese attacks near the Matanikau on 26 October by Oka's 124th Infantry Regiment were also repulsed with heavy losses for the Japanese. Thus, at 08:00 on 26 October, Hyakutake called off any further attacks and ordered his forces to retreat. About half of Maruyama's survivors were ordered to retreat back to the area west of the Matanikau River while the rest, the 230th Infantry Regiment under Colo-



Colonel Merritt Edson (left) near the mouth of the Matanikau a few days before the November offensive.

nel Toshinari Shoji, was told to head for Koli Point, east of the Lunga perimeter. The 4th Infantry Regiment retreated back to positions west of the Matanikau and around the Point Cruz area while the 124th Infantry Regiment took up positions on the slopes of Mount Austen in the upper Matanikau Valley.

In order to exploit the recent victory Vandegrift planned another offensive west of the Matanikau which would have two objectives: to drive the Japanese beyond artillery range of Henderson Field and to cut off the retreat of Maruyama's men towards the village of Kokumbona, location of the 17th Army's headquarters. For the offensive, Vandegrift committed the three

battalions of the 5th Marine Regiment, commanded by Colonel Merritt Edson, plus the augmented 3d Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment (called the Whaling Group) commanded by Colonel William Whaling. Two battalions of the 2nd Marine Regiment would be in reserve. The offensive was supported by artillery from the 11th Marine Regiment and the 164th Infantry Regiment, CAF aircraft, and gunfire from U.S. Navy warships. Edson was placed in tactical command of the operation.

Defending the Matanikau area for the Japanese were the 4th and 124th Infantry Regiments. Nakaguma's 4th Infantry defended the Matanikau from the shore to about 1,000 yards (914 m) inland while Oka's 124th Infantry extended the line further inland along the river. Both regiments, which on paper consisted of six battalions, were severely understrength because of battle damage, tropical disease, and malnutrition. In fact, Oka described his command as at only "half strength." *(This is the end of part two. The conclusion will be in the May Newsletter)*



**Khe Sanh** (From page 22) conflict. US intelligence estimated between 1,200 and 1,600 PAVN troops were killed, and 362 members of the US 4th Infantry Division, the 173rd Airborne Brigade, and ARVN Airborne elements were killed in action, but three of the four battalions of the 4th Infantry and the entire 173rd were rendered combat-ineffective during the battle.

American intelligence analysts were quite baffled by the series of enemy actions. No logic was apparent to them behind the sustained PAVN/VC offensives other than to inflict casualties on the allied forces. That was accomplished, but the casualties absorbed by the North Vietnamese seemed to negate any direct gains they might have obtained. The border battles, however, had two significant consequences, which were unappreciated at the time. They fixed the attention of the American command on the border regions, and they drew American and ARVN forces away from the coastal lowlands and cities in preparation for the Tet Offensive.

*Editor's Note: this is the end of part one. Part two will be in the May issue.*

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