



River Cities News

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

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February 2020

The Lore of the Corps

Bob Reutter



If you think our new Commandant, General David Berger isn't ready to carry on the traditions of our Corps, think again! Gen. Berger is planning for a more powerful, more flexible and lighter Marine Corps. One capable of deploying on any Navy ship and directly facing off against China.

firepower at the enemy. He sees the future of amphibious ships as smaller and lighter – beyond the classes of ships we have right now. He is not looking to do away with the larger ships but to add a lot of smaller ones.

China's buildup of its own navy is seen as 'game changing.' This has created the need for the Corps to reverse the diverging path it has been on with the US Navy for the past two decades while fighting counterinsurgency conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan.

General Berger has stated the Corps should focus on building up the Corps's capability in the Pacific in hopes of deterring further Chinese aggression. "The cost of deterrence, however high, will always be cheaper than the cost of a conflict."

(if you would like to read more about Gen. Berger's view of the future, go to The Marine Corps Times which was the source for this article.)

"Traditional thinking of limiting Marine deployments to only certain type of ships must end," The Commandant has said, "and conventional thought has to be pushed farther and wider."

Part of his vision had the Corps and Navy ready to face off against China. Berger wants the Corps to be able to fight and survive within range of Chinese missiles, take out enemy ships from land or sea and throw an unpredictable mix of

Semper Fi

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Marine Corps History

Gary Burk

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

STRANGLING RABAU (1943)

The battle for the American beachhead at Cape Torokina continued unabated into December. The 21st Marines took the lead, fighting savagely to control the high ground known as "Hellzapoppin Ridge."

Marine dive-bomber squadrons lent a hand. The learning curve for close air support in a jungle battle ascended sharply after an inauspicious beginning. The standard white smoke grenades of the infantry proved unreliable; the Japanese would pop their own smoke to confuse the pilots, and on one occasion friendly troops died by errant bombing. Colored smoke grenades provided the solution. The Japanese could never match the variety of colors—green, blue, even *violet*—soon available to the Marines' forward liaison party.

When bomb fuses set to delay a tenth of a second upon impact failed to detonate in the mushy jungle, the bombardiers switched to four fifths of a second delay setting. These small improvements made a world of difference at Hellzapoppin Ridge. Given this support, the 21st Marines took and held the high ground.

The "short-legged" Marine dive-bombers that supported the 21st Marines so valiantly had launched from the nearby and newly constructed fighter strip at Torokina, which became operational on December 10, thanks to five weeks of backbreaking work by the SeaBees. On the twenty-eighth, General Turnage turned over his positions ashore to the American Division overall command of the campaign ashore passed from General Geiger's IMAC to the Army's XIV Corps. The Marines left steaming Bougainville with pleasure.

Marine casualties in the bruising campaign totaled 423 killed and 1,418 wounded. The operation completed the conquest of the Solomons, neutralized the five Japanese airfields on the island, and placed Rabaul within range of every tactical Allied aircraft in the South Pacific.

It became time for the 1st Marine Division, the Old Breed, to reenter the fray. Now they were "MacArthur's Marines," and their mission in the Southwest Pacific Area was to complete the isolation of Rabaul by executing a flanking amphibious assault on the western end of New Britain Island, the opposite end from Rabaul itself. The Marines' objective: the Japanese airfield at Cape Gloucester. Their principal opponent: Major General Iwao Matusda, commanding the 65th Brigade, Imperial Japanese Army.

Of all the miserable battlefields where Marines fought the Japanese in the South Pacific, none could compare with Cape Gloucester in the winter monsoons. Unbelievably dense rains arrived on D-Day and remained. The mud became impassable. The dripping jungle swarmed with poisonous vipers and stinging insects ("even the damed caterpillar bite," complained one Leatherneck). At one point early in the campaign the Marines had suffered more casualties from falling trees than deaths by gunshot wounds. The Marines would fight in Gloucester's "Green Inferno" for four months.

Major General William Rupertus (Vandergriff's assistant at Guadalcanal) now commanded the Old Breed, assisted by Brigadier General Lemuel Shepherd. The division had taken nearly a year to recover from Guadalcanal, including the persistent strains of malaria that still haunted the veterans. Rupertus, twice a national champion with Springfield ".03" rifle and former director of marksmanship for the Corps, used the interlude to supervise his divisions transition to the M-1 Garand. The Old Breed Marines gave up their Springfields reluctantly, but under Rupertus's nonsense intendance, they became proficient with their new rifles.



*Island of Rabaul
1943*

(to be continued)

Southern Belles Unit 441**Paula Landers**

★ MARINE CORPS LEAGUE AUXILIARY ★ SPRING CRAFT FAIR

MARCH 7, 2020 9 A.M. TO 3 P.M. VETERANS' MEMORIAL COLISEUM

We have been working really hard to make this one of the best Craft Fairs in the Tri-State.

Breakfast and Lunch will be available for purchase from the Coliseum Concession Stand. There are over 64 Crafters and Makers with a little bit everything like forged metal décor, wood-working, handcrafted jewelry, baked goods, even flavored kettle corn, etc. We will also be having Raffles and a Chance Auction.

Our advertising campaign starts this month. Our president Dani Cook is trying to contact the local TV station to see if we can get on their noon segments to talk about the auxiliary and the craft fair.

This is going to replace our bowling fundraiser. After 11 years of doing to bowling we decided to

try something new.

I would like to invite everyone to come out on March 7th to support this event.



**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 \$ 8.00 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

- 243rd Ball 7 1/2 in K-bar style letter opener *Quantity:* _____ *X \$10.00* *Total:* _____ *+ \$4.00 Shipping*
- 243rd 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*
- 244th Ball Challenge Coin *Quantity:* _____ *X \$10.00* *Total:* _____ *+ \$2.00 Shipping*
- 15 ounce Stemless Wine Glass Each *Quantity:* _____ *X \$8.00* *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*

NAME: _____

Subtotal: \$ _____

ADDRESS: _____

Shipping: \$ _____

CITY: _____ **ST:** _____ **ZIP:** _____

Grand Total: \$ _____

Make checks payable to: River Cities Det. #1090
Please Mail with Payment to: Attention: Ship Store
 P.O. Box 6581
 Evansville, IN 47719-0581

Please add the appropriate shipping, if not a local pick up. Shipping charges above are for 1 item or 1 set. Example, if you order 2 coins the shipping is \$4.00

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They help make this Newsletter possible



*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 Officers are
proud to support the River Cities Detachment*

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

04/2020

***Compliments of
Joe and Kathy Filipczak***
Life Member
River Cities Detachment #1090

12/2020

***Compliments of
Gary Burk, Life Member***
**OPTIMIST CLUB OF EVANSVILLE
DOWNTOWN**
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07/2020

Place Your Ad Here

***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*

01/2021

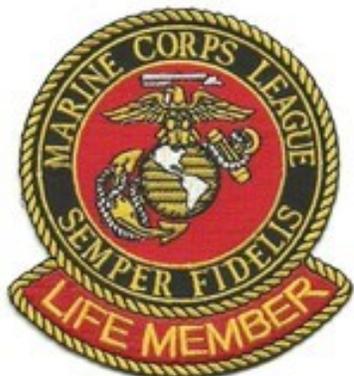
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Bob and Linda Reutter***

*Life Members
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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.
 P. O. Box 6581
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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 Ji

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February 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Newsletter Articles, Ads, and Pictures for March 2020 are due NO LATER THAN February 22, 2020 There are No Exceptions to this deadline.						1
2	3	4 Det. 1090 Breakfast Libby's and Mom's Cafe 0800	5	6 MCLA Southern Belles VA Clinic 8 a.m.-11 a.m.	7	8
9	10 No MODD Growl	11 Det. 1090 Breakfast Libby's and Mom's Cafe 0800	12	13	14 	
16	17	18 Det. 1090 Breakfast Libby's and Mom's Cafe 0800	19	20	21	22
23	24 MCLA Southern Belles Unit #441 AmVets #84 6:30 p.m.	25 Det. 1090 Breakfast Libby's and Mom's Cafe 0800	26 MCL River Cities Det. #1090 VFW 1114 1900	27	28	29