



River Cities News



River Cities Detachment 1090
Marine Corps League—Evansville, Indiana

Volume 18
Issue 1
January 2021

Commandant's Corner

Jim Johnson

I hope this finds everyone well and are looking forward to the new year. Now that the COVID vaccine is out, we all have to make a personal decision whether to get it or not. I personally think it's a good idea but I also understand the arguments against it. Speaking of COVID-19, the military will start receiving the vaccine next week but it will NOT be mandatory.

Our Marine Corps has been changing rapidly in the last year. Not only did our Commandant have a vision of our Corps going in a different direction, congress also mandated some changes. Our total strength has been decreased by 5000 troops. We were also mandated to integrate our boot camps, so in that note women are now attending MCRD San Diego. Women Marines are now filling all MOS billets including infantry. We now have (2) two women Marines who have graduated Infantry Officer

Course and are now assigned as Platoon Commanders. I personally have no problem with this and believe it's about time. (Cont. page 12)

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Battle of Balikpapan (1945)

By Gary Burk

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

The initial infantry assault on Hill 87 was launched throughout the morning, and stalled as Japanese resistance grew; the Australians became pinned below the summit and just before noon, two supporting tanks from the 1st Armoured Regiment came forward, suppressing Japanese fire and assisting the infantry to capture the position by 12:40 pm. After this, the indirect fire support, except for the divisional machine guns, was restored. Japanese fire from neighboring positions was suppressed, enabling a company assault on the final objective. By 2:00 pm, the Australians had captured Parramatta.

Meanwhile, the 21st Brigade came up against heavy resistance after initially advancing against only desultory artillery and mortar fire. The Australian ground troops were lavishly provided with direct and indirect fire support – potentially more so than in any other Australian campaign during the war – and with the help of tanks, flamethrowers, mortars

and other fire support, by the end of the first day, the Australians had extended their beachhead 1.2 miles (2 km). The work of marking out the beaches and organizing the troops as they arrived on the beach, as well as controlling the unloading of stores, was undertaken by a specially trained unit, the 2nd Beach Group, which landed in the second wave. Shortly after landing, it was found that the LSTs could not land their stores over the beaches; as a result, DUKWs were used instead to offload stores and land them. The fighting for the high ground around Klandasan continued through out 2 July where the Japanese – largely from the 2nd—

(Cont on page 4)



Lore of the Corps

By Bob Reutter

US and Japan Conclude Exercise Forest Light Western Army

The exercise brought together the U.S. Marine Corps and the Japan Ground Self-Defense Force. The United States and Japan concluded the latest iteration of a bilateral exercise last week. Exercise Forest Light Western Army wrapped up on January 30 after a closing ceremony, a U.S. Marine Corps (USMC) statement released by the 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit (MEU) said.

The exercise had brought together 145 U.S. Marines based in Okinawa, including



Marine Corps Lance Cpl. Lucas Mitchell looks through the scope of an M32 multi-grenade launcher



a division of four MV-22B Ospreys with the 31st MEU, alongside approximately 500 members of the Japan Ground Self-Defense Force (JGSDF). The exercise went on between January 18 and 30 across several locations on the Japanese island of Kyushu in southwestern Japan. The exercise consisted of field training events encompassing basic infantry skills, integrated vertical assaults with MV-22 Osprey aircraft, and combined-arms operations with both allied nations' forces completing a variety of missions together. U.S. Marines with Battalion Landing Team 1st Battalion, 5th Marines, and Marine Medium Tiltrotor

Squadron 265 (Reinforced), 31st MEU, worked alongside their JGSDF counterparts with the
(continued on page 8)

Battle of Balikpapan (Cont from page 2) Garrison Force and elements of the 454th Independent Infantry Battalion resisted strongly, during which Australian engineers worked to destroy large numbers of Japanese tunnels, as well as neutralizing thousands of land mines and booby traps. The 25th Brigade landed at this time, while the 21st Brigade pushed further eastwards, with engineers supporting the multiple river crossings. The 2/14th Battalion captured Sepinggang airfield, using indirect fire support as much as possible to minimize their own casualties, while the 2/27th Battalion secured the area around Stalkoedo, and the 2/16th Battalion also took several features.

The next day, 3 July, the 25th Brigade relieved the 18th; while the 18th secured Balikpapan town and its harbor, the 25th Brigade advanced inland along the Milford Highway. By the end of the day, the Australian beachhead had been extended out to 5 miles (8.0 km), and the 21st Brigade had reached Manggar airfield. Elements of the Japanese 454th Independent Infantry Battalion occupied strong positions in the high

ground overlooking the field, and were able to call down heavy concentrations of mortar and artillery fire.

The Australians captured the airfield on 4 July, but were held up for several days after coming up against Japanese artillery and mortar fire. Tanks were landed around the Manggar Besar River, but two were knocked out by Japanese fire. Naval and air support was called in, and over the course of several days the gun positions were captured.

After landing, the 25th Brigade assumed a holding role in the center of the Allied beachhead until 3 July, when it took over from the 18th Brigade, who went into reserve, but remained around Balikpapan town to continue mopping-up operations there. The 25th Brigade then began pushing inland from the urban area towards Batuchampar, 10 miles (16 km) from the initial landing beaches.

On 5 July, the 2/9th Battalion and the 2/1st Pioneer Battalion, supported by elements of the 2/7th Cavalry Commando Regiment as well as artillery and tanks were landed at Pa-

nadjam by LVTs and LCMs, to clear the western shore of Japanese artillery, prior to the Allies opening the port. The 2/9th sent patrols to Nanang and the Sesumpu River; before continuing down the Riko River and landing another patrol that exploited inland towards the Parehpareh River; meanwhile, the 2/1st Pioneers landed at several spots including Teloktebang, Djinabora and Tempadung, before advancing overland to Pamaluan. Japanese opposition was limited and the area around Panadjam was cleared within two days. However, heavy fighting took place along the Milford Highway on 5–6 July as part of a Japanese battalion attempted to block the Australian advance on Batuchampar. The Japanese employed a variety of delaying tactics to slow the Australians, using the thick jungle to their advantage. The Australians brought up tanks equipped with flamethrowers, and called in a heavy artillery barrage to clear the firmly entrenched defenders; over 8,000 rounds were expended in this effort.

By 9 July, the two forward Japanese battalions had largely been destroyed, and the rem-

nants were withdrawing from the east coast. The 21st Brigade continued their advance towards Sambodja. Patrols also ranged towards the Milford Highway to established contact with the 25th Brigade. The Japanese commander, Kamada, had established his headquarters around Batuchampar by this time, and the Japanese rearguard began withdrawing back to the main defensive position 3 miles (4.8 km) inland at Batuchampar, where Kamada's third battalion was digging in. Meanwhile, the landing beaches were improved with the construction of several docks by the US 11th Naval Construction Battalion, to enable two LSTs to be unloaded at a time. On 10 July, the Allies opened another beach – designated Brown Beach – around the southern part of the bay; the protected waters there greatly increased the amount of supplies that could be brought in, allowing eight LSTs to dock at the same time.

Over the course of a fortnight, Allied artillery and aircraft (go to page 7)

Happy New Year!



Marine Spotlight On:



TC Shane 2018

TC
Shane



1957

I first met TC when he joined the Detachment in May of 2015. I **knew** he always volunteered when there was work to be done. What I didn't know was the degree to which TC has made himself prepared to help in the event of a direct terrorist or cyber attack on our country. TC has completed over 25 FEMA and Homeland Security courses in Disaster Preparedness and Counter Cyberterrorism. After earning his BS from Tenn. State University (where he earned 100% of his tuition in full and part

time employment) and his MS from the University of Wisconsin, TC worked from 1977-94 in Information Technology and Education. He then moved to the private sector where he worked in various construction and public service related industries including SI-GECO. 2006-2019 saw TC working in security in the Evansville area. During much of the time he also served as a substitute teacher in two different school systems, specializing in math, science and chemistry.

In addition to French and Spanish, TC has a working knowledge of several computer languages including BASIC, Fortran IV, PROLOG and several others. He is also an organic chemist. I know from previous talks with him that TC is a photographer and has had his own developing lab at home.

TC was born Feb. 2nd, 1936 and joined the Corps on June 27, 1957. After finishing recruit training at San Diego, he was assigned to the 3rd Pioneer Battalion. TC separated from active duty on October 29, 1959.

TC and his wife Shirley live in Evansville. They have one son.

I just know that if/when the 'stuff' hits the fan, whether the attack is chemical, cyber or otherwise, I want to be close to TC Shane for my survival! Ooh-rah!

Battle of Balikpapan

(from page 5) worked to reduce the Japanese position along the Milford Highway, while the 25th Brigade felt for the Japanese flanks, attempting to encircle. Meanwhile, patrols from the 2/7th Cavalry Commando Regiment and the KNIL company were sent along the flanks and to remote areas to gather intelligence. By 21 July, the encirclement of the Japanese defensive position was almost complete and the surviving Japanese began to withdraw. This withdrawal was conducted in good order, and the Australians noted the skill and determination with which the Japanese sited and held their defensive positions during this time. The Australians assessed that the Japanese would seek to establish a new defensive position around Samarinda, but the Australian commander, Milford, determined that the strategic situation did not require attacking this position. Following this, the Australians began deep patrolling operations. The 2/27th Battalion advanced along the Vasey Highway, ranging as far as Sambodja.

Southern Belles Unit #441

By Dani Cook

The Marine Corps League Auxiliary Southern Belles Unit #441 will be having our 2nd Annual Craft Fair Fundraiser on **Saturday March 6, 2021** from 9 - 3pm down at the Coliseum. Everyone should come and see the amazing items our vendors will be selling.

I know the year of 2020 had some major and minor hiccups. Let's all hope and pray for a better 2021. I hope everyone had a safe Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Our next meeting will be at AmVets #84

2912 Broadway Ave.

6:30pm on January 25, 2021.

Dani Cook, President



Lore of the Corps

(cont from page 3)

12th Infantry Regiment, 8th Division, Western Army," the 31st MEU said. Exercise Forest Light Western Army follows up on Exercise Forest Light Middle Army, which took place between December 1 and 13, 2019. According to a Japan Ministry of Defense statement, that exercise "strengthened ties between the JGSDF and USMC, and enhanced interoperability under respective chains of commands by practicing procedures necessary for bilateral operations."



Marine Corps Cpl. Janus Zsofka participates in live-fire training in Niigata, Japan, Dec. 8, 2020, during Forest Light, an annual bilateral exercise with U.S. and Japanese forces.

Basic Military Rules

US Army



1. Curse bitterly when receiving operational order.
2. Make sure there is extra ammo and extra coffee
3. Curse bitterly.
4. Do not listen to 2nd Lt. It can get you killed.
5. Call in air strike on suspected targets.
6. Curse bitterly.

US Air Force



1. Have a cocktail.
2. Adjust temp on A/C.
3. See what's on HBO.
4. Ask "what is a gunfight?"
5. Request more funding from Congress with a 'killer' Power Point presentation.
6. Wine and dine 'key' Congressmen, DOD and defense industry execs.
7. Receive funding, set up new command and assemble

assets.

8. Declare the assets 'strategic' and never deploy them operationally.
9. Rush to make 1345 tee time

US Navy



1. Go to sea.
2. Drink coffee.
3. Deploy Marines.

US Marine Corps



1. Be courteous to everyone, friendly to no one.
2. Decide to be aggressive enough, quickly enough.
3. Have a plan.
4. Have a back-up plan. The original plan probably won't work.
5. Be polite. Be professional, but have a plan to kill every one you meet.
6. **DO NOT** attend a gunfight with a handgun with a caliber not starting with ".4".
7. Anything worth shooting is worth shooting twice.



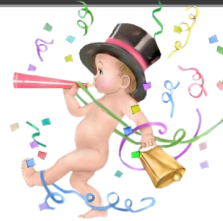
M.O.D.D.
1830
Funkhouser
Post #8

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



JAN		
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUE
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 Detachment Meeting Funkhouser Post on New Harmony Road 1900 begins—come early to eat dinner from menu.	26
31	If you have anything you would like to submit letter , the deadline for submission is	

JANUARY 2021



MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1 	2
	6		7	8	9
	13		14	15	16
	20		21	22	23
	27		28	29	30
<p>for the February News- January 22nd.</p>					

Commandant's Corner

(Cont from page 1)

Another big change that is coming is the length of the enlisted school of infantry. It has been 4 weeks as long as I can remember and when you graduated you were sent to your unit as a basic infantryman and then trained as a rifleman, machine gunner, mortarman or whatever to get your MOS. Well that school will be 14 weeks in length and you will train in every aspect of an infantryman. Every infantryman will have the same MOS no matter your job. When you report to your duty assignment, you can fill any billet that's required. It's all in the training. I think it's great just think of all the weapons you get to train with.

Remember this year to wear your mask and practice social distancing. It really does help control and contain COVID-19. As Marines we should be setting the example for the community

I hope all our Marines and Families had a VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS, A HAPPY NEW YEAR , AND SEMPER FI.



Marines in the Public Eye

What do **"Magnum P.I."**, **"JAG"**, **"Black Sheep Squadron"**, **"Airwolf"**, **"Quincy, M.E."**, **"Quantum Leap"** and **"NCIS"** all have in common?

They were all created or co-created by Marine Corps Veteran Donald P. Bellisario. Born in Pennsylvania in 1935, Donald joined the Corps in 1955. He left the Marines in '59, attaining the rank of sergeant. He graduated from Penn State University in '61, earning a degree in journalism. After spending 11 years in advertising, Donald moved to Hollywood to pursue his dream of screenwriting and production. During his time in the Corps, Don served with Lee Harvey Oswald



Donald P. Bellisario

(JFK's assassin) and, like many of his life experiences, that ended up in one of his story lines. The 'hero' of **"NCIS"** Leroy Jethro Gibbs is named after Don's father, Albert Jethro Bellisario.

Several of his main characters in his show share his birthday—August 8th. It is interesting to note that his daughter, Troian played Sarah on **“NCIS,”** Teresa on **“Quantum Leap”** and Erin on **“JAG.”** His step-son from his last marriage is Sean Murray—Timothy McGee on **“NCIS.”**

Bellisario retired in 2007, when tension with Mark Harmon caused Don to leave **“NCIS.”** He did, however retain the title of Executive Producer. When the network created two new **“NCIS”** spinoffs— **“NCIS—Los Angeles”** and **“NCIS—New Orleans”** , Bellisario sued arguing that his contract entitled him to the first rights to create any spin offs and a share of the profits from those shows. He settled before trial in 2011 for an undisclosed amount. Not bad for a Jar-head born in a Pennsylvania mining town to Italian-American parents. **Ooh-rah!**

How The ‘Word’ Works



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

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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.



Your caption goes here!

Cartoon Caption Contest

If you have a good caption for the cartoon , send it in an email to rapid1@evansville.net. Winner will receive their choice of either a Detachment Challenge Coin or a K-bar letter opener.

Deadline for submission is 01/19/21

No captions submitted for December Cartoon. No winner!!



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

To see the Marine Corps League Strategic Plan in its entirety, Go to <http://mclrivercities.org/> and click on "Links."

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

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.....	Dec-2020
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

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: \$ _____

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