



# River Cities News

River Cities Detachment #1090  
Marine Corps League, Inc.  
Evansville, Indiana

Volume 15, Issue 8

August 2018

## Commandant's Corner

**Bob Reutter, Commandant**

A large part of what makes Marines different is our knowledge of our history and traditions. One of those traditions is our excellence in amphibious landings. Did you know that we started that tradition just weeks after the formation of the Corps? In March



of 1776 the Continental Marines successfully executed their first amphibious landing on a hostile shore. The British had been storing supplies of gunpowder at Fort Nassau in the Bahamas for use in battle against the 13 colonies. Captain Samuel Nicholas and 234 Marines sailed with the Navy on a mission to capture the supply. Within minutes of the Marines arriving, the British troops had surrendered. In addition to the gunpowder, Captain Nicholas and his Marines had captured cannons and other military stores. This first battle and success paved the way for greater operations and successes to come.

Operations like Fort Nassau have shown throughout history what a group of dedicated, trained Marines can do. Our Detachment Marines have the opportunity to show that trait again in August. Our annual Rib and Butt sale is coming up at the end of August (culminating in the cook on Friday night and Saturday morning Aug. 31<sup>st</sup> and September 1<sup>st</sup>). Our annual Labor Day Weekend cook is an opportunity to help with the expenses of the Birthday Ball. If each member of our detachment would buy one butt or slab of ribs and sell one to a friend or relative, we could make \$2,000 for the Ball. Last year we sold 149 pieces. Sounds decent except for the fact that only 4 Detachment members sold 140 of those pieces. Time to remind everyone that one of the mottos of the Corps is Gung Ho! This is Chinese for working

together. Working together is what makes Marines great. Time to show what you are made of.

On Friday evening, July 20<sup>th</sup> we did a funeral home service for a Viet Nam era Marine. I was reminded once again how much these services mean to the families of Marines. As I was doing our talk about why we were here and what it means to be a Marine, I noticed many of the people in the congregation nodding or smiling as I talked about Marines. While the friends and relatives of the deceased Marine may have heard him talk about being in the Corps, hearing a stranger talk about the lifelong commitment and family component of being a Marine has a way of letting them know their loved one had support during his/her time in the Corps. Thanks to Art, Barbara, Joe and TC for joining me for the service.

I saw once again that every interaction in life has the opportunity to be a recruiting moment last week. I received a gift from my wife for our 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary – yes I am old(er) – a beautiful ring with a carved EGA, Sgt. chevrons on one side and USMC on the other. It was delivered by a US Postal Service worker who saw my Marine flag on the pole in the yard and said he was also a Marine. He was a Desert Shield vet as well as a couple of later campaigns. I opened the box to show him what he had delivered and then talked about the League and gave him a brochure and my card. Never pass up the opportunity to recruit. These young (and not so young) Marines are the future of the River Cities Detachment.



Semper Fi, Gung Ho! and have a great August.

### Detachment Officers

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Paula Landers

Jr. Past Commandant  
Tim Jones (812) 454-8717

Chaplain  
Barbara Kortz (812)550-0552

## Marines in the News

Bob Reutter

### The Battle for Guadalcanal

*Note: Guadalcanal is another of the pivotal battles in Marine History. This is the first installment of a 4 part series for our newsletter. Bob*

In preparation for the offensive in the Pacific in May 1942, U.S. Marine Major General Alexander Vandegrift was ordered to move his 1st Marine Division from the United States to New Zealand. Other Allied land, naval and air force units were sent to establish or reinforce bases in Fiji, Samoa, New Hebrides and New Caledonia.

Espiritu Santo, New Hebrides, was selected as the headquarters and the main base for the offensive, codenamed *Operation Watchtower*, with the commencement date set for 7 August 1942. At first, the Allied offensive was planned just for Tulagi and the Santa Cruz Islands, omitting Guadalcanal. After Allied reconnaissance discovered the Japanese airfield construction efforts on Guadalcanal, its capture was added to the plan and the Santa Cruz operation was (eventually) dropped. The Japanese were aware, via signals intelligence, of the large-scale movement of Allied forces in the South Pacific area but concluded that the Allies were reinforcing Australia and perhaps Port Moresby in New Guinea.

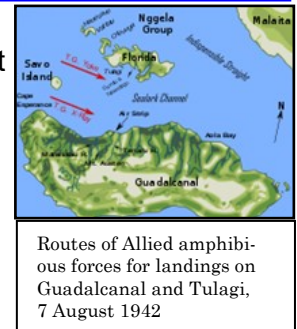
The *Watchtower* force, numbering 75 warships and transports (of vessels from the U.S. and Australia), assembled near Fiji on 26 July 1942 and engaged in one rehearsal landing prior to leaving for Guadalcanal on 31 July. The commander of the Allied expeditionary force was U.S. Vice Admiral Frank Fletcher (whose flag was on the aircraft carrier *USS Saratoga*). Commanding the amphibious forces was U.S. Rear Admiral Richmond K. Turner. Vandegrift led the 16,000 Allied (primarily U.S. Marine) infantry earmarked for the landings.

The troops sent to Guadalcanal were fresh from military training and armed with bolt-action M1903 Springfield rifles and a meager 10-day supply of ammunition. Because of the need to get them into battle quickly, the operation planners had reduced their supplies from 90 days to only 60. The men of the 1st Marine Division began referring to the coming battle as "Operation Shoestring".

#### Landings

Bad weather allowed the Allied expeditionary force to arrive unseen by the Japanese on the night of 6 August and the morning of 7 August, taking the defenders by surprise. This is sometimes called the

"Midnight Raid on Guadalcanal". A Japanese patrol aircraft from Tulagi had searched the general area the Allied invasion fleet was moving through, but missed seeing the Allied ships due to severe storms and heavy clouds. The landing force split into two groups, with one group assaulting Guadalcanal, and the other Tulagi, Florida, and nearby islands. Allied warships bombarded the invasion beaches while U.S. carrier aircraft bombed Japanese positions on the target islands and destroyed 15 Japanese seaplanes at their base near Tulagi.



Routes of Allied amphibious forces for landings on Guadalcanal and Tulagi, 7 August 1942

Tulagi and two nearby small islands, Gavutu and Tanambogo, were assaulted by 3,000 U.S. Marines. The 886 IJN personnel manning the naval and seaplane bases on the three islands fiercely resisted the Marine attacks. With some difficulty, the Marines secured all three islands; Tulagi on 8 August, and Gavutu and Tanambogo by 9 August. The Japanese defenders were killed almost to the last man, while the Marines suffered 122 killed.



U.S. Marines disembark from LCP(L)s onto Guadalcanal on 7 August 1942.

In contrast to Tulagi, Gavutu, and Tanambogo, the landings on Guadalcanal encountered much less resistance. At 09:10 on 7 August, Vandegrift and 11,000 U.S. Marines came ashore on Guadalcanal between Koli Point and Lunga Point. Advancing towards Lunga Point, they encountered little resistance and secured the airfield by 16:00 on 8 August. The Japanese naval construction units and combat troops, under the command of Captain Kanae Monzen, panicked by the warship bombardment and aerial bombing, had abandoned the airfield area and fled about 3 miles (4.8 km) west to the Matanikau River and Point Cruz area, leaving behind food, supplies, intact construction equipment and vehicles, and 13 dead.

During the landing operations on 7 and 8 August, Japanese naval aircraft based at Rabaul, under the command of Sadayoshi Yamada, attacked the Allied amphibious forces several times, setting afire the transport *USS George F. Elliot* (which sank two

continued on pg 3

## Marines in the News continued from pg 3

days later) and heavily damaging the destroyer USS *Jarvis*. In the air attacks over the two days, the Japanese lost 36 aircraft, while the U.S. lost 19, both in combat and to accidents, including 14 carrier fighters.

After these clashes, Fletcher was concerned about the losses to his carrier fighter aircraft strength, anxious about the threat to his carriers from further Japanese air attacks, and worried about his ships' fuel levels. Fletcher withdrew from the Solomon Islands area

with his carrier task forces the evening of 8 August. As a result of the loss of carrier-based air cover, Turner decided to withdraw his ships from Guadalcanal, even though less than half of the supplies and heavy equipment needed by the troops ashore had been unloaded. Turner planned, however, to unload as many supplies as possible on Guadalcanal and Tulagi throughout the night of 8 August and then depart with his ships early on 9 August. (**Next Month: Initial Ground Operations**)

## Marine Corps History

Gary Burk

*The following is an excerpt from "The Battle History of the U.S. Marines"*

### GULF WAR/DESERT STORM (continued)

Ingraham's situation was critical. The Iraqis would surely discover his bypassed outpost. He deployed his troops in firing positions, rigged Claymore mines in the stairwells, and unrolled a large orange panel to alert Allied aircraft that they were "friendlies" on the rooftop. Peeking into the building's courtyard, Ingram could see the helmeted heads of the Iraqi troops searching the floors below. The Marines hunkered down, sweating out a nerve-wracking twenty-four hours.

Khafji lay in the Arab sector. As keenly as the Marines wanted to move in and rescue their stranded recon teams, they could only offer assistance and wait for Saudi and Qatari mechanized forces to counterattack.

The Arab task force met stiff resistance from Iraqis as they tried to recapture Khafji. Corporal Ingraham made the difference. From his rooftop perch, Ingraham called in air and artillery strikes with masterful precision, some rounds impacting so close that one of his men went down with a shrapnel wound.

Then, as the Arabs forced into town and the fighting became localized, Ingraham took advantage of the confusion and led his teams through back streets toward the Allied lines, rifle in one hand, radio in the other, orange air panel in his teeth, furling out behind. Made it.

The Allied recapture of Khafji revealed in advance two key aspects of the ground war would soon follow. The Iraqis, for all their vaulted experience and weaponry, were unmotivated and ineffective fighters. And the Marines had junior leaders in their enlisted ranks like Ingraham who, despite their lack of combat experience, were well trained, cool-headed, and lethal. After Khafji, the uneven battles that ensued in later February should have come as no surprise.

Marine pilots had a turkey shoot against the armored columns of the Iraqi 5<sup>th</sup> Mechanized Division trying to reinforce their toehold in Khafji. In one incident reported by Captain Padilla, a Marine Fast FAC with night-vision goggles found and marked an advancing column, and "a sec-

tion of A-6Es laid a string of Rockeye antiarmor submunitions across the column, stopping it dead in its tracks."

When the air war erupted, Iraqis artillery began shelling Marine positions in northern Saudi Arabia. The fire was not particularly accurate, but the incoming explosives were powerful enough to get everyone's attention.

Most nerve-racking were the 300mm rockets, the equivalent in caliber of the twelve-inch naval rifles of Japanese battleships in the Solomons. "A 300mm rocket makes a crater twelve feet in diameter and three feet deep," said Major Craig Huddleston. "They have a spectacular signature at night, both during launch and impact. The launcher can displace in seconds after launch. We've had trouble killing them."

(to be continued)

### Dates to Remember:

#### AUGUST:

- 2 -- Persian Gulf War Began
- 3 – Congress Designate June 14, as Flag Day, 1949
- 4 – The United States purchased the Virgin Islands, 1918
- 5 – The Statue of Liberty cornerstone was laid, 1884
- 6 -- The United States dropped an Atomic Bomb on Hiroshima, Japan, 1945
- 7 -- United States troops landed on Guadalcanal during WWII, 1942
- 7 -- United States troops sent to the Persian Gulf, 1990
- 8 -- United States forces invaded Guadalcanal during WWII, 1942
- 9 -- The United States dropped an Atomic bomb on Nagasaki, Japan, 1945
- 9 -- Japan surrendered to the United States, ending WWII in the Pacific, 1945
- 20 -- The United States Marines landed in Beirut, 1982

# 14th Annual Bar-B-Que Fundraiser

We will be taking orders until Wednesday, August 22, 2018. All orders and money must be turned in prior to our Detachment Meeting that evening. Orders may be picked up between 2 pm and 4 pm on Saturday, September 1, 2018 at J.D. Byrider, 2116 N. First Avenue, Evansville, IN

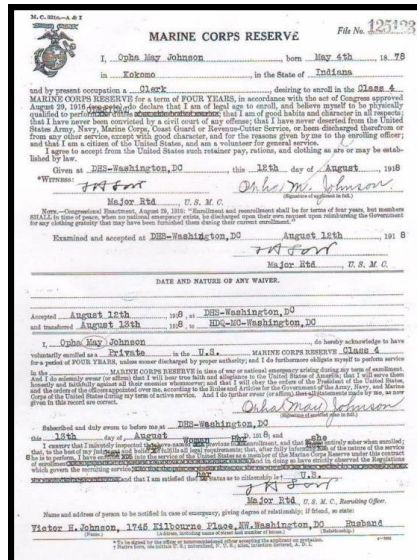
If you would like to take orders, please send an e-mail to MCLRIVERCITIES@GMAIL.COM requesting an order form. You may also go to the detachment web site [www.mclrivercities.org](http://www.mclrivercities.org) to download an order form or to take orders.

<b>Bar-B-Que Fundraiser Order Form</b>	
<p><b>NAME:</b> _____</p> <p><b>PHONE:</b> _____</p> <p><b>Ribs: # ordered</b> _____ <b>x \$20.00 = \$</b> _____</p> <p><b>Butts: # ordered</b> _____ <b>x \$25.00 = \$</b> _____</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>Total \$</b> _____</p>	<p><b>Make Checks to: River Cities Det 1090</b></p> <p><b>Mail to:</b> <i>Don Landers, Sr.</i> 807 Frank Avenue Evansville, IN 47712</p>

## Member's Corner

Submitted by Barbara Kortz

Opha May Johnson was the first women to enlist in the Marine Corps(Reserves). Being the first in line on Aug. 13, 1918 at the Washington D.C. recruiting station she was able sign that dotted line before any other women to become a Marine. Opha May Johnson, a married women was originally from Kokomo, IN. became the first women enlisted in the USMC. At the time of her enlistment she had been working as a civil service employee at Headquarters Marine Corps in Washington D.C. Now, Pvt. Johnson would continue to serve the Marine Corps in Washington D.C. in the office of the Quartermaster General of the Marine Corps.



On Aug. 29, 2018(one hundred years later) WMA will officially unveil the Opha May Johnson Memorial at St. Paul's Creek Cemetery. It is a grayish granite stone telling her story. This will take place during the WMA 30th Biennial Convention. I will have the honor of being at the ceremony.

### Marine Qualified for Space Flight

LtCol Nicole Aunapu Mann was selected by NASA in June 2013. She holds a Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering and a Master of Science in Mechanical Engineering with a specialty in Fluid Mechanics. A Naval aviator Nicole was commissioned a 2nd Lt. 1999 and reported for flight training in 2001 in Pensacola. Earning her wings in 2003, she deployed twice aboard aircraft carriers in support of combat operations in Iraq and Afghanistan. She currently serves as the Assistant to the Chief for Exploration. Ooh-Rah. (This article copied from WMA'nouncements)

Semper Fi

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## River Cities Detachment #1090, Marine of the Year Nominations

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### GENERAL INFORMATION:

The Marine of the Year award shall be presented to a regular member of the Detachment who has rendered service(s) and performed deed(s) **above** and **beyond** the duties and obligations required of a member of the River Cities Detachment. Nominations for the Marine of the Year shall be considered and selected by the current members of the Detachment Marine of the Year Society. The Marine of the Year Society shall be comprised of all recipients of the Detachment Marine of the Year Award in good standing with the Marine Corps League. The Society is charged with receiving and reviewing nominations for the Detachment Marine of the Year. The President of the Society will name their selection at the Marine Corps Ball in November. Each recipient of the Marine of the Year Award shall serve as President of the Society for the following year. The Society shall have no less than five members present to deliberate the selection.

- (1) Nominations for this award will be accepted from **any member** in good standing of the Detachment.
- (2) Each nomination shall have a brief sketch of the person being nominated as well as a written summery stating why this nominee should be the Marine of the Year. The nominee must also be a member in good standing. The President of the Society shall announce the recipient of the Marine of the Year Award at the Marine Corps Ball in November.
- (3) Nominations will be addressed to River Cities Detachment #1090, ATTN: Marine of the Year Society, P. O. Box 6581, Evansville, IN 47719-0581 and **mailed postmarked or hand delivered no later than October 1, 2018. Nominations received after that date will not be considered.** All letters should be in a sealed envelope and will remain sealed until the Society meets to make the selection. The society will convene on a date determined by the President of the Society in the month of October.

### CRITERIA:

*There are no minimum criteria to be eligible for this award, but consideration will be given to members who have demonstrated contributions in the following areas:*

**Commitment:** This is defined as a member's participation in Detachment affairs, such as attendance at monthly meetings, working on committees and projects, taking a leadership role in detachment affairs and functions, supporting the various MCL programs sponsored by the Detachment. Also considered is the commitment to perpetuate membership through recruiting and retention efforts.

**Service:** This is defined as a member's participation in the community, which provides help and relief to underprivileged and reflect positively the Marine Corps League and on the nominee's character. Also, contributing to patriotic programs, which espouse good citizenship and strong moral values. (i.e.—volunteer work in the community, as well as service to church and similar activities.)

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# *Marine of the Year Nomination Form*

**Nominee:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Person Nominating:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Commitment:** (Indicate here MCL activities in which the nominee has contributed)

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Service in the Community:** (Community Activities— Organizations supported)

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Personal Statement of Recommendation:** (You may attach a letter if you wish.)

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Signature of person making the nomination: \_\_\_\_\_

Mail to: River Cities Detachment #1090  
Attn: Marine of the Year Society  
P. O. Box 6851  
Evansville, IN 47719-0851

**NOMINATIONS MUST POSTMARKED OR HAND DELIVERED**  
**NO LATER THAN OCTOBER 1, 2018**



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*IAFF Local 357 and FOP Lodge 73  
proudly support our veterans*

*IAFF Local 357 and FOP Lodge 73 --  
Serving those who have served our nation*

*Your Local Firefighters and Law Enforcement Officer  
are proud to support the River Cities Detachment*

*Semper Fidelis from the members of  
IAFF Local 357 and FOP Lodge 73*

01/2019

*Compliments of  
Joe and Kathy Filipzcak*

*Life Member*

*River Cities Detachment #1090*

07/2018

*Compliments of  
Gary Burk, Life Member*  
**OPTIMIST CLUB OF EVANSVILLE  
DOWNTOWN**  
*Friend of Youth Since 1921*

07/2019

***Marine Corps League***



*Compliments of  
Richard Schuler  
Life Member*

*River Cities Detachment #1090*

*In Memory of  
Marine Tommy Collins  
And Deceased  
Detachment Members*



08/2018



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In memory of Detachment #1090 members who have gone on to guard the streets of Heaven.

**2018**  
 Larry Scott



04/2021

***Compliments of  
Casey Canfield***

*Life Member  
River Cities Detachment #1090*

07/2019

***Compliments of  
Bob and Linda Reutter***

*Life Members  
River Cities Detachment #1090*

06/2021

IF YOU EVER BEEN HIT IN  
 THE NOSE BY ONE OF THESE



YOU ARE A US MARINE

***PLACE YOUR AD HERE***

**Compliments of the  
Marine Corps League Auxiliary**



**Southern Belles Unit 441**

12/2018



**Fraternal Order  
of Police**  
 STATE LODGE OF INDIANA

**MICHAEL SIDES**  
 SOUTHWEST DISTRICT TRUSTEE

E-mail: [msides@fop.net](mailto:msides@fop.net)

07/2019

River Cities Detachment 1090  
 Marine Corps League Inc.  
 P. O. Box 6581  
 Evansville, IN 47719-0581

www.mclrivercities.org  
 mclrivercities@gmail.com

Once a Marine, Always a Marine



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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

**IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT**

Thursday August 9th  
 Golf Scramble

***We still need teams and sponsors***

Register online at:

***mclrivercities.org/golf***  
***or contact Kyle Swain***  
***(812) 550-5560***

**Cambridge Golf Course**  
**1034 Beacon Hill**  
**EVANSVILLE, in 47725**  
**6:30 a.m. - Team Check-in**  
**7:30 a.m. - Shotgun Start**  
**12:30 p.m. - Lunch Buffet**

«AddressBlock»

**Semper Fi**

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Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2 MCLA Southern Belles VA Clinic 8 a.m. - 11 a.m.	3	4
5	6	7 Det. 1090 Breakfast Libby's and Mom's Cafe 0800	8	9 10th Annual Golf Scramble Cambridge Golf Course Registration 0630	10	11
12	13 MODD Growl Olive Garden 1830	14 Det. 1090 Breakfast Libby's and Mom's Cafe 0800	15	16	17	18
19	20	21 Det. 1090 Breakfast Libby's and Mom's Cafe 0800	22 MCL River Cities Det. #1090 VFW 1114 1900	23 24 25 Harbor Freight Food Booth Fundraiser Contact Bob Reutter <b>VOLUNTEERS NEEDED</b>		
26 Harbor Freight Fundrasier	27 MCLA Southern Belles Unit #441 AmVets 84 6:30 p.m.	28 Det. 1090 Breakfast Libby's and Mom's Cafe 0800	29	30	31	