



River Cities News



River Cities Detachment 1090
Marine Corps League—Evansville, Indiana

Volume 18
Issue 2
February 2021

Commandant's Corner

Jim Johnson

Well, here we are one month into a new year and hopefully it will be the best year yet for Marine Corps League Detachment 1090. Our meetings at our new home at the American Legion Funkhouser post have been really great. The post has been more than co-operative with the Marines of Det# 1090. Some of our Marines have joined the post and some have even been elected as officers of the post. Our meetings have always been the 4th Wednesday of every month, if you haven't joined us for a while please consider joining us on February 27th. Come early and enjoy our dinner/social hour before the meeting. Our dinner/social hour has been extremely well received.

Our next few meetings are going to be very important. We will be nominating and electing officers

for the coming year. It is very important that we *all* become involved with this process. If you

(Continued on page 12)

Inside this Issue:

- Commandant's Corner.....1
- Battle of Balikpapan2
- Chaplain's Corner.....3
- Cartoon Caption Contest.....5
- Marine Spotlight on.....6
- Marine Humor.....7
- February Calendar.....10 & 11
- Marines in the Public Eye.....12
- Our Sponsors.....14-15-18
- Ship's Store.....16
- Life membership.....17
- Dept. of Ind. News.....17
- Announcements.....18
- Detachment Officers.....18
- Advertising rates.....19
- Newsletter Boosters.....19

Battle of Balikpapan (1945)

By Gary Burk

Editor's note: This is the final part of a three part story about the Battle of Balikpapan in 1945.

Aftermath:

Major operations had ceased by 21 July, when the Japanese abandoned Batuchampar and Manggar, although small scale clashes continued until the end of the war. The majority of Japanese withdrew north-east, before eventually turning west and marching across the island to Kuching or to Bandjermasin. However, troops from the 22nd Special Base Force attempted to break into the port facilities around Balikpapan in August from the western side of the bay, and several minor actions were fought during this time. The 7th Division's casualties were significantly lighter than they had suffered in previous campaigns; a total of 229 Australians were killed and 634 wounded, while at least 2,032 Japanese were killed and another 63 captured.

The operation to secure Balikpapan was Australia's largest and last amphibious operation of the

war. The battle was one of the last to occur in World War II, beginning a few weeks before the bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki and the Soviet invasion of Manchuria effectively ended the war. Japan surrendered while the Australians were combing the jungle for stragglers. In this regard, and in light of the strategic situation which had effectively negated many of the Allies stated reasons for the operation, historians such as Rhys Crawley and David Horner have assessed that the operation did not affect the course of the war and was "strategically dubious". Pratten argues that the cancellation of Allied operations to secure Java negated the need for the

(Continued on Page 4)



Chaplain's Corner

by Bob Reutter

We have survived another year. 2020 was one that we all want to forget as soon as possible. It was a challenge for the Marines of our Detachment as well. Not only did we lose several close members of our Marine 'family' (Don Landers, Sue Grayson, Irene Blessing and Dottie Mills) but due to the global pandemic we were unable to do our normal 'farewell' to the 42 other Marines from our area who died in 2020. I did prepare our prayer folder and each was delivered to the funeral homes, asking the funeral directors at each to present it to the family at the service. I included a letter with each folder telling about our service, apologizing that due to safety issues for both our people and the Marine's families, we were not able to physically be there. Thanks to Tom Kick, we provided an EGA with each letter asking the family to pin it to

the collar of their loved one. 46 folders in one year. Unfortunately, 2021 hasn't started much better as we have already had 4 Marines including another of our 'family,' Keith Benedict. Many of you remember Keith and his wife, Jean. Both of them were Marines. They met during WWII when both were stationed in Hawaii. They were married in 1947 and were both members of our Detachment. Jean died in 2014.

In North Carolina in January, the country's oldest Marine died at 107. Dorothy "Dot" Cole joined the Corps at 28 years old in 1943. In an interview with the Marine Corps Times, Cole said she decided she would take a stance to support her country after Japanese forces launched a surprise attack on the Pearl Harbor naval base in Hawaii on December 7, 1941.

volunteering with the Red Cross and knitting

(Continued on page 9)

"There were women

Battle of Balikpapan (from page 2)

operation and concludes that the decision to continue with the operation was potentially influenced by the perceived importance of Balikpapan's oil facilities.

Despite the early capture of the airfields at Sepinggang and Manggar, it was not until 15 July that the first RAAF Spitfire fighters began operating, and ultimately the airfields could not be used for bombing operations. Additionally, much of the port area and oil producing facilities were heavily damaged by the pre-invasion bombardment and by Japanese sabotage efforts, rendering them useless to the Allies in the short term. Politically, the damage inflicted on



Burning oil refineries at Balikpapan

the infrastructure strained the relationship between the Australians and the returning Netherlands East Indies government. Additionally, the oilfields that supplied the damaged refineries – those around Sambodja and Sangasanga – remained in Japanese hands until the end of the war, thereby negating what little benefit the Allies gained in securing the refineries.

Due to the limited strategic reasons for the operation, Horner argues that the operation was undertaken largely for political reasons, as MacArthur wished to "show the Dutch government that he had attempted to recover part of its territory..." but ultimately it did not affect the outcome of the war. Nevertheless, historian Peter Dennis concludes that the operation was of "doubtful value strategically" but that "tactically... [it was] ...skillfully conducted". A key element of the success of the operation from the Australian perspective was the logistic support provided by the US, particularly in relation to the shipping that was required to transport the vast

amounts of troops, stores and equipment for the operation. In comparison with the concurrent operations the Australian First Army were fighting in New Guinea at the same time, particularly around Aitape–Wewak, the I Australian Corps' operations in Borneo received considerably more resources in terms of air and naval support, and transportation.

Following the Japanese surrender, the three Australian brigades were committed to occupation duties until around February 1946. The 21st Brigade was detached to Makassar in the Celebes Islands to accept surrender of the Japanese forces, release prisoners of war and maintain civil order. The 25th Brigade detached elements to occupy Samarinda, Bandjermasin, Tanahgot, and Pontianak.



Cartoon Caption Contest



**YOU EAT EVERY BITE ON YOUR PLATE,
YOU LITTLE ----, THERE'S KIDS IN
EUROPE STARVING FOR FOOD TO EAT!!**

Our winner in January's caption contest was Roy McWilliams. Roy chose to receive a Detachment Challenge Coin. Our March Cartoon is:



Submit your caption idea by Feb. 19 to rapid1@evansville.net. Winner chooses between Challenge Coin or picture frame.



Marine Spotlight On:



Gary A Burk 2018

**Gary
Burk**



1956

Gary A. Burk (two four letter words as he likes to say) was born in Evansville on August 23, 1938. When his parents passed away, Gary found the bill for his birth written on one page of a waitress pad. It said "Baby Burk, two weeks, \$37.00. Before Joining the Corps, Gary worked at several jobs—Wesselman's Grocery, Ross Theatre among them.

Gary joined the Marines on July 31, 1956 and was sent to San Diego. During his boot training, Gary severely broke his ankle and was sent to the hospital to recover. He finally graduated 7 months later. During his time in

the Corps, Gary served in Neupuunga, Okinawa and at the Great Lakes Naval Station in Illinois. He separated from active duty on July 30, 1958.

Upon returning to Evansville, jobs were scarce and he eventually received a job offer from National City Bank. He started as a messenger and worked his way up to Senior VP of Operations, retiring at the age of 55.

Gary has one boy and one girl as well as 4 grandchildren and one great grandchild. He enjoys acrylic painting (this author has 4 of his paintings,) woodworking

and being involved with his church (he is a Deacon.) He is a long time member of the Downtown Optimist Club, is a Kentucky Colonel and currently his major involvement is chairing the Downtown Optimist Club's 100th anniversary celebration. Before joining the League, Gary and his former wife traveled, hitting 49 of the United States. He is still planning to visit the final one, Oregon, some day.

Gary joined the League in February of 2009, at the urging of a childhood friend (and Marine) Gerald Hartig. Larry Scott took Gary under his wing and taught him all about the Detachment. One year later Gary was invited to join the Devil Dogs. He holds the rank of Pedigreed Devil Dog. Gary writes a monthly history column for this newsletter shining a light on some of our Marine Corps history.

Marine Humor

(True story) A few years back one of the new Marines assigned to the Barracks at Yorktown Va. was standing guard at the main gate of the Naval Weapons Station. The duty policy was to check 100% of all ID cards including military in uniform, regardless of rank. A Navy sedan drove up to the gate with a young seaman at the wheel and a Rear Admiral sitting in the back. The young Marine PFC signaled for the car to stop, approached the driver and asked for both ID cards. The Admiral told the Marine that he was on his way to meet with the station CO and he didn't have time for such nonsense.

The Admiral told the driver, "Go ahead."

The PFC told the driver, "Don't do that, Sir!"

The Admiral told the driver, "You heard me, drive on."

As he drew his .45 the PFC said to the Admiral, "Sir this is my first time on post. Do I shoot you or your driver?"

The Admiral showed his ID.

Valentine's
Day



March 6, 2021

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, woodworking, 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 6th to support this event.



Chaplain's Corner (from page 3) while sitting in church, so I thought had to do something," Cole told the Marine Corps Times in an interview in September. "At the time, I didn't think I was doing anything great. I knew I was helping our country." She was 28 years old in 1943 when she was among the first wave of women to join the Marine Corps Women's Reserve, according to her daughter.

Cole wanted to be like Amelia Earhart, Klutz said, and had taken flying lessons in hopes of becoming a pilot. "She thought she would impress the military by taking flying lessons. She had about 200 flying hours in, and flying a Piper Cub, and she thought that would impress the military and the Marine Corps," her daughter, Betty Klutz said. "But when she got in there, they just put her behind the desk." She attained the rank of sergeant before leaving the Marines. The Marine

Corps paid tribute to Cole in a tweet that ended, "Semper Fi, Marine."

In January, we assisted a Marine family in distress by building a handicap ramp on the front of a house owned by Paula Landers. Paula is having some medical issues and was unable to negotiate the steps up to her front door. Several members of the Detachment assisted in the project. "Gung Ho" and "Semper Fi" Marines. Once again we have shown what we can do when we work together.





If you have anything you would like to submit for the February Newsletter, the deadline for submission is January 22nd.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday
3 Breakfast at Libby's and Mom's— Everyone invited! Assemble after 0600 order at 0700	4	5
10 Breakfast at Libby's and Mom's— Everyone invited! Assemble after 0600 order at 0700	11	12
17 Breakfast at Libby's and Mom's— Everyone invited! Assemble after 0600 order at 0700	18	19
24 Breakfast at Libby's and Mom's— Everyone invited! Assemble after 0600 order at 0700	25 <div style="border: 1px solid orange; padding: 2px; background-color: #fff9c4;"> Detachment Meeting Funkhouser Post on New Harmony Road 1900 begins—come early to eat dinner from menu. </div>	26

10/11 Task Force 58, with Marine Fighter Squadrons 123, 216, 217, 212, and 451 on board carriers, attacked Tokyo and provided air cover support for Iwo Jima landing forces. They also bombed and strafed Okinawa. 1945




The British schooner *Phoenix* fell to Marines of the USS *Constitution*.
1814

**Southern Belles #441
AmVets Post #84
2921 Broadway Ave.
6:30 PM**



February 2019

day	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2 GROUND HOG DAY 
	6	7	8 Kwajalein was secured; the 14th and 23rd Marine Regiments with 2/24 departed . 1944	9 The first Marine helicopters (HO3S-1s) were delivered to the Corps. 1948
	13	14 	15	16 Marine Captain Ted Williams, Boston Red Sox baseball legend, crash landed his F9F Pantherjet after his aircraft was shot up during a bombing raid on North Korea. Williams walked away from the wheels-up landing
	20 	21	22	23 Five Marines and a Navy corpsman raised the American flag on Mount Suribachi, Iwo Jima. 1945
	27	28 Operation Desert Storm ended. 23 Marines were killed in action or died of wounds. 1991		

Commandant's Corner

(from page 1)

know someone who you think would make a good officer then please nominate them. If you would like to hold a position within the Detachment please volunteer.

The Marine Corps League Central Division Conference will be held in Elkart Lake, WI. on March 18-21. The Department of Indiana Spring Conference will be held at the Embassy Suites by Hilton in Plainfield, IN. on March 6-7. If anyone wants to attend any of these conferences please let me or the adjutant (Tim Jones) know.

Some of the things we should be thinking about for this year (providing COVID-19 and social distancing are no longer a problem) is a family picnic this summer, finding some events for our food booth, and possibly our ribs and butt sales, and last but not least, the Marine Corps Birthday Ball.

I hope everyone has a fantastic year and I will see you at our next meeting. Semper Fi.

Marines in the Public Eye

By Bob Reutter

Many of us back in the 70's tuned in each week to watch "Emergency." It featured the 'real' activities of an emergency hospital in California and the fire department and ambulance that served it. Did you know that Dr. Early of the show was a Marine named Bobby Troup? Troup enlisted in the Corps in 1941, after graduating college. After completing officer training, he was assigned to help with recruit



training at Montford

Point. While there he organized the first all black

Marine Band and wrote a song "Take Me Away From Jacksonville." In 1966 Nat "King" Cole recorded another Troup song "Get Your Kicks On Route 66." Troup also appeared in several movies, and other television

credits include appearances on “Mannix”, “Perry Mason”, and “Adam-12” before becoming a regular on “Emergency.” Joining Troup on this show was his real-life wife Julie London—a singer in her own right with a hit song “Cry Me A River.”



Julie London and
Bobby Troup

Yet another example of what a motivated Marine can do!



Marines in Literature. I read a lot of fiction in my spare time and I have found there are a surprising number of Marines as main and/or important characters in fiction. Many of us have read “The Corps” series by WEB Griffin. Tom Clancy, James Webb, James Brady and many other well know authors use Marines as main or important characters. I have been reading works from another author with USMC themes. His name is C.G.Cooper. His “Corps Justice” series got me hooked along the lines of WEB Griffin. While each book is a stand-alone volume, they follow a group of former active duty military (mostly Marine) who support the pledge to “uphold and defend the Constitution and laws of the USA against all enemies, foreign and domestic.” Cooper is (of course) a Marine. You can find more about him and his books at:

<https://www.cg-cooper.com>

Support Our Sponsors -----



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

2020

*Donald Landers, Sr.
Irene L. Midle-Blessing
Susan Grayson*



04/2021

Compliments of John & Judy Bryant

Life Member

01/2021

Compliments of Bob & Linda Reutter

Life Members

06/2021

Compliments of Casey Canfield

Life Member

River Cities Detachment #1090

01/2022

Compliments of the Marine Corps League Auxiliary



10/2021

Southern Belles Unit 441



MASK UP !

06/2021



---They Help Make This Newsletter Possible

*Place Your Ad
Here*

Our prayers for our nephew who was recently deployed. May God Bless all of our service members, protect them, and give the strength to carry. Amen!

**Roy and Carolyn
McWilliams.**



05/2021

Semper Fi!

Mike Mitchell

Life Member

River Cities Detachment #1090



06/2021

*In Memory Of
Marine Tommy Collins
And All Deceased
Detachment Members*



Semper Fi

09/2021

**Compliments of
Joe & Kathy Filipczak**

Life Member

*River Cities Detach-
ment #1090*

12/2021

**Compliments of
Gary Burk, Life Member**

Optimist Club of Evansville Downtown

Friend of Youth Since 1921

07/2021

Ship's Store

The following items are in stock at the Detachment Ship's Store.
The Ship's Store will be brought to each meeting so you may purchase items.

A slight increase in cost over National Ship's Store has been added to cover

Item	Cost	Item	Cost	FMF
EGA Cap Ornament, Regular Member, gold, screw-back \$	5.00	FMF device, for Marine of Year ribbon		1.50
Patch, MCL logo with ASSOCIATE rocker, 3" for right shoulder	4.25	Department Staff Elected ribbon, silver		2.00
Patch, MCL logo, for REGULAR member, 3" for right shoulder	4.00	Detachment Commandant ribbon		2.00
Patch, US Flag, field forward, for regular member, right shoulder	4.00	Detachment Staff Appointed ribbon, bronze		2.00
Sunburst Collar ornament, regular member, prong back	12.00	Community Service Ribbon		2.00
Cover, MCL, woman's, 7 5/8	30.00	National Meritorious Unit Commendation ribbon		2.00
Cap Strip, LIFE, Red with gold lettering and border	3.50	Individual Meritorious Commendation ribbon		2.00
Metal Ribbon Holder, 3 ribbon	1.25	Ceremonial Guard ribbon		2.00
Metal Ribbon Holder, 4 ribbon	2.50	EGA Belt Buckle, for leather belt		18.50
Metal Ribbon Holder, 8 ribbon	3.50	Trousers, dress blue, 44R		45.00
Metal Ribbon Holder, 9 ribbon	3.50	Trouser stripe, red, 1 1/8"		15.00
Metal Ribbon Holder, 12 ribbon	4.50	Belt, white, for dress blues		15.00
Tie Clasp	9.00	Patch, Devil Dog, 3" round for cover		4.00
Star Clusters for Ribbons, 2 stars, bronze	1.50	Rocker, Colorguard, for Devil Dog Vest		3.00
Star Clusters for Ribbons, 3 stars, bronze	1.50	Cap Strip, Dogrobber		3.50
Patch, Life Member	8.25	Neck Ribbon, PDD, gold with eyelet		5.00
Tie, black	6.00	Neck Ribbon, DD, black with eyelet		5.00
Pin, MCL	1.00			
Pin, MCL Life	1.00			
Pin, MCL Associate	1.00			

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.

Age 36 up to and including age 50 - \$400.

Age 51 up to and including age 64 - \$300.

Age 65 and over - \$200.

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



Marine Corps League Department of Indiana News

The following dates have been selected by the Conference/Convention Committee and approved by the members through Motions at the 2020 Fall Conference:

March 6/7, 2021 Department of Indiana Spring Conference

June 4/6, 2021 Department of Indiana Summer Convention

October 16/17, 2021 Department of Indiana Fall Conference

All events will be held at the Embassy Suites by Hilton in Plainfield, IN. Specific information on each event will be sent appropriately beforehand, including hotel and event registration, agenda's and other pertinent information.

Questions can be directed to Conference/Convention Chair Glenn Newton at sgtglenn@psci.net or Department Paymaster Dave Englert at englertd@psci.net.

DAVID L. JONES

djones@joneswallace.com 420 Main Street, Suite 1600
Telephone (812) 402-1600 P.O. Box 1065
Facsimile (812) 402-7977 Evansville, IN 47706-1065

JONES•WALLACE
ELEVATING LAW



01/2022

IMPORTANT
ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

Dues for 2020 - 2021
By July 31st - \$25
August 1st or after - \$35

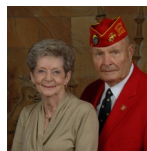
Initial Membership Dues are \$35

Mail your annual membership fees to:

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

In fond memory of my life's love

Dorothy Lee
"Dottie" (McCord) Mills



1930-2020

08/2021

River Cities Detachment Officers

Commandant Jim Johnson

(812) 431-2451

Sr. Vice Commdt. Gary Burk

Jr. Vice Commdt. Melissa West

Jr. Past Commdt. Bob Reutter

(270) 314-9484

Adjutant Tim Jones

(812)454-8717

Paymaster John Bryant

(775) 287-1876

Judge Advocate T.C. Shane **Chaplain** Bob Reutter

Sgt. at Arms Tom Kremer

Newsletter Editor Bob Reutter **Web**

Sergeant Tim Jones



We have space available in our ad pages.

Advertisements are available at the following rates.

Business Card Size....\$15.00 for 6 months

1/4 page \$25.00 for 6 months

1/2 page\$50.00 for 6 months

The editor has the right to reject an ad that is not appropriate such as loan companies, adult entertainment, etc.

Newsletter Booster Club

<u>Booster Member</u>	<u>Expires</u>
MCLA Southern Belles.....	Oct-2021
Joe & Kathy Filipczak.....	Dec-2021
David Jones.....	Jan—2022
Casey Canfield.....	Feb-2022
Tom & Alice Kick.....	May-2021
Gary Burk.....	May-2021
Tom Kremer.....	July-2021
Ned E & Rose Wellmeier.....	July-2021
Dannie & Debbie Russell.....	July-2021
Roy & Carolyn McWilliams.....	Aug-2021
Bob & Linda Reutter.....	Aug-2021
Dorothy Odom.....	Sep-2021
Chris Boyd.....	Oct-2021
John Bryant	Nov-2021

Your name could go here

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.

NEWSLETTER BOOSTER MEMBER
 NAME: _____
 DONATION: \$ _____
 Please Mail to:
 River Cities Detachment
 P.O. Box 6581
 Evansville, IN 47719-0581



**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



**Non Profit
US Postage
PAID
Permit #1151
Evansville, IN**

Return Service Requested

«AddressBlock»

Semper Paratus