



River Cities News



River Cities Detachment 1090
Marine Corps League—Evansville, Indiana

Volume 18
Issue 7
July 2021

Chaplain's Corner

Bob Reutter

We lost two Marines in the past month who had ties to the River Cities Detachment. Luddie DeVaughn passed away from complication of kidney disease on May 31 in Florida. Luddie was active when he was in Evansville and participated in the events we had during his time here. He also attended our meetings monthly and was actively involved with our Detachment. We will be participating in a memorial service in July.



Wednesday, June 23, Jim Grayson lost his battle with cancer. Jim was a quiet man who was always there when there was work to be done, despite working full time as a security guard. Whether we were at Harbor Freight with our food



booth or at Shrine Fest, work details at Toys for Tots or anything else that was needed, Jim was there. (continued on page 10)

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Pre-Arrangement Planning. When it comes to your final arrangements, shouldn't you make the decisions? The arrangements you make will reflect your exact wishes and desires. Pre-arranging your own service will help to ease the burden of your loved ones. It will also alleviate any questions, problems or differences, which can occur among family members.

Pre-payment will protect you from the rising cost of prices, and it will not be a financial burden on your loved ones. When you plan ahead you know that your wishes will be fulfilled.

Arrangements can be made in the comfort of your own home by clicking the button at www.boonefuneralhome.net/pre-arrangements . Fill in as much as you are comfortable with and we'd be pleased to meet with



Marine History

By Gary Burk

Battle for Piva Trail

The **Battle for Piva Trail** was a battle between United States Marine Corps and Imperial Japanese Army forces on Bougainville Island. The battle took place on 8–9 November 1943 during the Bougainville campaign in the days following the US landing at Cape Torokina earlier in the month.

The fighting took place inland from the US beachhead, as the Japanese began moving troops from the 23rd Infantry Regiment north from southern Bougainville. These troops subsequently clashed with a blocking force of US Marines that had been positioned along the Piva Trail to protect one of the key avenues of approach towards Cape Torokina. It had been intended that the 23rd Infantry Regiment would coordinate their assault with a counter landing at Koromokina Lagoon, but ultimately this did not occur as the main assault was delayed until after the counter landing was defeated. The fighting for the Piva Trail resulted in heavy casualties for the Japanese and was fol-

lowed by a series of actions throughout November and December 1943 as US forces sought to expand their perimeter around Cape Torokina.

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. Facing the American beachhead at Cape Torokina were troops of the Japanese 17th Army, commanded by General Harukichi Hyakutake, the main elements of which were drawn from Lieutenant General Masatane Kanda's 6th Division. In response, the Japanese attempted a counter landing at Koromokina Lagoon, and began moving reinforcements north from southern Bougainville.

To protect the narrow beachhead while further reinforcements and supplies arrived, the U.S. 2nd Marine Raider
(Continued on Page 11)

Marines in Show Business By Bob Reutter

Bobby Troup

October 18, 1918—February 7, 1999

For those of you who remember the movie "M*A*S*H" from 1970, you might remember the Army s/sergeant who drove the jeep with Hawkeye and Trapper and several times in the movie muttered the words, "Goddamn Army."



That driver was actor and Marine Bobby Troup.

He was born in Harrisburg PA. and graduated with honors from University of Pennsylvania. During his college days he wrote two songs that were recorded but the likes of Frank Sinatra, Glenn Miller, Sammy Kaye and the Andrews Sisters.

Upon graduating from U.PA he joined the Marines in 1941. After completing officer training he was assigned as one of two

dozen white officers to direct recruit training at Montford Point, with the first black Marines in the Corps. By spring of 1943 he had been assigned recreation officer and built a recreation hall, basketball court, outdoor boxing ring and miniature golf course. During this time he wrote a song "Take Me Away From Jacksonville" which became a sort of anthem for all the Marines at Camp Lejeune. His first marriage produced two children, both of whom had careers in the entertainment industry. In October of 1944 Troup was promoted to Captain and deployed to Saipan, which caused stress and eventually destroyed his marriage. After the war and leaving the Corps, Troup wrote the song "Get You Kicks On Route 66," which became a huge hit for Nat "King" Cole and recorded by many other artists as well as being featured in the movies "Cars" and "RV" with Robin Williams.

Troup met his second wife, singer Julie London and encouraged her to pursue a singing career. In 1955 he

(Continued on page 7)

Tales from the 17th Rifle Company

by P. Michael Mitchell

(Editors Note: This is the first in a new, continuing series of stories from the 17th Rifle Company—the USMC Reserve unit stationed in Evansville. Mike Mitchell was the commanding officer from October of 1969 until August of 1971. The stories are from the Commanding Officer’s memories)

A Dwight Rounder Story:

At 29 Palms Marine Corps Base in the Mojave Desert, the 17th Rifle Company conducted its summer camp training in 1971. The 17th participated with the Rockford, IL Rifle Company, a Texas Transportation Company and a third independent Rifle Company. There was also a makeshift Bn. HQ.

We were quartered in a tent city outside the base perimeter. There was a mess tent, a first aid tent and a Bn HQ. tent. Adjacent to this compound was a tall concrete wall used for one-wall handball or for tennis practice.

During free time, Dwight was practicing handball, one of his favorite competitive sports. As he was practicing, a jeep pulled up and the driv-

er stepped out. Dressed in a white tee shirt, white shorts and white tennis shoes, he walked over to Dwight and after watching for a few minutes, asked if Dwight was ‘up for a game.’ Always ready for a game, he answered “certainly.”

The game started slowly with the opponents feeling each other out. The game quickly descended into a ‘rock ‘em, sock ‘em’ affair with elbows flying, bodies slamming into each other—Dwight giving as much as he got from his opponent. By the time the match ended, both men were sporting bruises, soaked in sweat with red blotches all over their body from the contact. The older Marine offered Dwight his hand, shook and said “nice game.” He got back in his jeep and drove off toward the base. I walked over to Dwight and asked if he knew his opponent was Brigadier Gen. Graham, the base commander!

Marines explain vision for fewer traditional amphibious warships.

(Editor's note: Information in this article taken from the Marine Corps Times. It is written by Megan Eckstein)

The U.S. Navy and Marine Corps have finessed their requirement for amphibious ships and are now asking for 28 to 31 traditional amphibious ships that could flow in to support other expeditionary forces already operating during a conflict.

The Marines had long held on to a requirement for two Marine Expeditionary Brigades (MEB) that could fight their way into enemy territory – which led to the service having a stated requirement for 38 traditional amphibious warships to carry the two MEBs until 2019.

Commandant of the Marine Corps Gen. David Berger backed away from the two-MEB requirement in his initial Commandant's Planning Guidance after he took command in July 2019. He noted that “we will no longer use a ‘2.0 MEB requirement’ as the foundation for our arguments regarding amphibious shipbuilding, to determine the requisite capacity of vehicles or



other capabilities, or as pertains to the Maritime Prepositioning Force. We will no longer reference the 38-ship requirement memo from 2009, or the 2016 Force Structure Assessment, as the basis for our arguments and force structure justifications. ... The global options for amphibians include many more options than simply LHAs, LPDs, and LSDs.”

Since that time, the Navy and Marine Corps have embraced new concepts like Distributed Maritime Operations and Expeditionary Advanced Base Operations, and they conducted a new integrated naval force structure assessment that led to a Pentagon-level look at Navy and Marine

Corps future fleet needs. Now, the Marines are looking at a one-MEB lift requirement to move in Marines that would augment and back up those already deployed and operating in a given region, Deputy Commandant of the Marine Corps for Combat Development and Integration Lt. Gen. Eric Smith explained during a June 17 House Armed Services Seapower and Projection Forces Subcommittee hearing.

“The requirement, based on a study that [Deputy Chief of Naval Operations for Warfighting Requirements and Capabilities Vice Adm. Jim Kilby], my friend Jim, and I did together was you need 31 traditional amphibious ships in the appropriate mix, which is 10 big decks, LHA/LHD, and 21 LSD/LPD,” Smith said, with the LHAs and LHDs being the America-class and Wasp-class amphibious assault ships, respectively, supplemented by San Antonio-class amphibious transport docks (LPD-17s) and their Flight II variant that will replace the aging Whidbey Island-class dock landing ships (LSD-41/49).

“The low end of that study is 28, and the difference in
(continued on page 8)

Troup (from page 4) produced her million selling “Cry Me A River.” Troup and London married in 1959 and remained so until his death in 1999.

Troup wrote several more successful songs that were used in movies and television. He made appearances in three episodes of “Perry Mason” (two of which showcased his singing talents) and two episodes of “Mannix,” again displaying his musical talent.

Jack Webb (London’s first husband) used Troup in a 1967 episode of “Dragnet” and several episodes of “Adam 12.” When “Emergency” spun off into it’s own series, Troup and London were cast as ER doctor Joe Early and head nurse Dixie McCall.

Bobby Troup died of a massive heart attack in 1999 and Julie died the next year. She was buried next to him at a cemetery in the Hollywood Hills.

During his acting career, Troup had 38 credited roles in movies and television.



His music was used in 92 scripts and he recorded 13 albums of his singing.

Marines (from page 7)

those three is that there's additional risk in arrival times," he continued. "And that's based on a single MEB, Marine Expeditionary Brigade, forcible entry, and our expeditionary units that are out always, and our forward-deployed naval force in Japan."

In the past, having just one MEB to flow in behind any deployed or forward-deployed Marine Expeditionary Units (MEUs) would not be enough – but now, those deployed MEUs will be supplemented by 35 Light Amphibious Warships with about 75 Marines and heavy weaponry on each hull, meaning there will be much more combat power already scattered across contested waters and therefore less need for a massive two-MEB follow-on force. Jay Stefany, the acting Navy acquisition chief, said the commandant



wants a capable ship but also one that's affordable.

"Commercial standards with specific Navy features is the way we need to go for this ship, and what those features are needs to be worked out with the Marine Corps," he told Wittman.

"Adm. Kilby and I sit on the requirements evaluation team for that, the RET. So we are in lockstep, there's zero daylight between Jim and myself on that. It needs to be something that is, as Sec. Stefany said, affordable so we can get it in numbers, and it has to be something that looks like everything else that's out there," Smith said. "You protect the cargo, meaning the Marines and sailors that are on it, for a limited period of time in order to be able to evacuate them – that is the purpose that ship. I know that's not a loved sentiment, but that cargo is precious to us. So it has to go off, but it has to be affordable in large numbers and has to look like everything else."

Though the LAW is expected to have some minimal self-defense capabilities, its ability to blend in with commercial traffic in the water is itself a defense mechanism,

keeping the ship from being detected by an adversary seeking military targets to hit.

Kilby added that LAW will need some added survivability built into the hull in case it were to take a hit, so that sailors and Marines could survive and safely evacuate from the damaged ship. But it won't be a surface combatant that's expected to take a hit and keep on fighting, which will contribute to its lower cost and the ability to field nearly three dozen of them on a fairly rapid timeline.

The Navy had previously stated it wants to buy the first 10 LAWs between FY22 and FY26.

In its recent fiscal 2022 budget request, the Navy did not ask for money to begin procurement in FY22, though. Navy spokesman Capt. Clay Doss told Defense News the program would begin acquisition in FY23 if Congress funds the Navy's request for just research and development funds in FY22 to prepare for acquisition in FY23. He said the decision to slow the program down was a fis-

cal one, not a sign of engineering or other challenges.

The traditional amphibious ship programs may also take a hit due to fiscal uncertainty around the shipbuilding budgets for FY22 and beyond. Stefany said in a June 8 hearing that a deal to buy four ships – one LHA and three LPDs – from Ingalls Shipbuilding had been worked out between the Navy and the shipyard but that top Navy and Pentagon leadership did not seem interested in committing to so many amphibious ships up front.

"The initial indications we're getting from the department is that they would like to defer this decision" until they complete a force structure assessment associated with FY23 budget planning. The analysis will take place throughout the summer and fall, making it unlikely the Department of the Navy would be ready to make a decision before the multi-ship procurement authority that Congress gave the Navy before this contract expires at the end of the fiscal year, on Sept. 30.

In the June 17 HASC subcommittee hearing, Stefany added that negotiations be-

tween the Navy and Ingalls showed that the four-ship purchase would have saved 7.1 percent of the total cost of the four ships, or about \$700 million.

About [Megan Eckstein](#)

Megan Eckstein is the naval warfare reporter at Defense News. She has covered military news since 2009, with a focus on U.S. Navy and Marine Corps operations, acquisition programs, and budgets. She has reported from four geographic fleets and is happiest when she's filing stories from a ship. Megan is a University of Maryland alumna.

Chaplain (from page 1)

There was never an unkind word from Jim and he will be sorely missed. We were present at Sunset Cemetery on June 29th to honor Jim as he was laid to rest with his wife, Sue who we lost in October.

Luddie DeVaughn and Sue and Jim Grayson will be added to the list of Detachment members we have lost in the past few months. Good people all and we will treasure their memories and remember the joy they left. Their passing saddens all of us.

Semper Fi Marines and RIP.



www.vetcenter.va.gov

812-473-5993



Evansville
Vet Center

1100 N. Burkhardt Rd
Evansville, IN 47715

Piva

(from page 3)

Battalion advanced inland and set up a roadblock on the Piva Trail, around the junction with the Numa–Numa Trail, one of the key avenues of approach towards Cape Torokina. In an effort to reinforce the troops landing around Koromokina Lagoon, the Japanese 23rd Infantry Regiment, advancing from southern Bougainville, was tasked with dislodging the US troops holding the Piva Trail. The Japanese intent had been to co-ordinate actions on both sides of the US perimeter, but ultimately the landing around Koromokina Lagoon was defeated before the 23rd Infantry Regiment could mount a full-scale attack against the Marine defenses along the Piva Trail.



Marine Raiders on Bougainville

On the night of 5–6 November, the Marines drove off two preliminary attacks from the Japanese 23rd Infantry Regiment. Colonel Edward A. Craig, commander of the 9th Marines to which 2nd Raider Battalion was attached, surmised that this was just a preparatory action and brought up more Raiders to reinforce the roadblock. When the Japanese attacked the following afternoon (7 November), the Marines were ready and drove the Japanese back to Piva village. Early on the morning of 8 November, Major General Shun Iwasa, commander of the Japanese 6th Division's infantry group (the Iwasa Detachment), renewed the attack with two full battalions. The Americans brought up men of the 3rd Raider Battalion to protect the flanks of the Marines already engaged, as well as some light tanks. Frontal attacks by the Japanese were repulsed.

Major General Allen H. Turnage, in command of the 3rd Marine Division, determined that the Japanese lodged on the trail represented a threat to the airstrips and had to be

(continued on page 22)

Bar-b-que Rib & BUTT Fundraiser

RIVER CITIES DETACHMENT 1090 MARINE CORPS LEAGUE



THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT

TAKING ORDERS

Until Wednesday, August 25, 2021

ORDERS WILL BE AVAILABLE

Saturday, September 4, 2021

PLEASE PAY WHEN ORDERING

River Cities Detachment
Bar-b-que Fundraiser

\$25 each for 4 to 4 1/2 lb. slab

\$25 each for 7—8 lb. butt

Orders taken until

Monday, August 25, 2021

Orders may be picked up

between 3 P.M. and 5 P.M. on

Saturday, September 4, 2021 at

J. D. Byrider

2116 N. First Avenue

Evansville, IN

ALL ORDERS AND MONEY

MUST BE TURNED IN BY

Wednesday, August 25, 2021

BETWEEN

6:30 P.M. AND 7:00 P.M.

At Funkhouser American Legion

Prior to the Detachment Meeting



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



President John Adams signs Act establishing the U.S. Marine Corps. 1798

Marines in vast Allied counter-offensive meet Germans south of Soissons. 1918

Lieutenant Puller wins first of 5 Navy Crosses chasing guerrillas in Nicaragua. 1930

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



			SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
4	Independence Day Breakfast at Libby's and Mom's— Everyone invited! Assemble after 0600 order at 0700	5		United States Marine Corps	6
11	Breakfast at Libby's and Mom's— Everyone invited! Assemble after 0600 order at 0700	12			13
18	Breakfast at Libby's and Mom's— Everyone invited! Assemble after 0600 order at 0700	19		Marines under Brevet Major John G. Reynolds fights in the Battle of Bull Run 1861	20
25	Parents Day Breakfast at Libby's and Mom's—Everyone invited! Assemble after 0600 order at 0700	26		Detachment Meeting Funkhouser Post on New Harmony Road 1900 begins—come early to eat dinner from menu.	27
					National Korean Veterans Armistice

JULY 2021



MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1 Major General John A. Lejeune became 13th Commandant of the USMC. 1920	2	3 
	7	8		9	10
	14	15 2nd Marines land at Beirut and seize airport at Lebanese government's request. 1958		16	17
	21	22		23	24
War Service Day	28	29		30	31 

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

2021

Keith Benedict
Joe Shimek

04/2022

Compliments of John & Judy Bryant

Life Member

01/2022

Compliments of Bob & Linda Reutter

Life Members

06/2022

Compliments of Casey Canfield

Life Member

River Cities Detachment #1090

01/2022

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



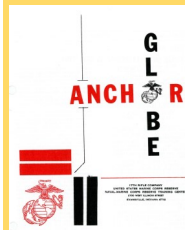
Semper Fi

Compliments of the Marine Corps League Auxiliary



Southern Belles Unit 441

10/2021




06/2023

---They Help Make This Newsletter Possible

“Oorah”

Stan Rickard

Life Member



River Cities Detachment 1090


05/2023

Semper Fi!

Mike Mitchell

Life Member

River Cities Detachment #1090



06/2023


***You're AD
could be
here!***

In Memory Of

Marine Tommy Collins

And All Deceased

Detachment Members



Semper Fi

09/2021

Compliments of

Joe & Kathy Filipczak

Life Member

River Cities Detachment #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 shipping costs.

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:

J

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:

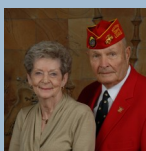
River Cities Det. #1090
Attn: Membership
PO Box 6581
Evansville IN 47719-0581

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-2022
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
Judy & 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

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River Cities Detachment

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Evansville, IN 47719-0581



Piva

(from page 11)

removed, with the assault beginning on the morning of 9 November. The Japanese had several well-placed machine guns and were attempting an attack of their own; a bloody stalemate developed. Private First Class Henry Gurke of the 3rd Marine Raider Battalion was awarded the second Medal of Honor of the Bougainville Campaign during this fight by throwing himself on a grenade and saving his foxhole-mate. Marine firepower eventually proved too much for the Japanese, who retreated to and through Piva Village in the early and mid-afternoon. The Marines took possession of the vital intersection of the Piva and Numa Numa Trails.

On 10 November, an air strike consisting of 12 Avenger torpedo bombers attacked Japanese positions in front of the Marines along the Numa-Numa Trail. Around 10:00 hours, the Marines began to advance towards the village, supported by artillery. The movement was unopposed and large amounts of equipment and dead bodies were found around the abandoned Japanese positions. Two battalions of the 9th Marine Regiment subsequently followed them up and occupied Piva vil-

lage just after 13:00 hours. As the beachhead around Cape Torokina was expanded, the 9th Marines managed to link up with the 3rd Marines on their left. Meanwhile, the 2nd Raider Battalion was relieved and moved back into a reserve position.

Aftermath

Casualties during the fighting for Piva Trail were heavy. It is estimated that the Japanese may have lost up to 550 killed, with 125 being killed on the first day and over 140 killed on the second day. The Marines lost 20 killed and 57 wounded over the course of both days. In the aftermath, US forces began expanding the perimeter around the beachhead, systematically advancing to several inland defense lines. A reconnaissance patrol subsequently advanced up the Numa-Numa Trail and identified several sites for airfields beyond the beachhead. The 21st Marines were dispatched to advance up the Numa-Numa Trail to clear the area for construction to begin. They were subsequently ambushed, resulting in the Battle of the Coconut Grove on 13-14 November. (continued on page 24)

Literary Easter Eggs are hidden words/phrases or items that an author hides within a story for sharp- eyed readers to spot. I have hidden a series of eggs in the first seven issues of this newsletter. The first person to spot them and email me at: ***rapid1@evansville.net***

will win a 1 year booster recognition to our newsletter and everyone who finds them by the end of December will receive a “Well Done” notice in January 2022.

No one has identified the string of items mentioned above by the end of June. I will extend the contest until the end of the year to see if any of the readers are paying attention enough to spot them. (Editor)

In Recognition of Family Members

who have served, or are now serving in the United States
Marine Corps.



Now serving

Nephew—Dakota Meade



Served in the past

Edward Mangold—(Dakota’s Great Grandfather)

William Joseph Maurer (my first cousin and brother to Michael)

Michael Maurer (my first cousin and brother to William)

Marion Thomas McWilliams (my brother)

Curtis McWilliams (Marion’s Son)

Roy McWilliams (me)

Semper Fi, Marines

(09/2021)

Piva (from page 22)

A further action would be fought around Piva Forks in late November.

Meanwhile, further reinforcements and supplies were landed at Cape Torokina, and US Army forces began arriving to reinforce the Marines. In late December work on the airfields was complete and aerial bombing raids began against the Japanese base around Rabaul, while minelaying aircraft interdicted Japanese sea lanes of communication through the Buka Passage. Having initially held back forces to reinforce northern Bougainville, as the Japanese high command realized that the Cape Torokina lodgment was not a ruse, and would not be followed by a further assault on Buka, they slowly began moving troops from southern Bougainville, landing in small numbers around Empress Augusta Bay throughout late December. Meanwhile, several air attacks were launched on the US perimeter, while artillery was moved up and began shelling the perimeter from Hellzapoppin Ridge and Hill 600A. In late December, these features became the scene of further fighting as

the 21st Marine Regiment was ordered to capture the Japanese positions. After this, there was a lull in the fighting on Bougainville as the Japanese decided to delay plans to launch a concerted counterattack, postponing the assault on Torokina until March 1944.



The Department of the Navy is now assigning females to quarters in a separate, private “OFF LIMITS” area on all aircraft carriers. Addressing all ship personnel at Pearl Harbor, CINCPAC advised that “All female sleeping quarters will be ‘out-of-bounds’ to all male personnel. Anyone caught breaking this rule will be fined \$50 for the first offense, \$150 for a second offense and \$500 for being caught for a third time. Are there any questions?”

One of the Marine security detail of the ship stood and asked “Sir, how much will a season pass cost?”

How to tell the difference between the branches of the Armed Forces of the United States:

If given the command to ‘**secure the building.**’

The Navy would turn out the light and lock the doors.

The Air Force would take out a three year lease with an option to buy the building.

The Marine Corps would assault the building using overlapping fields of fire from all sides to neutralize any opposition from inside and set up a defensive perimeter. **God Bless the Marines.**



C. G. Cooper is the USA TODAY and AMAZON BESTSELLING author of the CORPS JUSTICE novels, several spinoffs and a growing number of stand-alone novels. After college, Cooper was commissioned in the United States Marine Corps and went on to serve six years as an infantry officer. C. G. Cooper's final Marine duty station was in Nashville, Tennessee, where he fell in love with the laid-back lifestyle of Music City.

For more information about C. G. Cooper and his writing (including a free short story and list of all his novels,) go to www.cg-cooper.com.



10/2021

Mark these dates on your calendars:

When: Saturday, August 21
What: River Cities 1090 Detachment Summer Picnic
Where: To Be Determined
Watch for details to follow



When: Labor Day Weekend
What: Rib and Butt sale
Full Slab of BBQ Ribs or 7-8lb boneless butt only \$25 each. Details in this newsletter.

When: October 4-9
What: Our food booth at the Nut Club Fall Festival.
Details to follow.
Volunteers needed.

When: November 6, 2021
What: 246th Marine Birthday Celebration
Watch this space for further information.

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.



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