



River Cities News

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

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December 2019

Commandant's Corner

Jim Johnson

Another Marine Corps Birthday Ball has come and gone, It was a great Ball and everyone who attended had a great time. We had a very good guest speaker, a MGySgt from the Louisville recruiter station. He had a lot of good information on the changes to boot camp and thru out our Corps. The cake was beautiful and delicious. The only negative thing about the Ball was the attendance from our league. There were only 12 members from our league present.

I hope everyone had a very tasty Thanksgiving. Have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

HONOR: With every victory, you will rise. In the eyes of your peers and in the mind of your superiors. as you forge your path, never lose sight of the importance of your character, and face every battle with honor.

From the Editor

Paula Landers

Even though we didn't have a meeting in November it was still full of activities. Starting with the Veteran's Day Ceremony at Cynthia Heights, Veterans Day Breakfast at the War Museum followed by services at Locust Hill Cemetery, the Birthday Ball, Color Guard for the Christmas Parade, giving the Boy Scouts at St. Ben's a presentation about our funeral honors, and doing funeral home visitations for our fallen brothers. There's always something going on in our detachment for those willing and able to participate.



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Paula Landers

Marine Corps History

Gary Burk

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

STRANGLING RABAU (1943)

Here was the ideal mission for Lieutenant Colonel "Brute" Krulak's 1d Parachute Battalion. Vandergrift ordered Krulak to execute a diversionary landing on nearby Choiseul Island and make the Japanese think he had a division on the rampage. The combative Krulak executed this to perfection. While the jungles of the South Pacific battlefields prohibited any employment of Marine parachutists as airborne forces, Brute Krulak's salty troops were fully capable of a noisy fracas.

The parachutists stormed ashore on Choiseul at midnight on October 28. Before the astonished Japanese could react, Krulak's well-trained warriors raided enemy installations along a twenty-five-mile sector. The 650 Marines raised holy hell throughout Choiseul for nine days. General Hyakutake took the bait, dispatching reinforcements from Bougainville even after the main landing there.

Against such numbers, the final firefights became desperate. Kurlack, wounded himself, sought aid in evacuating his casualties. Two Navy PT boats, led by Lieutenant John Fitzgerald Kennedy, USNR, lent a hand. One of Krulak's corporals died on Kennedy's bunk. The raiding force withdrew intact, mission accomplished.

General Hyakutake, began to curse the day he had ever encountered the United States Marines. Although originally an infantry officer, Hyakutake had become a communications specialist and spent the first two years of war as a rear-echelon "Inspector General of Signal Training." His unexpected selection to command the Seventeenth Army seemed at first heaven-sent. Imperial General Headquarters told him his new army would conquer both Port Moresby, New Guinea, and the American outposts in Samoa and Fiji.

Then, for Hyakutake, came disaster at Guadalcanal. And now Choiseul. Krulak's diversion seemed to rattle Hyakutake. When the real American landing occurred at Bougainville, he withheld his counterattack orders a fatal week, worrying that these U.S. Marines were just another diversion. Hyakutake would survive the war on Bougainville but only as an increasingly toothless tiger.

Less than 300 Japanese troops opposed the November 1 landing at Cape Torokino—Halsey had indeed "hit 'em where they ain't—but the defenders and the hydrography combined to make the landing difficult.

Two reinforced regimental combat teams led the assault over twelve designated "beaches" along Torkina Bay on D-Day: the 3d Marines on the right, the 9th Marines on the left. Lieutenant Colonel Alan Shapley, blown off the Arizona by the Japanese air raid at Peral Harbor, now commanded the 2d Raiders Regiment and deployed his battalions in support of each infantry regiment.

Bougainville's heavy surf ruined the 9th Marines' combat debut, swamping eighty-six landing boats. The troops streamed ashore like drowned rats but quickly reorganized to overwhelm the limited Japanese operation to their front. Enemy resistance proved deadlier on the right flank. There a single, well-served 75mm gun crew had open seasons against the 3d Marines' landing craft. The preliminary naval bombardment (four destroyers firing for a half hour) had been limited to preserve surprise; this strong point remained unscathed. In a matter of minutes the Imperial gunners sank a dozen boats at point-blank range.

As the assault waves faltered in the face of this fire, Marine Sergeant Robert Owens made his way ashore, recognized the crisis, and attached the gun position single-handedly. Owen's self-sacrificing courage turned the tide. He silenced the deadly gun but died in the doing—and became the first member of the 3d Marine Division to receive the Medal of Honor.

As the landing force struggled to clear the near-shore jungle of Japanese defenders, the skies overhead erupted with screaming waves of Marine dive-bombers, taking advantage of the rare opportunity for both Leatherneck air and infantry to operate together. This one-two punch combination helped the assault units advance the beachhead line well into the swampy terrain behind the high-water mark, clearing the way for supporting waves.

Turnage kept pouring his troops ashore, despite the fearsome surf and spirited fire. By dark the 3d Marine Division had 14,000 troops ashore and dug-in, a significant achievement under decidedly adverse conditions. Losing 200 casualties on D-Day seemed an acceptable cost.

While General Hyakutake withheld his reserves to determine whether the Torokina landing was another American feint, the Japanese command at Rabaul mounted a furious and immediate series of counterattacks. Four waves of bombers and fighters attacked the vulnerable beachhead and the exposed amphibious task force on November 1 alone, but Halsey had plenty of Allied fighter squadrons aloft to give battle. Twenty-six of the raiders went down in flames, the others scattered.

(to be continued)

The Lore of the Corps

Bob Reutter

Marine vet donates dress blues and Iwo Jima sand to be buried with veteran killed in hit-and-run

A 67-year old Vietnam veteran was killed Nov. 10 when he was struck by a car in a hit-and-run.

Samuel Jackson was getting into his car, which was parked in front of the house he has shared with his companion of 20 years, when the vehicle police believe is a red Ford Focus sped by, news reports detailed. Hours after Jackson's body was taken away, a tow truck came to remove his car, a Marine Corps sticker adorning its bumper. Jackson's slippers and glasses remained scattered on the street. "You hit Sam," Jackson's companion, Debbie Campbell told a CBS news camera. "You had him laying in the street like he's a dog. ... He fought for this country. ... Stop being a coward and come forward."

On Nov. 10, as Marines everywhere celebrated the service's 244th birthday — the first of which took place in historic Tun Tavern just about 20 miles from Jackson's home — his family began preparations for an unexpected funeral. The former corporal would have wanted to be buried in a Marine Corps uniform, his sister Peggy Jackson said, but they were unable to locate one among his possessions. "I couldn't imagine putting anything else on him," said Jackson. When a local Veterans of Foreign Wars outpost caught wind of the family's story, it put out a call for uniform donations on their Facebook page.

"The outpouring was insane," Walt Hartnett, commander of VFW Post 1074, told CBS. "I got calls from Mississippi, I got calls from North Carolina." One call came from Doug Franks, the senior vice commander at VFW in the neighboring town of Trappe, Pennsylvania. "No one deserves to die like that, and he was very proud of his service for very good reason," Franks told CBS Philly. "I'm more than willing to share." Franks donated every item in the dress blue uniform set, and added a jar filled with black sand from Iwo Jima.

"Just to know that he is going to be in his military uniform is a blessing," Peggy Jackson said. "My brother's other family is the Marine family. My God, he loved the Marines. We want to give Sammy the honorable service he deserves," his sister wrote. Jackson leaves behind five children and seven grandchildren.

"He served his country. He was a veteran," Jackson's 16-year-old grandson Jayden Guidici told CBS.

"From now on, the stuff I do is for him."

Remains of WWII Marine killed at Battle of Tarawa to return to Iowa



The remains of a Marine from Iowa will soon return to his home state 76 years after his death in World War II. The Defense Department used DNA from a niece to identify the remains of 18-year-old Pvt. Channing Whitaker, of Granger, Iowa. Whitaker died on Nov. 22, 1943, during the Battle of Tarawa in the Gilbert Islands in the South Pacific.

Whitaker's niece Marla Brubaker tells KCCI it is a miracle that her DNA was able to identify Whitaker's remains. Archeologists have been working since 2009 to dig up and identify the remains of soldiers who were buried in a previously undiscovered burial trench on the Gilbert Islands. Whitaker's family will hold a funeral with full military honors in Des Moines on Nov. 22.

Marine killed on South Carolina highway after stopping to help with a car crash.



L/Cpl Lilleyfogle prepares Depot Mascot for appearance.

A South Carolina Marine who left her car to help to someone involved with a previous crash was struck and killed on the highway. Marine Cpl. Erin Rachel Lilleyfogle, 23, was pronounced dead at the scene at 7:30 p.m. on Oct. 11.

She enlisted in the Marine Corps in 2017 and was a member of the Headquarters and Service Battalion aboard the Marine Corps Recruit Depot at Parris Island, South Carolina, according to the Marine Corps. "We are truly saddened by the loss of Corporal Erin Rachel Lilleyfogle," said Capt. Bryan McDonnell, a Marine Corps spokesman. "She was vital to daily operations, made a major impact during Hurricane Dorian as part of Task Force Albany, and was the caretaker of the Depot Mascot, Opha May," he said.

Lilleyfogle was in the process of being awarded the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal, "for her numerous contributions to the Depot." Lilleyfogle will receive the medal posthumously, McDonnell said.

**River Cities Detachment 1090
Ship Store Surplus**

The items listed below are surplus from various Birthday Balls in the past. They are available on a 'first come, first served' basis and are in limited quantities. They are available for pickup in Evansville with prior arrangement. Shipping rates are listed.

When they are gone, they are gone.

	243 rd Ball 7 1/2 in K-bar style letter opener with canvas sheath. Each \$ 10.00 Shipping add \$ 4.00		243 rd Ball Glass Picture Frame 8" x 11" holds 4"x6" picture Each \$10.00 Shipping add \$ 5.00
	US Flag and Marine Flag Lapel Pin/Tie Tac Each \$ 5.00 Shipping add \$ 2.00		244 th Ball Challenge Coin (shown front and back) Each \$ 10.00 Shipping add \$ 2.00
	River Cities Detachment 1090 15 ounce Stemless Wine Glass Each \$ 10.00 Shipping add \$ 3.00	15 ounce Stemless Wine Glass Set of 4 \$ 30.00 Shipping add \$6.00	Set of 8 \$ 50.00 Shipping add \$10.00

Ship Store Surplus

243 rd Ball 7 1/2 in K-bar style letter opener	Quantity: _____	X \$10.00	Total: _____	+ \$4.00 Shipping
243 rd Ball Glass Picture Frame	Quantity: _____	X \$10.00	Total: _____	+ \$5.00 Shipping
US Flag and Marine Flag Lapel Pin	Quantity: _____	X \$5.00	Total: _____	+ \$2.00 Shipping
244 th Ball Challenge Coin	Quantity: _____	X \$10.00	Total: _____	+ \$2.00 Shipping
15 ounce Stemless Wine Glass	Each	Quantity: _____	X \$10.00	Total: _____ + \$3.00 Shipping
15 ounce Stemless Wine Glass	Set 4	Quantity: _____	X \$30.00	Total: _____ + \$6.00 Shipping
15 ounce Stemless Wine Glass	Set 8	Quantity: _____	X \$50.00	Total: _____ + \$10.00 Shipping

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Please Mail with Payment to: Attention: Ship Store
 P.O. Box 6581
 Evansville, IN 47719-0581

Subtotal: \$ _____

Shipping: \$ _____

Grand Total: \$ _____

Please add the appropriate shipping, if not a local pick up.

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

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

04/2020

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Joe and Kathy Filipczak*

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12/2020

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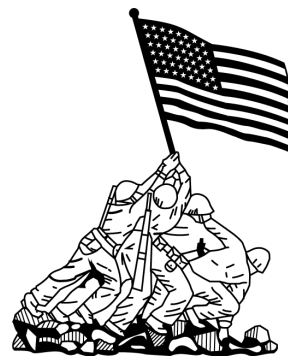
In honor and memory of the
17th Rifle Company
2700 West Illinois Street
Evansville, IN

For all the men who served
diligently, and with dedication.



12/2019

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



Semper Fi

09/2020

Support our Sponsors
They help make this Newsletter possible



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



2019
 Jasper Marshal
 Bill Bitter
 Pat Dillback
 (Associate Member)

04/2021

***Compliments of
Casey Canfield***

*Life Member
River Cities Detachment #1090*

01/2020

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

*Life Members
River Cities Detachment #1090*

06/2021

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08/2020

**Compliments of the
Marine Corps League Auxiliary**



Southern Belles Unit 441

10/2020

***Compliments of
John and Judy Bryant***

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River Cities Detachment #1090*

02/2020

River Cities Detachment 1090
 Marine Corps League Inc.
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Once a Marine, Always a Marine



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IMPORTANT
ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

Dues for 2019 - 2020
 Before August 1st - \$25
 After August 1st - \$35

Initial Membership Dues are \$35

Mail your annual membership fees to:

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

**Check out the Ship Store
 On Page 4**

«AddressBlock»

Semper Fi

December 2019

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Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3 Det. 1090 Breakfast Libby's and Mom's Cafe 0800	4	5 MCLA Southern Belles VA Clinic 8 a.m.-11 a.m.	6	7
8 MCLA Wrap & Eat 2 p.m.	9 No MODD Growl	10 Det. 1090 Breakfast Libby's and Mom's Cafe 0800	11 MCLA Boys & Girls Club Christmas Party 6 p.m.	12	13	14
15	16	17 Det. 1090 Breakfast Libby's and Mom's Cafe 0800	18	19	20	21
22	23 MCLA Southern Belles Unit #441 NO MEETING	24 Det. 1090 Breakfast Libby's and Mom's Cafe 0800		26	27	28
29	30		Newsletter Articles, Ads, and Pictures for January 2020 are due NO LATER THAN December 22, 2019 There are No Exceptions to this deadline.			