



River Cities News



River Cities Detachment 1090
Marine Corps League—Evansville, Indiana

Volume 19
Issue 2
February 2022

Commandant's Corner

by Jim Johnson

I hope your holidays went well and that the New Year will bring you success and prosperity. Be very vigilant and careful with this new variant of COVID. I realize that it has been very politicized but it still a very serious disease. Wear your mask when required and take care.

In the past we have discussed having a social get together with meal. Well it's going to happen, our first social gathering will be at the Conservation Club. We have reserved it for the 12th of March so plan on being there. Bring your entire family and kids with a dish that can be enjoyed by everyone. Your newsletter editor will give you more details about time and directions and etc.

If you have been reading our newsletter you will have noticed that we are selling stained glass with lead frame sun catcher crosses. These are being made by Marine Roy Williams. He has graciously offered to teach us how to make them also. He will be giving a class on February 2nd. I think this will be a very interesting class. Plus the sale of these crosses helps with our general fund balance. Again our editor will furnish more information on the time and directions of how to get there.

Last month we had our first awards dinner and everybody who attended had a great time. There were numerous awards passed out as you can tell by the pictures in Decembers Newsletter. If you could not attend and have an award coming please contact an

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Commandant (from page 1)

Officer of the Detachment and we will see that you get the award.

There will be numerous important decisions made in the next couple meetings, i.e. election of new officers for the new year, what to do with the building fund and many more. It would be great to see a huge crowd at our meetings. Come and join us at the Funkhouser post on New Harmony Way the 4th Wednesday of the month at 1900. come early and enjoy a meal with your fellow Marines.

Semper Fi

Woof, Woof Devil Dogs

By Pound Keeper Bob Reutter



The first Growl of the Pound 294 Devil Dogs was held on Wednesday, January 12th.

At the previous Growl (October) Devil Dog Ray Ko remarked that over the past few years we had gotten a bit lax enforcing Devil Dog rules and standards. I made it known that starting with the January Growl, we would strictly enforce them.

We started the first Growl of 2022 with the introduction of a new Cur. Chris Boyd had accepted the invitation to be a Devil Dog. Mad Dog Barb Cole took him out to suitably

attire him for his introduction into the Fun and Honor society of the Marine Corps League.

During the business portion of the Growl, we decided to make a commitment to visit each of the 50+ members of the River Cities Detachment 1090 who have not been to a meeting in recent memory. We thought that just showing them they are still brother Marines would let them know we care. Perhaps they have mobility issues and need a ride to our meetings.

At the Growl, Devil Dog Life Member certificates were distributed to PDD and Life Members John Bryant, Gary Burk, Barb Cole, Tim Jones, Tom Kick, John Mills, Bob Reutter
(Continued on page 22)

Battle of Coconut Grove

By Gary Burk

Background

In early November, US forces had landed around Cape Torokina and established a beachhead, as part of Allied efforts to advance towards the main Japanese base around Rabaul, the isolation and reduction of which was a key objective of Operation Cartwheel. A Japanese counter landing at Koromokina Lagoon was defeated in the days following the US landing, and the beachhead was subsequently secured. Following this, a blocking force was pushed forward towards the Piva Trail, a key avenue of approach towards Cape Torokina, to defend the narrow beachhead while further supplies and reinforcements were landed. The Japanese commander on Bougainville, Lieutenant General Harukichi Hyakutake, ordered the 23rd Infantry Regiment to advance towards Cape Torokina from the main Japanese position around Buin. Heavy fighting subsequently took place during the Battle for Piva Trail as the Japanese advancing from Buin clashed with the Marine blocking force. The battle resulted in the capture of Piva by US forces, after which



a small reconnaissance party of naval construction personnel, escorted by a force of Marine infantrymen, was sent out in search of a site suitable for an airfield. Led by Commander William Painter, a Civil Engineer Corps officer, the party identified a suitable location about 1 mile (1.6 km) beyond the perimeter, about 3 miles (4.8 km) inland, and they set about preparations for the construction of several landing strips for bomber and fighter aircraft.

On 9 November, Painter returned to the main perimeter and the following day the combat patrol also returned, having clashed with a Japanese

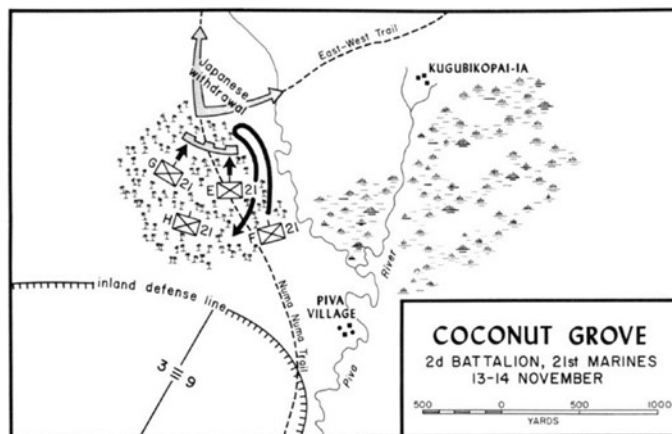
patrol. Further patrols were sent up the Piva Trail, advancing past a coconut grove that was near the intersection with the East–West Trail. These patrols failed to locate the Japanese. The swamps in the area impeded supply and slowed movement. As a result, it was initially impossible for US forces to advance the perimeter of their beachhead far enough to cover the proposed airfield site selected by Painter. It was therefore decided to establish a strong outpost, capable of sustaining itself until the lines could be advanced to include it, at the junction of the Numa Numa and East–West Trails. This outpost would then be used to send out patrols to disrupt Japanese forces in the local area. On the afternoon of 12 November, General Allen H. Turnage—

commander of the 3rd Marine Division—directed the 21st Marine Regiment to send a company-sized patrol up the Numa Numa Trail. The company selected for the patrol was Company E, under Captain Sidney

Altman. The patrol was to move up the Numa Numa Trail to its junction with the East–West Trail. From there, the company was to reconnoiter each trail for a distance of about 1,000 yd (910 m), to eventually set up an outpost in the area. As these preparations were taking place, the Japanese, unbeknownst to the US commanders, had occupied a strong position around the coconut grove.

Throughout the night of 12/13 November, the Marines' orders were modified to increase the size of the patrol to two companies, with a headquarters element and an artillery forward observer team to control fire support. It was also decided to expedite the

(Continued on page 6)



Map depicting the main movements during the battle.

Coconut Grove (from page 5)

establishment of the outpost at the junction of the East–West and Numa Numa Trails. In view of the importance of his assignment, Colonel Evans Ames—commander of the 21st Marines—sought divisional orders to send the entire 2nd Battalion, under the command of Lieutenant Colonel Eustace Smoak. This request was subsequently granted, thus enabling the US commander to maintain a company in reserve. Orders were issued for the patrol to step off early on 13 November, with Company E leading out at 06:30. They were to move to an assembly area positioned to the rear of the front line held by the 9th Marine Regiment and wait for the rest of the battalion to arrive before continuing.

Battle

While Company E waited for further orders in the assembly area the remainder of the 2nd Battalion, 21st Marines was supplied with rations, water and ammunition, and awaited the arrival of the artillery forward observer party. Due to further delays, at 07:30, Company E was ordered to

advance up the Numa Numa

Trail and begin to set up the outpost without the rest of the battalion, and at 08:00 proceeded up the trail without incident. Around 11:05, when the company had reached a point about 200 yd (180 m) south of its objective, it came under heavy fire from a Japanese ambush that included mortars and machine guns, as well as sniper fire from the trees. As casualties mounted, the company commander, Altman, dispatched a runner to find Smoak and inform him of the situation.

The runner found Smoak with the rest of the battalion at 12:00. They were about 1,200 yd (1,100 m) south of the trail junction, having been delayed by the late arrival of the forward observer team. Their progress had been further delayed due to the swampy ground which had made it difficult to bring up supplies to the assembly area. In response to the news of the ambush, Smoak led the rest of the battalion down the trail as rapidly as possible to provide support to Company E. One platoon of Company F was left behind to provide security for the forward observer's wire team.

By 12:45, the battalion was 200 yd (180 m) to the rear of Company E, whereupon Smoak learned that Company E was pinned down by heavy

fire and was taking casualties and reinforcement was needed immediately. The Japanese ambush position was located south of the trail junction. Smoak promptly ordered forward Company G—under the command of Captain William McDonough—to reinforce Company E, while Major Edward Clark's Company H was ordered to provide 81 mm mortar support for the attack. Company F—led by Captain Robert Rapp—less the platoon protecting the wire team, was ordered into reserve and to await orders. The artillery forward observer's party was ordered to move forward under the command of Major Glenn Fissel, the battalion executive officer, to assess the situation and call in artillery concentrations to prevent the Japanese from maneuvering.

Upon reaching Company E with the forward observer's party, Fissel observed that the greatest volume of fire was coming from the east side of the trail, in the direction of Piva River, promptly calling for an artillery concentration in that area. Receiving conflicting reports, to obtain more accurate information, Smoak pushed his command post forward into the edge of the coconut grove through which the Numa Numa

Trail ran. Fissel was able to make contact with Smoak and advised that Company E needed help immediately. After a quick reconnaissance, Smoak ordered Company F to pass through Company E, resume the attack, and allow Company E to withdraw, reorganize, and take up a protective position on the battalion's right flank. Company G—which had reached a position to the left of Company E—was ordered to hold its position. Company F began its movement forward, and Company E—finding an opportunity to disengage itself—began a withdrawal, redeploying on the right of the battalion's position. Company F failed to make contact with either Company E or Company G.

During the withdrawal, Fissel was wounded. Unable to determine the exact locations on the battalion's companies, Smoak sent several staff officers to determine the exact positions of his companies. Company F could not be found, and a large gap existed between the right flank of Company G and the left flank of Company E which left the battalion in a precarious position. As a result, Smoak ordered Company E to move forward, contact Company G, and establish a line to protect

(Continued on page 18)

Amazing Mid-air Rescue

His parachute got stuck on the plane's wheel and he was suspended in midair with little chance of survival. Then another plane came to his rescue. Almost 80 years after it unfolded in the sky over San Diego, a nearly impossible rescue mission remains one of the most daring feats in aeronautical history.

It began like any other May morning in California. The sky was blue, the sun hot. A slight breeze riffled the glistening waters of San Diego Bay. At the naval airbase on North Island all was calm. At 9:45 a.m., Walter Osipoff, a sandy-haired 23-year-old Marine second lieutenant from Akron, Ohio, boarded a DC-2 transport for a routine parachute jump. Lt. Bill Lowrey, a 34-year-old Navy test pilot from New Orleans, was already putting his observation plane through its paces. And John McCants, a husky 41-year-old aviation chief machinist's mate from Jordan, Montana, was checking out the aircraft that he was scheduled to fly later. Before the sun was high in the noon-



Lt. Col. John J. Capolino, a Philadelphia artist, painted this scene of Osipoff's rescue in the 1940s. It belongs to the National Museum of the Marine Corps in Quantico, Virginia.

day sky, these three men would be linked forever in one of history's most spectacular midair rescues.

Osipoff was a seasoned parachutist, a former collegiate wrestling and gymnastics star. He had joined the National Guard and then the Marines in 1938. He had already made more than 20 jumps by May 15, 1941. That morning, his DC-2 took off and headed for Kearney Mesa, where Osipoff would supervise practice jumps by 12 of his men. Three separate canvas cylinders, containing ammunition and rifles, were also to be parachuted overboard as part of the exercise.

Nine of the men had already jumped when Osipoff, standing a few inches from the plane's door, started to toss

out the last cargo container. Somehow the automatic-release cord of his backpack parachute became looped over the cylinder, and his chute was suddenly ripped open. He tried to grab hold of the quickly billowing silk, but the next thing he knew he had been jerked from the plane - sucked out with such force that the impact of his body ripped a 2.5-foot gash in the DC-2's aluminum fuselage. Instead of flowing free, Osipoff's open parachute now wrapped itself around the plane's tail wheel. The chute's chest strap and one leg strap had broken; only the second leg strap was still holding and it had slipped down to Osipoff's ankle. One by one, 24 of the 28 lines between his precariously attached harness and the parachute snapped. He was now hanging some 12 feet below and 15 feet behind the tail of the plane. Four parachute shroud lines twisted around his left leg were all that kept him from being pitched to the earth. Dangling there upside down, Osipoff had enough presence of mind to not try to release his emergency parachute. With the plane pulling him one way and the emergency chute pulling him another, he realized that he would be torn in half. Con-

scious all the while, he knew that he was hanging by one leg, spinning and bouncing and he was aware that his ribs hurt. He did not know then that two ribs and three vertebrae had been fractured.

Inside the plane, the DC-2 crew struggled to pull Osipoff to safety, but they could not reach him. The aircraft was starting to run low on fuel, but an emergency landing with Osipoff dragging behind would certainly smash him to death. And pilot Harold Johnson had no radio contact with the ground. To attract attention below, Johnson eased the transport down to 300 feet and started circling North Island. A few people at the base noticed the plane coming by every few minutes, but they assumed that it was towing some sort of target. Meanwhile, Bill Lowrey had landed his plane and was walking toward his office when he glanced upward. He and John McCants, who was working nearby, saw at the same time the figure dangling from the plane. As the DC-2 circled once again, Lowrey yelled to McCants, "There's a man hanging on that line. Do you suppose we can get him?" McCants answered grimly,

(Continued on page 10)

Amazing (From page 9)

“We can try.”

Lowrey shouted to his mechanics to get his plane ready for takeoff. It was an SOC-1, a two-seat, open-cockpit observation plane, less than 27 feet long. Recalled Lowrey afterward, “I didn’t even know how much fuel it had.” Turning to McCants, he said, “Let’s go!” Lowrey and McCants had never flown together before, but the two men seemed to take it for granted that they were going to attempt the impossible. “There was only one decision to be made,” Lowrey later said quietly, “and that was to go get him. How, we didn’t know. We had no time to plan.” Nor was there time to get through to their commanding officer and request permission for the flight. Lowrey simply told the tower, “Give me a green light. I’m taking off.” At the last moment, a Marine ran out to the plane with a hunting knife for cutting Osipoff loose and dumped it in McCants’s lap.

As the SOC-1 roared aloft, all activity around San Diego seemed to stop. Civilians crowded rooftops, children stopped playing at recess, and the men of North Island strained their eyes upward.

With murmured prayers and pounding hearts, the watchers agonized through every move in the impossible mission. Within minutes, Lowrey and McCants were under the transport, flying at 300 feet. They made five approaches, but the air proved too bumpy to try for a rescue. Since radio communication between the two planes was impossible, Lowrey hand-signaled Johnson to head out over the Pacific, where the air would be smoother, and they climbed to 3,000 feet. Johnson held his plane on a straight course and reduced speed to that of the smaller plane - 100 miles an hour.

Lowrey flew back and away from Osipoff, but level with him. McCants, who was in the open seat in back of Lowrey, saw that Osipoff was hanging by one foot and that blood was dripping from his helmet. Lowrey edged the plane closer with such precision that his maneuvers jibed with the swings of Osipoff’s inert body. His timing had to be exact so that Osipoff did not smash into the SOC-1’s propeller. Finally, Lowrey slipped his upper left wing under Osipoff’s shroud lines, and McCants, standing upright in the rear cockpit, with the plane still going 100

miles an hour 3,000 feet above the sea, lunged for Osipoff. He grabbed him at the waist and Osipoff flung his arms around McCants's shoulders in a death grip.

McCants pulled Osipoff into the plane, but since it was only a two-seater the next problem was where to put him. As Lowrey eased the SOC-1 forward to get some slack in the chute lines, McCants managed to stretch Osipoff's body across the top of the fuselage, with Osipoff's head in his lap. Because McCants was using both hands to hold Osipoff in a vise, there was no way for him to cut the cords that still attached Osipoff to the DC-2. Lowrey then nosed his plane inch by inch closer to the transport and, with incredible precision, used his propeller to cut the shroud lines. After

hanging for 33 minutes between life and death, Osipoff was finally free.

Lowrey had flown so close to the transport that he'd nicked a 12-inch gash in its tail. But now the parachute, abruptly detached along with the shroud lines, drifted downward and wrapped itself around Lowrey's rudder. That meant that Lowrey had to fly the SOC-1 without being able to control it properly and with most of Osipoff's body still on the outside. Yet, five minutes later, Lowrey somehow managed to touch down at North Island and the little plane rolled to a stop. Osipoff finally lost consciousness, but not before he heard sailors applauding the landing.

Later on, after lunch, Lowrey and McCants went back to
(Continued on page 13)



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River Cities Detachment—Ship's Store

Editor's Note: All the items listed for sale in the River Cities Detachment 1090 Ship's Store (unless otherwise noted) are as is. The clothing has been donated by members who have grown (up or down) into a different size or by family members of Marines who have gone on. All items are on a first come, first served basis. If you want an item shipped to you, we will add the actual cost of postage to your item. All items may be picked up with no shipping or handling.

Uniforms and Clothing

Dress Blue Trousers 34 waist	\$ 45.00
Dress Blue Trousers 38 waist	\$ 45.00
Dress Blue Trousers 40 waist	\$ 45.00
White L/S shirt with MCL patch & flag Size 18 1/2 X 34/35	\$ 15.00
White L/S shirt with MCL patch and Devil Dog patch Size 4X	\$ 25.00
Commandant Cover strip	\$ 8.00
Sgt at Arms Cover strip	\$ 8.00
MCL arm patch	\$ 4.00
 Sunburst collar emblem (pair)	\$ 12.00
Life Member Cover Strip	\$ 9.00
Life Cover Strip	\$ 4.00
Past Commandant Cover Strip	\$ 9.00
Jr Vice Cover Strip	\$ 9.00
Chaplain Cover Strip	\$ 5.00
MCL Cover Emblem	\$ 5.00
 MC Tie Bar	\$ 9.00
Black Tie	\$ 6.00
Ribbon Bar holders	
2,3,9,10,11,12,13,14,15,16,17,18	\$ ***
*** (Check with Tim Jones for cost)	
Marine Corps Belt Buckle for black leather belt.	\$ 18.00

Military Order of Devil Dogs

Devil Dog Arm Patch	\$ 4.00
Devil Dog Cover Patch	\$ 4.00
Devil Dog Pup Collar (black)	\$ 5.00
Devil Dog DD Collar (Red)	\$ 5.00
Devil Dog PDD Collar (Gold)	\$ 5.00

MCL Associates

MCL Associate Collar Emblem (pair)	\$12.00
Associate Cover Emblem	\$ 6.00

New Linens

White table cloth 102x60"	\$ 10.00 ea.
White table cloth 90" round	\$ 10.00 ea.
Red Satin Table Runner 14x108"	\$ 5.00 ea.
Gold Satin Table Runner 14x108"	\$ 5.00 ea.
New 22" square Red Napkins	\$ 10.00 doz.
New 22" square Gold Napkins	\$ 10.00 doz.

Miscellaneous Items (new)



Detachment Challenge Coin \$10.00 ea.



Min. K-bar letter opener
Overall 7 1/2 " \$15.00 ea.



12 ounce stemless wine glasses set of 4 \$ 20.00



USMC Shot Glass \$10.00 ea.



Curved Glass Picture Frame \$ 15.00 ea.

All items listed on the Detachment 1090 Ship's Store site are subject to prior sale. Limited Quantities on all items.

Ship's Store (continued)

Crossed flag tie pin/lapel/hat pin \$10.00 ea.

Miscellaneous Clothing

George (brand) red polo w/1090 logo sz.52 \$10.00

L.L.Bean Polo with collar and 1090 logo \$10.00ea

Black size L/T

Black size L

Red size L

L.L.Bean Polo no collar with 1090 Logo \$10.00

Dark Red size L

Red size L

Navy Blue size L

awarded them the Distinguished Flying Cross for executing "one of the most brilliant and daring rescues in naval history." Osipoff spent the next six months in the hospital. The following January, completely recovered and newly promoted to first lieutenant, he went back to parachute jumping. The morning he was to make his first jump after the accident, he was cool and laconic, as usual. His friends, though, were nervous. One after another they went up to reassure him. Each volunteered to jump first so he could follow. Osipoff grinned and shook his head. "The hell with that!" he said as he fastened his parachute. "I know damn well I'm going to make it." And he did.

Amazing (From page 11)

their usual duties. Three weeks later, both men were flown to Washington, DC, where Secretary of the Navy Frank Knox

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



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Everyone invited!
Assemble after



Breakfast at Libby's and Mom's—
Everyone invit-

Breakfast at Libby's and Mom's—
Everyone invit-

President [George H.W. Bush](#) called for an end to the Gulf War and directed military efforts to humanitarian objectives. 1991



Feb

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
<p>Stained Glass Cross class with Roy McWilliams.</p> <p>Community Room at the Villas on Theatre Drive. Start at 1800.</p>	<p>1 4th Marine Division captured Roi-Namur and eight other islands in the Kwajalein Atoll. This was done as part of the first assault on islands controlled by the Japanese before the beginning of World War II. 1944</p>	<p>2</p>
<p>7</p>	<p>8</p>	<p>9</p>
<p>14</p>	<p>15 The first full day of Operation Deckhouse VI" took place near the city of Quang Ngai, Vietnam. In the operation, the Special Landing Force (BLT Y4 and HMM-363) killed 280 enemy combatants. 1967</p>	<p>16</p>
<p>21 Detachment Meeting Funkhouser Post on New Harmony Road 1900</p>	<p>22 Lt. Gen. Walter Boomer led Marine 1st and 2nd divisions into Iraq. 1991</p>	<p>23</p>
<p>If you have anything you would like to submit to the January Newsletter , the deadline for</p>		

February 2022



Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
	3	4	5 1st Battalion, 1st Marines with two companies, and 2nd Battalion, 5th Marines with three, recaptured Hue's hospital, jail, and provincial headquarters. It would take three more weeks of intense house to house fighting, and nearly a thousand Marines killed and wounded, before the imperial city was secured. 1968	
	10	11	12	13 Woman's Reserve program was announced. 1943
	17	18	19 4th and 5th Marine divisions assaulted Iwo Jima, raised the American flag on Mt. Suribachi four days later. 1945	20 Capt. Archibald Henderson led marines in "Old Ironsides" victory over Great Britain's Cyane and Levant off the coast of Africa. 1815
	24	25	26 	27
				

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In memory of Detachment Members
2021
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Joe Shimek
Jim Grayson
Gene Grigsby
Daniel Fuller
Brenda Bergwitz
Paula Landers
Richard VanGordon

04/2022

Compliments of
John & Judy Bryant
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River Cities Detachment #1090

01/2022

Compliments of
Bob & Linda Reutter
Life Members
River Cities Detachment #1090

06/2022

Compliments of
Casey Canfield
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River Cities Detachment #1090

01/2022

**For All Who Served
With The 17th Rifle
Company.....**



**Semper
Fi**



06/2023

**This space is seen by
over 200 veterans every
month. Your message
should be here!**

---They Help Make This Newsletter Possible

“Oorah”

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Life Member

River Cities Detachment #1090 05/2023



Semper Fi!
Mike Mitchell

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River Cities Detachment #1090



06/2023

You're AD could be here!

In Memory Of
Marine Tommy Collins

And All Deceased

De-



Semper Fi

09/2022

Compliments of Joe & Kathy Filipczak

Life Member

River Cities Detachment #1090

12/2022

Compliments of Gary Burk, Life Member

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07/2022

Coconut Grove (From page 7)

the battalion's front and right flank. In the meantime, Company G was to extend its line to the right to tie in with Company E. By 16:30, Smoak decided to dig in for the night, with his companies suffering fairly heavy casualties, Company F was missing and communications with regimental headquarters and the artillery had been broken.

At 17:00, the gunnery sergeant of Company F reported in person to the battalion command post. Company F had moved out as ordered from its reserve position to the lines held by Company E, however, had veered too far to the right and had missed Company E entirely. Company F proceeded onward and found itself in a position behind the Japanese lines. It was reported by the gunnery sergeant that Rapp had found it increasingly difficult to control his company, suffering some casualties and platoons intermingling and becoming disorganized. The gunnery sergeant was ordered to go back to Company F and guide it back to the battalion position. By 17:45, Company F was back in the battalion lines and had taken a position on the perimeter which was set up for the night.

At 18:30, communications were reestablished and the artillery of the 12th Marine Regiment was ordered establish pre-designated fire zones north, east, and west sides of the 2nd Battalion, 21st Marines' perimeter. The 2nd Marine Raiders Battalion—attached to the 21st Marine Regiment—was directed to protect the supply line from the main line of resistance to the 2nd Battalion, 21st Marines. Ames ordered Smoak to send out patrols and prepare to attack the Japanese positions in the morning, with tank, artillery, and aircraft support.

Throughout the night, the Japanese defenders fired their rifles sporadically, but made no attempt to assault the Marine positions. On the morning of 14 November, all companies established outposts about 75 yd (69 m) in front of the perimeter, and sent out patrols. At 09:05, airstrikes were called in, with 18 TBF Avengers from VMTB-143 bombing and strafing the area after artillery marked the target with smoke. Immediately after the airstrike, Company E moved back into its original position in the line. Smoak then ordered an attack, with Company E on the left and Company G on the right while Compa-

nies F and H would hold in reserve. The attack was to be a frontal assault, supported by five M3 Stuart tanks of the 2nd Platoon, Company B, 3rd Tank Battalion.

The attack was set for 11:00; however, due to communications being cut at 10:45, the attack was ordered delayed until communications had been re-established. The communications were reestablished at 11:15 and the attack proposed at 11:55. The 2nd Battalion, 12th Marine Regiment—in direct support—was to provide a 20-minute preparation followed by a rolling barrage. After the preparatory barrage, the attack commenced at 11:55. The Japanese immediately reoccupied their positions and opened fire with rifles and machine guns. Several tanks of 3rd Tank Battalion became confused and fired into the Marines on their flank, and accidentally ran over several men. Two tanks were damaged by anti-tank fire and mines. At this time, fire control among the Marines broke down and they began shooting wildly for about five minutes until Smoak came forward to reorganize the troops, personally ordering the Marines to cease fire and to halt the advance. Japanese fire having stopped, all companies were directed to

stand fast in the positions where they found themselves and to send out patrols to a distance 100 yd (91 m) north of the trail junction.

The supporting tanks—except the two that had been damaged—were ordered to return to an assembly position in reserve. At this time, it was discovered that the Marines had overrun the Japanese positions, although there were still some defenders alive in the dugouts. Riflemen with grenades quickly dealt with these and by 14:00, all Japanese resistance had been overcome, and patrols returned reporting no further contact. At 14:15, the advance was resumed, with mopping up operations commencing. However, the Japanese troops managed to successfully break contact and began withdrawing to the east. By 15:30 to 15:45 the Marines had occupied their objective, with a perimeter defense organized for the night.

Aftermath

In the aftermath, US forces estimated that they had come up against a Japanese force of around company strength. The Japanese positions were very extensive and well organized, with numerous machine gun positions and many dugouts (Continued on Page 24)

David L. Jones

Djones@joneswallace.com 20 N.W. Third St.
Suite 400
P.O. Box 1065
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01/2023

*In Recognition of Seven
Family Members who
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**Compliments of
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Semper Fi, Marines

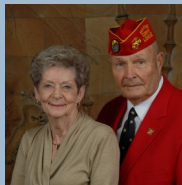
04/2022

**Why isn't
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- Jr. Vice Comdt.** **Melissa West**
- Jr. Past Comdt.** **Bob Reutter**
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- Adjutant** **Tim Jones**
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Booster Member Expires

- Casey Canfield.....Feb-2022
- Tom & Alice Kick.....May-2022
- Gary Burk.....May-2022
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- Dannie & Debbie Russell.....July-2022
- Gary & Cynthia CullisonAug 2022
- Jim and Christie Johnson.....Aug 2022
- Roy & Carolyn McWilliams.....Aug-2022
- Bob & Linda Reutter.....Aug-2022
- Dorothy Odom.....Sep-2022
- Chris Boyd.....Oct-2022
- Judy & John BryantNov-2022
- Joe & Kathy Filipczak.....Dec-2022
- David Jones.....Jan-2023

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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River Cities Detachment

P.O. Box 6581

Evansville, IN 47719-0581

Woof, Woof (Cont. from page 3)

and Melissa West.

I showed a picture of a Marine and the first one to recognize Ira H. Hayes of Iwo Jima fame received one of our Iwo Jima posters with a vial of actual volcanic ash from Iwo. All the Dogs at the Growl took a Marine History quiz asking them to match events in Marine history with the dates on which each occurred. Out of the 20 events listed, the top Dog (P.D.D. Tim Jones) got 12 correct.

After we had finished our meals at the American Legion Funkhouser Post #8, we proceeded to go through our regular order of business. Processing our agenda necessitated several of us earning fines by not following correct nomenclature and procedure for (among other things) the proper terms for various common items using Devil Dog speech. Fines were flowing freely during the Growl. It is important that we learn to follow proper speech and procedures for when we attend

Department of Indiana and National Growls. Thanks, Ray for pointing that out. It is good to know that you were just as much fined as the rest of us.

Before the end of the Growl, our Cur, Chris Boyd, finished his initiation and after a spirited 3 second debate as to his qualifications, was voted in as the newest Pup in the Pound. Welcome Chris! After he has held the position of Pup for one year, Chris (and any other Pups in the Pound) can attend a State Growl and move up to Devil Dog. At least one year after earning the degree of Devil Dog, any MODD member can attend a National Supreme Growl and earn the title Pedigreed Devil Dog.

Dates for future Growls are the second Wednesday in - April 13 July 13, August 10 and October 12. Mark your calendars. I have a couple of other quizzes ready for future Growls. As always, I have some fabulous (cheap) prizes for the winners.

We are still looking for a location to hold a future Growl where we can unlimber our shooting irons

and do some pistol (and perhaps even rifle) practice. If anyone out there knows of a place that is reasonably priced where a dozen or so Marines might be able to put some rounds down range, in an indoor setting, please let me know.

It is an honor to be a Devil Dog. If you know of any Marine member of the League who has a) been in the League for 12 months b) is up to date on his/her dues c) has been an active participant in Detachment activities, please

submit his/her name for membership in the Devil Dogs.

I look forward to seeing you at the April Growl of "Enough Said" Pound 294, Military Order Of Devil Dogs.

Semper Fi and Ooh Rah !

Pound Keeper

Bob Reutter



IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT

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

Dues for 2021 - 2022

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

*The River Cities News is the place to get all the information about what is going on in the Detachment. We need you to be an active part in **your** MCL.*



Coconut Grove (From page 19)

that were deep with good overhead cover. Although a careful count of Japanese dead was not taken, at least 40 Japanese bodies were recovered. Six Japanese machine guns were captured. The Marine forces lost 20 killed, including five officers, and 39 wounded. Although not provided for in the first phase of the battle when Company E advanced up the trail,^[22] artillery preparation was later recognized as of prime importance against the Japanese system of defenses, with their well dug-in, concealed, and covered foxholes, equipped with a high percentage of automatic weapons, in turn covered by equally invisible riflemen in trees and spider-hole. Without strong fire support, severe losses would have been sustained by the attacking Marines.

The fighting ended with the Marines gaining control of the important junction between the Numa Numa and East-West Trails. This set the conditions for US forces to begin an advance on all fronts commencing on 15 November, extending the perimeter of the Torokina beachhead to about 1,000 yd (910 m) on the left (west) flank and about

1,500 yd (1,400 m) north in the center, to the inland defense line known as "Dog". This enabled construction of the Piva airfields to begin; meanwhile, further supplies were landed around Cape Torokina as the beachhead was further consolidated. A few days after the fighting around the Coconut Grove, the Battle of Piva Forks, the final major action around the Torokina beachhead for 1943, was fought. While minor actions were also fought around Hellzapoppin Ridge and Hill 600A in December, the fighting around Bougainville largely died down until March 1944 when the Japanese launched a large-scale assault on Torokina.





Marine Spotlight On:

River Cities Detachment 1090 Building Fund

Some months ago we mailed a letter to each of the 77 paid members of the Detachment. In the letter I asked each member to indicate if he/she was willing (or able) to pledge a monthly amount to support our Detachment owning our own building. I asked that you respond by December 31, 2021.

The results are in. Of the 77 letters mailed, 2 were returned as undeliverable (at the last known 'good' address we and the League had.) 26 letters (33%) were returned with a response. 20 of the responses were "No, I am unwilling or unable to commit to any amount. 6 of the 77 letters (8%) said "Yes" with a total pledge of \$230 per month. I am sure you understand that \$230 wouldn't pay for the lights on any building, let alone all the operating expenses. Even with a pre-addressed envelope, 51 members (59%) didn't respond. ***Always Faithful???***

Therefore, the decision was made to close the building fund, refund the donations of those members who requested a refund, and return the rest of the fund to the General Fund savings account. Checks will be going out to those members requesting refunds by the end of the month..

It was a grand dream to have our own "Marine Barracks—Evansville." Perhaps in the future, when we have rebuilt the membership with some more active members, we can rekindle the dream.

Editor Bob Reutter

Beautify your home and support the River Cities Detachment 1090



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_____ Dress Blue @\$15.00 \$ _____

Shipping \$2.00 each \$ _____

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