



River Cities News

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

Volume 16, Issue 2

February 2019

Commandant's Corner

Bob Reutter, Commandant

A brand-new year. New opportunities, new challenges, new friends - and old friends. We said a final farewell this week as we lost a life member of our Detachment, Jasper Marshall. Jasper was a Marine, a retired police officer, an unbelievable wood carver, a devoutly religious man and a genuinely good person. Jasper's wife had advanced dementia for years and he took care of her at home as long as his health allowed it. When he couldn't manage her alone, he sold their house, and both moved into a nursing home. He used to leave her side for two things each week - to go to church and to go to breakfast with his fellow Marines on Tuesday mornings. Jasper would bring some of his many carvings each week for us to see. A beautiful staff with the head of an animal or an old timer with a long beard, birds so life-like you expected them to move in your hand or an intricate cross with verses on them. When his health deteriorated to the point where his kids took away his car, he wasn't able to come to breakfast anymore. We went to see him a couple of times and offered to pick him up and take him back after breakfast, but I think he just didn't want to 'be a bother.' As if assisting a brother Marine would be a bother. Semper Fi, brother.

We are saying a more temporary farewell to another valued member of our Detachment as Joseph "Funeral Joe" Filipczak is moving to Tennessee in the near future. Joe joined the Detachment ten years ago. During his time with the League, Joe has served in several roles but the two that have been the most beneficial to the Detachment are in conjunction with his service as liaison with the funeral homes in our area of responsibility. Joe has developed and maintained a relationship with all the funeral homes and their personnel. This has allowed him to 'guide' these people in learning why the families of Marines who have passed away should allow us to come in and say 'farewell' to our brother/sister Marine. He helped the funeral homes acquire Marine

flags to display on the right side of the casket. He maintained a list of all the Detachment members with their contact information and when he received permission from the family (through the funeral home personnel,) Joe scheduled our services, emailed the Detachment and called everyone to ensure maximum participation. Joe is currently transitioning his knowledge and practices to our current Chaplain, Barb Kortz. He is working to give Barb the ability to carry on what he has so successfully established.

The second 'unofficial' position Joe has filled is that of Detachment Historian. Most of you have seen the three volumes of Marine scrapbooks that Joe has maintained. They serve as a chronical of the activities of the Detachment through the years. In addition to the memorial card from each Marine we have honored at the funeral homes, Joe scanned the local publications for any mention of the Detachment and other Marine related articles, cut them out and mounted them in the scrapbooks. These three books are on display at any gathering we attend with the Detachment. If you have not had the opportunity to look through them, I urge you to register and attend the Department of Indiana Spring Conference to be held here in Evansville on April 13-14. Registration can be done at the Detachment website (www.mclrivercities.org) or in this newsletter. We will have the scrapbooks there for all to see. It has yet to be decided who will carry on this tradition. Whoever takes on the project will have very difficult shoes to fill. Thank you, Joe, for all you have done for the River Cities Detachment.

At our January Detachment meeting we had several items to discuss. Paula Landers made an offer to take over management of the food booth. She made an excellent suggestion about forming a 'food booth fund' to be funded (after an initial deposit by the Detachment) with 20% of all profits from sales at the booth to be deposited into the fund.

Continued on pg 3

Detachment Officers

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Jack Kincaide

Sr. Vice Commandant
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Chaplain
Barbara Kortz (812)550-0552

The Battle of the Chosin Reservoir

Researched By Bob Reutter

This is the third installment of a four 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.

Actions at Hararu-ri. To support the Marine attack towards Mupyong-ni, Hagaru-ri became an important supply dump with an airfield under construction. Smith and 1st Marine Division headquarters were also located at Hagaru-ri. With the bulk of the 1st Marine Division gathered at Yudam-ni, Hagaru-ri was lightly defended by two battalions from the 1st and 7th Marines, the rest of the garrison being composed of engineers and rear support units from both the Army and the Marine Corps. The original Chinese plan called for the 58th Division to attack Hagaru-ri on the night of 27 November, but the division became lost in the countryside due to the outdated Japanese maps it used. It was not until the dawn of 28 November that the 58th Division arrived at Hagaru-ri. Meanwhile, from the fighting and ambushes that had occurred the previous night, the garrison at Hagaru-ri noticed the Chinese forces around them. Lieutenant Colonel Thomas L. Ridge, commander of 3rd Battalion, 1st Marines (3/1), predicted the Chinese attack would come on the night of 28 November. Almost everyone, including rear support units with little combat training, was pressed into service on the front line due to the manpower shortage, and the entire perimeter was on full alert by 21:30.

It was not long before the PVA 173rd Regiment attacked the western and the southern perimeter, while the 172nd Regiment struck the hills on the northern perimeter. Despite the preparations, the understrength garrison was overwhelmed, with the Chinese opening several gaps in the defenses and reaching the rear areas. The resulting chaos, however, caused a breakdown in discipline among the Chinese soldiers, who began looting food and clothing instead of exploiting the situation. The defending Americans managed to destroy the Chinese forces in counterattacks, while a breakdown of communications between the Chinese regiments allowed the gaps to close. When the fighting stopped, the Chinese had only gained the East Hill on the northern perimeter. Another attack was planned for the night of 29 November, but air raids by VMF-542 broke up the Chinese formations before it could be carried out.

Given the critical manpower shortage at Hagaru-ri,

on November 29, Smith ordered Colonel Lewis "Chesty" Puller of the First Marine Regiment to assemble a task force to be sent north from Kot'o-ri to open the road south of Hagaru-ri. A task force was formed with 921 troops from the 41 Royal Marine Commando, G Company of the 1st Marines and B Company of the 31st Infantry. It was dubbed "Task Force Drysdale" after its commander, Lieutenant Colonel Douglas B. Drysdale, who also commanded 41 Commando. On the afternoon of 29 November, Task Force Drysdale pushed north from Kotori, while under constant attack from the PVA 60th Division. The task force's harrowing experience later earned the road the nickname "Hell Fire Valley". As the Chinese attacks dragged on, the task force became disorganized, and a destroyed truck in the convoy later split the task force into two segments. Although the lead segment fought its way into Hagaru-ri on the night of 29 November, the rear segment was destroyed. Despite suffering 162 dead and missing and 159 wounded, the task force managed to bring in 300 badly needed infantrymen for the defense at Hagaru-ri.

As more reinforcements arrived from Hudong-ni on 30 November, the garrisons attempted to recapture the East Hill. All efforts failed, despite the destruction of a Chinese company. When darkness settled, the PVA 58th Division gathered its remaining 1,500 soldiers in a last-ditch attempt to capture Hagaru-ri. The reinforced defenders annihilated most of the attacking forces, with only the defenses around the East Hill giving way. As the Chinese tried to advance from the East Hill, they were cut down by the 31st Tank Company.

By 1 December, the PVA 58th Division was virtually destroyed, with the remainder waiting for reinforcements from the 26th Corps of the 9th Army. Much to the frustration of Song Shilun, the 26th Corps did not arrive before the Marines broke out of Yudam-ni. The airfield was opened to traffic on 1 December, allowing UN forces to bring in reinforcements and to evacuate the dead and wounded. With the Marines at Yudam-ni completing their withdrawal on 4 December, the trapped UN forces could finally start their breakout towards the port of Hungnam.

Breakout. After a short rest, the breakout began on 6 December, with the 7th Marines as the vanguard of the retreating column, while the 5th Marines covered the rear. At the same time, the much-delayed PVA 26th Corps arrived at Hagaru-ri with

Marine Corps History

Gary Burk

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

MARINES IN THE CIVIL WAR

While the combat role for fighting Marines on warships declined, the Marines still proved useful in battle. In the declared wars, the nation always found need for an instantly available, rigorously trained force of relentless fighters. But in the "extra-curricular" fighting of the imperial age they were especially handy, presenting a powerful national military presence in something of a seagoing constabulary role, always politically easier to commit than the Army.

The Marines had a pivotal role in a crucial moment in the countdown to the Civil War.

When abolitionist John Brown seized the federal arsenal at Harpers Ferry with an insurrectionist force, took hostages, and barricaded himself in an engine house as he sought a general uprising of slaves, the situation represented a national tinderbox. The Marines go there first.

It was November 1859. Lieutenant Israel Greene mustered a full company of regulars from Marine Barracks Washington in short order—armed, equipped, and aboard the first train to Harpers Ferry in three hours. Greene then made ready to execute that most delicate of military operations, the rescue of civilian hostages held by desperate armed men.

Greene led two columns of his Marines in a storming attack against the barricaded engine house at daybreak. Using a ladder to knock down the doors, the Marines scrambled inside, reeling momentarily from a volley of point-blank carbine fire.

Two Marines fell. Greene flattened John Brown with a back-handed slash of his sword. His troops killed or captured the other kidnapers with deadly efficiency. All hostages survived.

Nice work. But the Corps faced deep problems.

General Archibald Henderson had died in office in

1859, succeeded as Commandant by sixty-one-year-old Colonel John Harris, the last active duty Marine veteran of the War of 1812. Harris, once dashing, had grown stale and hidebound; he would be subsumed by the enormous pressure of the Civil War.

While all armed services suffered the loss of Southern officers resigning their commissions, the Marine Corps arguably lost its best and brightest Lieutenant Israel Greene, a national hero after Harpers Ferry, "went South" to fight for the Confederacy. So did half of all captains and lieutenants as well as John Simms and George Terrett, legitimate heroes of Chapultepec.

The U.S. Marines also missed a ripe opportunity to provide the spear-head in forcible amphibious assaults along the entire Southern coast, as well as in thousands of miles of inland rivers. Instead, Harris clung mutely to the old ways, providing "penny-packets" of Marine detachments for outdated 1812-era functions on the major warships. His few attempts to organize large fighting forces were disastrous.

The earliest of these debacles occurred during the first battle of Manassas on July 21, 1861. The

Secretary of War, seeking to stiffen General Irvin McDowell's raw-boned Union Army with regulars, asked for a battalion of Marine Colonel Harris could barely assemble a makeshift outfit of green recruits and a handful of veterans from the various Naval stations.

Major John G. Reynolds led the Marine Battalion to join McDowell's Army south of Washington. Reynolds was undeniably a fighter, but he still smarted from whispered rumors about his sluggish performance at Chapultepec. Now, finally, along the obscure creek called Bull Run, Reynolds sought redemption.

(to be continued)

Commandant's Corner continued from pg 1

The fund will be used to pay the booth registration fee with the BMV each year, to pay for upkeep and potential upgrades to the booth and any other 'incidentals' that come up. More details will be provided, and this will be discussed at the February meeting and voted on at that point.

After eight years as Coordinator of the Detachment's Toys for Tots campaign, I made the announcement

that I will not apply for the position for the 2019 campaign. I wanted to give the Detachment members time to think about who might take on that responsibility. I will, of course assist whoever decides to take it on and have all my files and procedures ready to turn over to that person.

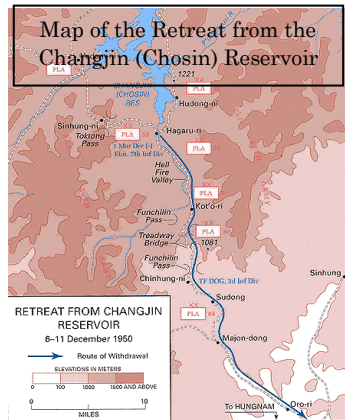
Semper Fi and hope to see everyone at the Spring Conference here in Evansville.

The Battle of the Chosin Reservoir continued from pg 2

its 76th and 77th Divisions to relieve the 58th and 60th Divisions. As the 7th Marines pushed aside the PVA 76th Division south of Hagaru-ri, the 5th Marines took over the Hagaru-ri perimeter and recaptured the East Hill from the 76th Division. In a last effort to stop the breakout, the customary Chinese night attack was launched, with the 76th and 77th Division striking the Hagaru-ri perimeter from all directions. The Marines repulsed the attacks, inflicting heavy casualties.

Meanwhile, the 7th Marines opened the road between Hagaru-ri and Koto-ri by capturing the high ground surrounding the road. But as soon as the Marines pulled out, the 77th Division returned to the peaks and attacked the column. Chaotic fighting broke out and the retreat was slowed to a crawl. The Marine night fighters, however, returned to subdue the Chinese forces, and most of the blocking troops were eliminated. On 7 December, the rest of the column managed to reach Kot'o-ri with little difficulty, with the last elements reaching Kot'o-ri that night.

After the failure of the 26th Corps at Hagaru-ri, the PVA High Command ordered the 26th and 27th Corps to chase the escaping UN force, with the 20th Corps assigned to block the escape route. But with most of the 20th Corps destroyed at Yudam-ni and Hagaru-ri, the only forces between Kot'o-ri and Hungnam were the remnants of the 58th and 60th Divisions. In desperation, Song Shilun ordered these troops to dig in at Funchilin Pass, while blowing up the vital treadway bridge, hoping the terrain and obstacles would allow the 26th and 27th Corps to catch up with the retreating UN forces. The PVA 180th Regiment that occupied Hill 1081 blew up the original concrete bridge and two improvised replacements in succession, believing the bridge was rendered irreparable. In response, the 1st Battalion, 1st Marines (1/1) attacked Hill 1081 from the south, and the hill was captured on 9 December, though the defenders fought to the last man. At the same time, the 7th Marines and RCT-31 attacked the treadway bridge from the north, only to encounter defenders who were already frozen in their foxholes. With the path to Hungnam blocked at Funchilin Pass, eight C-119 Flying Boxcars flown by the US 314th Troop Carrier Wing were used to drop portable bridge



sections by parachute. The bridge, consisting of eight separate 18 ft (5.5 m) long, 2,900 lb (1,300 kg) sections, was dropped one section at a time, using a 48 ft (15 m) parachute on each section. Four of these sections, together with additional wooden extensions were successfully reassembled into a replacement bridge by Marine Corps combat engineers and the US Army 58th Engineer Treadway Bridge Company on 9 December, enabling UN forces to proceed. Outmaneuvered, the PVA 58th and 60th Divisions still tried to slow the UN advance with ambushes and raids, but after weeks of non-stop fighting, the two Chinese divisions combined had only 200 soldiers left. The last UN forces left Funchilin Pass by 11 December.

One of the last engagements during the withdrawal was an ambush at Sudong by the pursuing PVA 89th Division, which Task Force Dog of the 3rd Infantry Division repulsed with little difficulty. The trapped UN forces finally reached the Hungnam perimeter by 21:00 on 11 December.

Evacuation at Hungnam. By the time the UN forces arrived at Hungnam, MacArthur had already ordered the evacuation of the US X Corps on 8 December in order to reinforce the US Eighth Army, which by then was badly depleted and retreating rapidly towards the 38th parallel. Following his orders, the ROK I Corps, the ROK 1st Marine Regiment and the US 3rd and 7th Infantry Divisions had also set up defensive positions around the port. Some skirmishes broke out between the defending US 7th, 17th and 65th Infantry and the pursuing PVA 27th Corps, but against the strong naval gun fire support provided by US Navy Task Force 90, the badly mauled 9th Army was in no shape to approach the Hungnam perimeter.

In what US historians called the "greatest evacuation movement by sea in US military history", a 193-ship armada assembled at the port and evacuated not only the UN troops, but also their heavy equipment and roughly a third of the Korean refugees. One Victory ship, the SS *Meredith Victory*, evacuated 14,000 refugees by herself, despite being designed to carry only 12 passengers. The last UN unit left at 14:36 on 24 December, and the port was destroyed to deny its use to the enemy. The PVA 27th Corps entered Hungnam on the morning of 25 December.

Next Month: Aftermath

Marine Corps League Department of Indiana 2019 Spring Conference



**Saturday, April 13, 2019 &
Sunday, April 14, 2019**
Fairfield Inn
5400 Weston Road
Evansville, IN 47712



Fairfield Inn offers free breakfast and free wireless high-speed Internet access in all rooms. Make your reservation by **March 22, 2019** to receive the group rate of \$89 plus tax. Rooms are available from Friday, April 12th through Sunday, April 14th, for anyone wanting to arrive earlier.

Contact the hotel directly. Ask for the Marine Corps League Rate. (812) 429-0900

Check in time is **3:00 pm**; however, guests will be able to check in as early as rooms are available.

Check out time is **12:00 noon**.

Marine Corps League Detachment

Marine Corps League Auxiliary

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Unit Name: _____

Name: _____

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Office Held (if applicable): _____

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Registration prior to April 4, 2019 will be **\$20.00 per attendee**, or **\$25.00 per attendee** when registering at the Conference.

Early Registration Fee: **\$20.00 per attendee**

Number attending: **X** _____

Total Due: _____

Make Check Payable to:
MCL River Cities Det. #1090

Mail Registration with Payment to:
MCL River Cities Det. #1090
Attn: Spring Conference
P O Box 6581
Evansville, IN 47719-0581

You may also register online at :
mclrivercities.org/springconf2019
Online registration will be closed 4/5/2019

Questions:
E-mail: mclrivercities@gmail.com



11th Annual Marine Corps League Auxiliary Bowling Tournament



Sponsored by
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Bowlers, and non-bowlers can get in on the action of this bowling event. The proceeds from this event will help fund the activities of Southern Belles Unit 441, such as community projects and Operation Care Package. There will be Door Prize Drawings, a 50/50 Drawing, and a silent auction with great merchandise to bid on. So come on down to Franklin Lanes on Saturday, April 27, 2019. If you don't want to get a team together you can still help by participating in the silent auction.

Join Us For a Fun Afternoon

Saturday, April 27, 2019

Franklin Lanes

11:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Entry Fee: \$60 per team of 4

9-Pin No Tap * Three Games

Mixed Teams (No separate divisions)

Registration Deadline is April 20, 2019

Your entry fee includes:

Three games of bowling * Shoe Rental *
2 Soft Drinks * Prize drawings

Prizes

First Place Team - \$200

Second Place Team - \$100

Third Place Team - \$50

High Series Male - \$25

High Series Female - \$25

Youth: Ages 16 and under

Individual prizes for High Series

Prizes are based on 40 bowlers, we reserve the right to lower prize money based on number of participants.

In case of a tie, prize money will be combined.

Sponsorship Opportunities

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[] \$200 - Includes business or sponsor name on Semper Fi Signage, 1 team of 4

Lane Sponsor

[] \$100 - Includes business or sponsor name on Signage

Entry Form

Contact Person:

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Team Name: _____

Team Members:

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

Make Checks Payable to **Southern Belles Unit 441**

Mail to c/o Paula Landers
807 Frank Avenue
Evansville, IN 47712-4548

To pay using debt card or credit card please use our convenient online registration form at

www.mclrivercities.org/auxiliary

Newsletter Booster Club

<i>Booster Member</i>	<i>Expires</i>
Gary Burk	April - 2019
Dot Odom	July - 2019
Mike Sides	July - 2019
Richard Schuler	July - 2019
Roy & Carolyn McWilliams	Aug - 2019
MCLA, Southern Belles Unit 441	Oct- 2019
Joe & Kathy Filipeczak	Dec - 2019
David Jones	Dec - 2019
Casey Canfield	Feb - 2020
Bob and Linda Reutter	Jan—2020

A big thank you to all those that donate to the Newsletter Booster Club. We still need Booster Members, **a donation of \$5.00 or more per individual** is all it takes to become a member. As a Booster Member you get your name listed in the Newsletter for 1 year. This lets everyone know that you help support the River Cities News. The Booster Club and Advertisements help to defray the cost of printing and postage.

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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 - \$500.00
Age 36 up to and including age 50 - \$400.00
Age 51 up to and including age 64 - \$300.00
Age 65 and over - \$200.00

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

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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

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07/2019

*Compliments of
Joe and Kathy Filipczak
Life Member
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12/2019

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



Semper Fi

03/2019

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

2019

Jasper Marshal



04/2021

***Compliments of
Casey Canfield***

*Life Member
River Cities Detachment #1090*

07/2019

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

*Life Members
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06/2021

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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

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 Evansville IN 47719-0581


«AddressBlock»

Semper Fi

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February 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Newsletter Articles, Ads, and Pictures for March 2019 are due NO LATER THAN February 22, 2019 <i>There will be No Exceptions to this deadline</i>					1	2
3	4	5 Det. 1090 Breakfast Libby's and Mom's Cafe 0800	6	7 MCLA Southern Belles VA Clinic 8 a.m. - 11 a.m.	8	9
10	11 MODD Growl Herradura 1830	12 Det. 1090 Breakfast Libby's and Mom's Cafe 0800	13		15	16
17	18	19 Det. 1090 Breakfast Libby's and Mom's Cafe 0800	20	21	22	23
24	25 MCLA Southern Belles Unit #441 AmVets #84 6:30 p.m.	26 Det. 1090 Breakfast Libby's and Mom's Cafe 0800	27 MCL River Cities Det. #1090 VFW 1114 1900	28		