



River Cities News

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

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Commandant's Corner

Bob Reutter, Commandant



The Downtown Evansville was held on Sunday, November 18th, 2018. Once again, the River Cities Detachment 1090 held the first two spots in the parade. Our Color Guard was the first element in the parade with our Toys for Tots float being the second. Looking at the picture to the left you will immediately notice the lack of a Marine Corps Flag in our Color Guard.

This is due to the fact that out of 93 members of our Detachment we could not find a fourth able bodied member to carry the Corps standard in the parade. Very sad.

Our float was again joined by a group of young people from our volunteers for Toys for Tots. Among these were 5 members of the Eyewitness News Team channels 7 and 25, employees of comScore in Evansville, a young Marine firefighter and his family and others who



helped pass out small toys to the children along the way. Several Detachment members and their families either walked the 1.3 mile parade route passing out toys or rode on the float.



Many of those who rode on the float also helped



keep the toy bags full for the walkers. The weather was nice for a parade and everyone present enjoyed themselves. This is the fifth year for our Toys for Tots float and perhaps it is time to entertain suggestions for a replacement theme.

We finished registration for individual families for Toys for Tots on Saturday prior to the parade. We have almost 300 toy collection boxes out in our community. Thanks to the Marines who helped distribute those boxes. Our work day on November 17th was well attended and all those who participated enjoyed a very good lunch provided by Mission BBQ. Prior to sitting down to enjoy the food, we opened 10 pallets of Lego Toys, counted, sorted and distributed them to the toy tables. While this was going on, the registration crew got 150 families registered in one day and the float crew assembled the pieces of the float so that it once again looked good during the parade. Giant thanks to all who participated.

We have nearly come to the end of another year. We have nominations for our Detachment officers in a few months. It is time for some new leadership to step up to take our Detachment into the future. Start thinking about what **you** can do and who you see as potential leaders for the River Cities Detachment.

Semper Fi.

Detachment Officers

Commandant
Bob Reutter (270) 314-9484

Sr. Vice Commandant
Jim Grayson

Jr. Vice Commandant
Joe Filipczak

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

Paymaster
Don Landers Sr. (812) 483-3014

Adjutant
Kyle Swain (812) 550-5560

Judge Advocate
T C Shane

Chaplain
Barbara Kortz (812)550-0552

Sgt At Arms
Jack Kincaide

Newsletter Editor
Paula Landers

Web Sergeant
Paula Landers

The Battle of the Chosin Reservoir

Researched By Bob Reutter

The Battle of the Chosin Reservoir 27 November – 13 December 1950

This is the first installment of a 4 part series on one of the signature battles of Marine Corps history and legend. Not only is it an important battle in Marine history, we are fortunate enough to have one of our Marines who was in the middle of the campaign. John Mills is one of the 'Chosin Few' who endured and persevered during this incredibly difficult time.

Background:

Chosin Reservoir is a man-made lake located in the northeast of the Korean peninsula. The name Chosin is the Japanese pronunciation of the Korean place name Changjin, and the name stuck due to the outdated Japanese maps used by UN forces. The battle's main focus was around the 78-mile (126 km) long road that connects Hungnam and Chosin Reservoir, which served as the only retreat route for the UN forces. Through these roads, Yudami-ni and Sinhung-ni, located at the west and east side of the reservoir respectively, are connected at Hagaru-ri (now Changjin-ŭp.) From there, the road passes through Koto-ri and eventually leads to the port of Hungnam. The area around the Chosin Reservoir was sparsely populated. The battle was fought over some of the roughest terrain during some of the harshest winter weather conditions of the Korean War. The road was created by cutting through the hilly terrain of Korea, with steep climbs and drops. Dominant peaks, such as the Funchilin Pass and the Toktong Pass, overlook the entire length of the road. The road's quality was poor, and in some places it was reduced to a one lane gravel trail. On 14 November 1950, a cold front from Siberia descended over the Chosin Reservoir, and the temperature plunged to as low as -35°F (-37°C). The cold weather was accompanied by frozen ground, creating considerable danger of frostbite casualties, icy roads, and weapon malfunctions. Medical supplies froze; morphine syrettes had to be defrosted in a medic's mouth before they could be injected; frozen blood plasma was useless on the battlefield. Even cutting off clothing to deal with a wound risked gangrene and frostbite. Batteries used for the Jeeps and radios did not function properly in the temperature and quickly ran down.^[15] The lubrication in the guns gelled and rendered them useless in battle. Likewise, the springs on the firing pins would not strike hard enough to fire the round, or would jam.

By mid-October 1950, after the successful landing at Inchon by the US X Corps and the subsequent de-

struction of the Korean People's Army, the Korean War appeared to be all but over. United Nations (UN) forces advanced rapidly into North Korea with the intention of reuniting North and South Korea before the end of 1950. North Korea is divided through the center by the impassable Taebaek Mountains, which separated the UN forces into two groups. The US Eighth Army advanced north through the western coast of the Korean Peninsula, while the Republic of Korea (ROK) I Corps and the US X Corps advanced north on the eastern coast.

At the same time the People's Republic of China entered the conflict after issuing several warnings to the United Nations. On 19 October 1950, large formations of Chinese troops, dubbed the People's Volunteer Army (PVA), secretly crossed the border and into North Korea. One of the first Chinese units to reach the Chosin Reservoir area was the PVA 42nd Corps, and it was tasked with stopping the eastern UN advances. On 25 October, the advancing ROK I Corps made contact with the Chinese and halted at Funchilin Pass, south of the Chosin Reservoir. After the landing at Wonsan, the US 1st Marine Division of the X Corps engaged the defending PVA 124th Division on 2 November, and the ensuing battle caused heavy casualties among the Chinese. On 6 November, the PVA 42nd Corps ordered a retreat to the north with the intention of luring the UN forces into the Chosin Reservoir. By 24 November, the 1st Marine Division occupied both Sinhung-ni on the eastern side of the reservoir, and Yudami-ni on the west side of the reservoir.

Faced with the sudden attacks by Chinese forces in the Eighth Army sector, General Douglas MacArthur ordered the Eighth Army to launch the Home-by-Christmas Offensive. To support the offensive, MacArthur ordered the X Corps to attack west from the Chosin Reservoir and to cut the vital Manpojin—Kanggye—Huichon supply line. As a response, Major General Edward M. Almond, commander of the US X Corps, formulated a plan on 21 November. It called for the US 1st Marine Division to advance west through Yudami-ni, while the US 7th Infantry Division would provide a regimental combat team to protect the right flank at Sinhung-ni. The US 3rd Infantry Division would also protect the left flank while providing security in the rear area. By then the X Corps was stretched thin along a 400-mile front.

Surprised by the Marine landing at Wonsan, China's

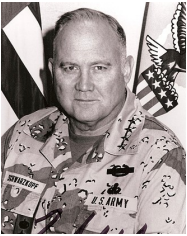
Continued on pg 4

Marine Corps History

Gary Burk

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

GULF WAR/DESERT STORM *(continued)*



Schwarzkopf advanced the launch date for his massive Left Hook by twenty-four hours. Boomer began landing the 5th Marine Expeditionary Brigade from their amphibious ships to a secure beach below Khafji to constitute the I MEF reserve and help police up the unexpected large number of POWs. The 5th Marines began to advance northward.

The second day of the ground war brought more bad weather and scattered, intense fighting in central Kuwait. Both divisions encountered large-scale counterattacks, defeated them in wild slugging matches, and consolidated all elements well north of the obstacle belts.

In the west, the 1st Battalion, 8th Marines, intercepted what became known as "The Reveille Counterattack" by an ambitious column of Iraqi tanks and APCs. Combined arms won the morning---Marine air, tanks, artillery and missile-firing infantrymen. Thirty-nine enemy armored vehicles lay burning.

Eastward, the roving task forces of the 1st Marine Division collided in the smoke and fog with Iraqi armored units boiling out of the Burquan Oil Field.

This became a real donnybrook, the largest tank battle in Marine Corps history. A hasty radio message from the division reported "Enemy tanks and troops flushed from Burquan area. Much confusion."

Marine attack aircraft circled above the smoke, searching fruitlessly for holes in the soup, clear targets to nail. But the forces were too inter-mixed. Only the AH-1W Sea Cobras could help, although with the ceiling rarely higher than fifty feet the gunships were as vulnerable as ground combat vehicles.

A swarm of Iraqi tanks and armored personnel carriers attacked the command post (CP) of Task

Force Papa Bear at point-blank range.

Marines returned a hot fire, and rounds of all calibers whizzed through the CP. Said Major John Turner, "I remember hitting the deck for the first for the first time during the war and saw tracers going through the CP from east to west at knee height."

Another Iraqi force struck General Mike Myatt's forward CP at "the Emir's Farm," a grove of tamarind trees on the southwest corner of the oil field. Myatt's light security force of LAVs engaged the enemy tanks in unequal battle—but then came a section of Sea Cobra gunships, the cavalry to the rescue. The Cobras uncorked TOW missiles, and the oil field became dotted with burning hulks.

So close were the Iraqi vehicles to Myatt's position that the Cobras hovered directly over his head, drenching the CP in spent 20mm shell casings.

Everyone got into the act that hectic morning. Sergeant Shawn Toney, a member of a Reserve artillery battery from Richmond, spotted a pair of Iraqi multiple rocket launchers close at hand. The battery swung into action, leveled the long barrels of their 155mm guns, and enjoyed the rare artilleryman's delight of destroying enemy targets by direct fire at 800 yards.

Myatt resumed the offensive by mid-day.

Shortly after dark, Lieutenant Colonel James Fulks led his Task Force Grizzly across the valuable A1 Jaber Airfield despite a dozen casualties to Iraqi rocket salvos.

(to be continued)

4 December 1950: LtCol Raymond G. Davis led his battalion into Hagaru-Ri, Korea

8 December 1941: Japanese aircraft attacked Wake Island within hours of the fateful attack on Pearl Harbor

25 December: Have a Merry and Blessed Christmas

The Battle of the Chosin Reservoir continued from pg 2

Chairman Mao Zedong called for the immediate destruction of the ROK Capital Division, ROK 3rd Infantry Division, US 1st Marine Division, and US 7th Infantry Division in a telegraph message to Commander Song Shilun of the PVA 9th Army on 31 October. Under Mao's urgent orders, the 9th Army was rushed into North Korea on 10 November. Undetected by UN intelligence, the 9th Army quietly entered the Chosin Reservoir area on 17 November, with the 20th Corps of the 9th Army relieving the 42nd Corps near Yudami-ni.

Although the 1st Marine Division landed at Wonsan as part of Almond's US X Corps, Almond and Major General Oliver P. Smith of the 1st Marine Division shared a mutual loathing of each other that dated back to a meeting before the landing at Inchon, when Almond had spoken of how easy amphibious landings are even though he had never been involved in one. Smith believed there were large numbers of Chinese forces in North Korea despite the fact that higher headquarters in Tokyo said otherwise, but Almond felt Smith was overly cautious. The mutual distrust between the commanders caused Smith to slow the 1st Marine Division's advance towards the Chosin Reservoir in violation of Almond's instructions. Smith established supply points and airfields along the way at Hagaru-ri and Koto-ri.

As the US X Corps was pushing towards the reservoir, the Chinese formulated their strategy, based on their experiences in the Chinese Civil War. Working from the assumption that only a light UN presence would be at the reservoir, the Chinese 9th Corps Army was first to destroy the UN garrisons at Yudami-ni and Sinhung-ni, then push towards Hagaru-ri. Believing the bulk of the US X Corps would move to rescue the destroyed units, the 9th Army would then block and trap the main UN forces on the road between Hagaru-ri and Hungnam. The 9th Army initially committed eight divisions for the battle, with most of the forces concentrated at Yudami-ni and Sinhung-ni.

The flaw in the Chinese plan was a lack of accurate intelligence about the UN forces. Even though the US X Corps was stretched thin over northeast Korea, the slow Marine advance allowed the bulk of the US 1st Marine Division, including the 5th, 7th and 11th Marines, to be concentrated at Yudami-ni. Furthermore, the strategically important Hagaru-ri, where a C-47-capable airfield was under construction and a supply dump, was not a priority for the Chinese despite being lightly defended by the 1st and 7th Marines. Only Regimental Combat Team 31 (RCT-31), an understrength and hastily formed regimental combat team of the US 7th Infantry Division, was thinly spread along the eastern bank of the reservoir. Those units would later take the brunt of the Chinese assaults. As for the UN forces, the 1st Marine Division had an effective strength of 25,473 men at the start

of the battle, and it was further reinforced by the British 41 Royal Marine Commando and the equivalent of two regiments from the 3rd and 7th Army Infantry Divisions. The UN forces had a combined strength of about 30,000 men during the course of the battle. The UN forces at Chosin were also supported by one of the greatest concentrations of air power during the Korean War, since the 1st Marine Aircraft Wing stationed at Yonpo Airfield and five aircraft carriers from the US Navy's Task Force 77 were able to launch 230 sorties daily to provide close air support during the battle, while the US Air Force Far East Combat Cargo Command in Japan reached the capacity of airdropping 250 tons of supplies per day to resupply the trapped UN forces.

Although the 9th Corps Army was one of China's elite formations, composed of veterans and former POWs from the Huaihai Campaign, several deficiencies hampered its ability during the battle. Initially the 9th Army was intended to be outfitted in Manchuria during November, but Mao suddenly ordered it into Korea before that could happen. As a result, the 9th Corps Army had almost no winter clothing for the harsh Korean winter. Similarly, poor logistics forced the 9th Corps Army to abandon heavy artillery, while working with little food and ammunition. The food shortage forced the 9th Corps Army to initially station a third of its strength away from the Chosin Reservoir in reserve, and starvation and exposure broke out among the Chinese units, since foraging was not an option in the sparsely populated area. By the end of the battle, more Chinese troops had died from the cold than from combat and air raids.

The Chinese strength is usually estimated at 120,000 troops for the battle, since the 9th Army was composed of 12 divisions with a strength of 10,000+ men per division. Before arriving in Korea, the 9th Corps Army was also reinforced. Each of its three corps now had four divisions instead of the regular three. Infantry from two formerly *liberated* (surrendered) Nationalist divisions were absorbed to bring each infantry company up to strength. Some companies had approximately 150 men, but other companies were reinforced with more than 200 men. On average, each division of the 9th Army had more infantry troops than other Chinese divisions.

Eventually, all 12 Chinese divisions of the 9th Corps Army were deployed. Eight divisions of the PVA 20th and 27th Corps served as the main attacking force. Four divisions of the PVA 26th Corps initially were held back in reserve, and deployed after 20th and 27th Corps exhausted all their available strength.

Next month: The Battle

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

01/2019

***Compliments of
John and Judy Bryant***
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River Cities Detachment #1090

05/2019

***Compliments of
Gary Burk, Life Member***
**OPTIMIST CLUB OF EVANSVILLE
DOWNTOWN**
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07/2019

First Marine : "Pass me the chocolate pudding, would you?"

Second Marine : "No way, Jose!"

First Marine : "Why not?"

Second Marine : "It's against regulations to help another Marine to dessert!"

The first woman recruit in the Marines reported for duty and was told that although her quarters would be in a separate building, she was to mess with the men. It wasn't until four weeks later someone finally told her that meant to eat her meals with them.

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



Semper Fi

03/2019

Support our Sponsors
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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

"I suppose," snarled the leathery sergeant to the private, "that when you're discharged from the Corps, you'll wait for me to die, just so you can spit on my grave."

"Not me," said the private. "When I get out of the Corps, I never want to stand in line again."

Navy Officer: "Marine, do you have change for a dollar?"
Marine: "Sure, buddy."
Navy Officer: "That's no way to address an officer! Now let's try it again!"
Navy Officer: "Marine, Do you have change for a dollar?"
Marine: "No, SIR!"

**Compliments of the
 Marine Corps League Auxiliary**



Southern Belles Unit 441

06/2019



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

MICHAEL SIDES
 SOUTHWEST DISTRICT TRUSTEE

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07/2019

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Once a Marine, Always a Marine



IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENTS

All membership dues are currently due. Last year National changed the due date so that everyone is paying at the same time.

If you have not already paid your annual membership please mail \$35 to

River Cities Det. #1090
 PO Box 6581
 Evansville IN 47719-0581

Christmas Cash Raffles Winners will be posted in the January Issue

Semper Ji

December 2018

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Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>Newsletter Articles, Ads, and Pictures for January 2019 are due NO LATER THAN December 22, 2018 <i>Starting in January there will be No Exceptions to this deadline</i></p>						<p>1 TFT Work Day Walmart Newburgh 0900 -1700</p>
<p>2 TFT Work Day Walmart Newburgh 0900 -1700</p>	3	<p>4 Det. 1090 Breakfast Libby's and Mom's Cafe 0800</p>	5	<p>6 MCLA Southern Belles VA Clinic 8 a.m. - 11 a.m.</p>	7	<p>8 TFT Work Day Warehouse 0900 -1200</p>
<p>9 TFT Work Day Warehouse 0900 -1200</p>	<p>10 NO MODD Growl</p>	<p>11 Det. 1090 Breakfast Libby's and Mom's Cafe 0800</p>	12	<p>13 Pick up TFT Boxes-All Day TFT Warehouse Sorting Toys</p>	<p>14 Pick up TFT Boxes-All Day TFT Warehouse Sorting Toys</p>	<p>15 Distribution Day TFT Warehouse 0700 to 1800</p>
<p>16 Rest and Recover from another suc- cessful TFT campaign</p>	17	<p>18 Det. 1090 Breakfast Libby's and Mom's Cafe 0800</p>	19	20	21	22
23	<p>24 MCLA Southern Belles Unit #441 NO MEETING</p>		<p>26 MCL River Cities Det. #1090 VFW 1114 1900</p>	27	28	29
30	31		2	3	4	5