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River Cities News



River Cities Detachment 1090
 Marine Corps League—Evansville, Indiana

Volume 19
 Issue 7
 July 2022

Commandant's Corner

By Bob Reutter

June was an eventful month for the Detachment. We had our second quarterly social gathering at the Robinson Township Conservation Club. The 30 Marines and family members who attended were treated to some very good BBQ ribs and the attendees provided an array of side dishes including some wonderful deserts.

Any one so inclined was able to fish in the lake at the club. Melissa West's husband cleaned and vacuum packed all the fish that were caught and gave them away. I think all who attended are looking forward to our October gathering.

Our June Detachment meeting was also memorable. In addition to all the 'regular suspects,' Kelly Gillihan, our Dept of Indiana Commandant drove 4 hours to attend our meeting. Our 9th District Jr. Vice Commandant, Tonya Bardsley and her daughter Shannon came down from Jasper for our meeting. As always the food at

Golden Corral was amazing and we accomplished quite a bit during the meeting.

Andy Clark brought us a new recruit, Ryan Arms, who was interviewed, voted in and sworn in using the new Oath of Membership. As is our custom, each of us renewed our own oath at the same time.

(Continued on page 29)

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Chaplain's Comments

by Chris Boyd

June 17, 2022 marked the 124th US Navy Hospital Corps Birthday.

A recent USMC article reads "To this day, because of the bond forged by over a century of fighting side-by-side, Marines toast "to the Navy Corpsman!" at every mess night, and when in need, Marines can find a trusted response when they call out for the "doc."

<https://www.marines.mil/News/News-Display/Article/3067156/124th-navy-hospital-corpsman-birthday/>

During my career, I was a US Navy Hospital Corpsman for nine years and a US Navy Nurse Corps Officer for 13. My wife and I served together as Hospital Corpsman. She finished her four-year commitment and received her Honorable Discharge so we would not have to deal with dual deployments while trying to raise a family. We raised five children during my career, two were born at USMC Base Camp Pendleton, CA.

Hospital Corpsmen have continued to serve at sea and ashore and accompanied marines and Marine units into battle during all conflicts. Fifteen hospital corpsmen were count-

ed among the dead following the bombing of the Marine barracks in Beirut in 1983. The Navy rating of Hospital Corpsman is the most decorated in the United States Navy and the most decorated job in the U.S. military, with 22 Medals of Honor, 179 Navy Crosses since World War I, 31 Navy Distinguished Service Medals, 959 Silver Stars, and more than 1,600 Bronze Star Medal's with combat V's for heroism since World War II. Twenty naval ships have been named after hospital corpsmen.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hospital_corpsman#:~:text=Whether%20they%20are%20assigned%20to%20hospital%20ships%2C%20reservist,heroism%20since%20World%20War%20I%20%28as%20of%202016%29.

One such hero is Medal of Honor Recipient John "Jackie" Kilmer who was born Aug. 15, 1930, not far away in Highland Park, Illinois. On Aug. 12, 1952, the Marines were involved in a bitter fight to take over an area called Bunker Hill, a crucial hill that was in the hands of Chinese enemy forces. If the U.S. took the hill, it would enable them to observe movement from far away. The Chinese were initially caught (continued on page 5)

Marine Spotlight On:

Detachment 1090 Website



Tim Jones
Detachment Webmaster

If you haven't taken the time to visit our newly revised Detachment website, you are missing something good. In addition to pictures of all our current officers, both Detachment and Devil Dogs, historical data, membership information, links to information as well as National MCL, Dept of Indiana, MODD national and other Indiana Detach-

ments, activities including meetings, Honor Guard and photos of events like our recent social gathering. One of the best features is the banner at the top giving information about upcoming events and important change information like weather cancellations, etc. Future improvements will include our Ship's Store inventory, where to find uniform items and we are even looking at a silent auction page where you can bid on Marine items we have acquired.

Tim has taken our website into the 21st century and is yet another tool to assist us in recruiting. (continued on page 6)

Next meeting on 27 July at 1900 at GOLDEN CORRAL.

[HOME](#) [ABOUT US](#) [ACTIVITIES](#) [MEMBERSHIP](#) [MODD](#) [QUARTERMASTER](#) [LINKS](#) [CONTACT US](#)

River Cities Detachment 1090
Marine Corps League

Commandant (from page 1)

As is so often the case I talked about recruiting for the League and our Detachment. We have many tools to assist us in our recruitment efforts. Some of these include:

1. Detachment Brochure. If you don't have a supply, let me know. I can print more!
2. Business cards. You can put your name on the back in the space provided and pass out to any Marine you see. You can also put a card and brochure in the driver's side window of cars you see in parking lots.
3. Our Newsletter. This is a great tool to carry with you. It gives a prospect an idea of the things we do.
4. Jr. Vice Burk's letter campaign. If you see a Marine flag flying somewhere, write down the address. Send it to Gary and he will look up the name and send them a letter of invitation.
5. At the June meeting we voted to produce bumper stickers to promote our Detachment.

All these tools should make it easier to recruit. Make sure you have a supply of each.

Bumper stickers will be available by the July meeting.

We voted to extend our time at Golden Corral to at least July. Because we have so much to discuss, we are asking that you plan on the meeting starting 30 minutes earlier, 1830 because the Corral closes at 2000. This gives us time to complete our business and not make the Corral staff stay overtime.

Chaplain Boyd, Paymaster Bryant and I attended the Department of Indiana Convention in June. The major topics were The Young Marine program and the Marine for Life program. The Young Marines is a terrific program for guiding young people. Marine for Life helps Marines who are transitioning from military service back to civilian life. We will talk about both in more depth at our July meeting.

Semper Fi. See you at the Golden Corral at 1830 on July 27th.



Cape Gloucester (from page 23) 1,845 sorties were launched by US aircraft around Cape Gloucester, with the expenditure of almost 3,000,000 rounds of ammunition and 3,926 tonnes (3,926,000 kg) of bombs. Diversionary air raids were also made by AirSols aircraft in the days before the assault, focused on the Japanese airfields around Rabaul, while naval aircraft bombed Kavieng. Raids were also launched against Madang and Wewak. Meanwhile, the Allies undertook extensive aerial reconnaissance of the area, while ground teams of Marines, Alamo

Scouts and Coastwatchers were landed at various locations except Borgen Bay over three separate occasions from PT boats between September and December 1943.

Japanese defensive planning was focused upon holding the airfield sector. Bunkers, trenches and fortified positions were built along the coast to the east and west, with the strongest position being established to

the southeast, to defend against an approach through the flat grasslands. A complex was also established at the base of Mount Talawe, affording a commanding view of the airfields, which were held by a battalion of infantry supported by service troops and several artillery pieces. To the east of the peninsula, the beaches around Silimati Point, which were bounded by heavy swamps, were largely left unfortified, the Japanese defensive scheme based on holding several high features, Target Hill and Hill 660 and maintaining control of lateral tracks, rapidly to move forces in response to an attack. *(To be continued in the August issue.)*

**** The DoD was conducting surveys to understand the differences in the 4 services. Their question was: What would you do if you found a scorpion in your tent?**

The sailor "I'd slap it with a mop."

The soldier "I'd squash it with my boot."

The Marine "I'd break off the stinger and eat it."

The airman "I'd call room service to find out why there was a tent in my room."

Chaplain (from page 3) off guard by the attack. Kilmer's rifle company had dug in well forward of the main line of resistance early in the day, expecting a counterattack. It came later than they expected — in the early-morning hours of Aug. 13.

Shortly after midnight, large swaths of enemy forces started assaulting the rifle company with mortar, artillery and sniper fire. Kilmer moved from one position to another, helping wounded Marines and carrying many men to safety, despite putting himself in harm's way. Eventually, Kilmer noticed a seriously wounded Marine lying in a field, so he started to crawl toward the man. Another Marine saw the intensity of the gunfire and tried to stop him, but Kilmer pushed on anyway with only his duty on his mind.

Halfway to the man he was trying to rescue, Kilmer was badly wounded by mortar fragments. However, he continued on, inching toward the man despite all the enemy shells falling around them. Kilmer started to give the Marine first aid when another barrage of fire exploded. Thinking only of his patient, Kilmer threw himself on the

other Marine to form a human shield. In doing so, the young Corpsman was hit by flying shrapnel. His Medal of Honor Citation:

"For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty as a medical Corpsman while serving with a Marine rifle company in the 1st Marine Division in action against enemy aggressor forces in Korea on 13 August 1952. With his company engaged in defending a vitally important hill position well forward of the main line of resistance during an assault by large concentrations of hostile troops, Kilmer repeatedly braved intense enemy mortar, artillery, and sniper fire to move from one position to another, administering aid to the wounded and expediting their evacuation. Painfully wounded himself when struck by mortar fragments while moving to the aid of a casualty, he persisted in his efforts and inched his way to the side of the stricken Marine through a hail of enemy shells falling around him. Undaunted by the devastating hostile fire, he skillfully administered first aid to his comrade
(continued on page 10)

Battle of Khe Sanh

Researched by Bob Reutter

Operation Niagara

(editor's note: this is the third installment of the Battle of Khe Sanh. The story will continue in August.)

During January, the recently installed electronic sensors of Operation Muscle Shoals (later renamed "Igloo White"), which were undergoing test and evaluation in southeastern Laos, were alerted by a flurry of PAVN activity along the Ho Chi Minh Trail opposite the northwestern corner of South Vietnam. Due to the nature of these activities, and the threat that they posed to KSCB, Westmoreland ordered Operation Niagara I, an intense intelligence collection effort on PAVN activities in the vicinity of the Khe Sanh Valley.

Niagara I was completed during the third week of January, and the next phase, Niagara II, was launched on the 21st, the day of the first PAVN artillery barrage. The Marine Direct Air Support Center (DASC), located at KSCB, was responsible for the coordination of air strikes with artillery fire. An airborne battlefield command and control center aboard a C-130 aircraft, directed incoming

strike aircraft to forward air control (FAC) spotter planes, which, in turn directed them to targets either located by themselves or radioed in by ground units. When weather conditions precluded FAC-directed strikes, the bombers were directed to their targets by either a Marine AN/TPQ-10 radar installation at KSCB or by Air Force Combat Skyspot MSQ-77 stations.

Thus began what was described by John Morocco as "the most concentrated application of aerial firepower in the history of warfare". On an average day, 350 tactical fighter-bombers, 60 B-52s, and 30 light observation or reconnaissance aircraft operated in the skies near the base. Westmoreland had already ordered the nascent Igloo White operation to assist in the Marine defense. On 22 January, the first sensor drops took place, and by the end of the month, 316 acoustic and seismic sensors had been dropped in 44 strings. The sensors were implanted by a special naval squadron, Observation Squadron Sixty-Seven (VO-67). (continued on page 13)

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Marine Spotlight

(continued from page 4)

At the social gathering on June 18th, pictures were taken that found their way onto the 'Photos' section of the Activities tab. Below are some of those pictures.



Our Detachment photographers were on hand when three of our members went on the Honor Flight as well.



Mike Mitchell



Gary Burk



Don Counts



From left: Barb Cole, Don Cole, Chris Boyd, Bob Reutter and Tim Jones.

Our Detachments members were on hand to welcome these intrepid travelers upon their return as well.

These things and many others can be seen by visiting:

www.mclrivercities1090.com

Woof Woof, Devil Dogs

Pound Keeper PDD Bob Reutter

Woof, Woof. Pedigreed Devil Dog Bob Reutter, 10-131, Enough Said' Pound 294, Indiana Pack. The July Growl of the Pound will be held on Wednesday, July 13th. We will begin the festivities by eating some Dewigs Ribs and sides to compliment them. Each Dog is asked to bring his/her own drinks. We will ask for a contribution of 7 big bones from each Dog to help defray the cost of the meal. We will chow down at 1730 followed by some practice with our Honor Guard rifles. We will invite the non-Dog members of the Detachment who participate in the Honor Guard Rifle Detail to accompany us at chow.

After we are satisfied with our performance (or are too pooped to shoot any more) we will move all the Devil Dogs into the house for the actual Growl. I will send an email to each of the attendees early in July to reinforce these details. July is the first nominations for

Pound 294 officers. Be thinking about who you would like to see in our officer positions. Final nominations will be in August with elections and installation to follow immediately. We will celebrate the elevation of a Pup to the degree of Devil Dog during the Growl. Also remember that any Detachment member who has been in the League for 12 months, has been faithful in attendance and who has shown the qualities to make him/her a good candidate can be invited to join our Pound.

Remember—it is an honor to be a Devil Dog. Woof!



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 - 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
 - Casey Canfield.....Feb-2023
 - Gary Burk.....May-2023
 - Gary & Cynthia CullisonAug 2023

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In Recognition of Seven Family Members who have or are now serving in the United States Marine Corps.

Compliments of Carolyn and Roy McWilliams



Semper Fi, Marines

04/2023

River Cities Detachment 1090 Officers

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<u>Web Sgt.</u>	Tim Jones	tsjones@wowway.com	812-454-8717

Should you need to contact any of the officers listed above understand that these are personal telephone numbers and if your number is not known to them, you may need to leave a voice mail in order to get a response.

Marine Humor

Collected from here and there

****** An aging Marine decided that he couldn't take it anymore and was going to take his own life. He jumped in a rowboat and headed out to sea, singing "1-2-3-4 I love the Marine Corps." God saw him and decided to make the Marine work for it. God removes the man's brain. The Marine stops for a second, then starts singing again. "1-2-3-4 I love the Marine Corps." God removes the Marine's heart. Same thing, stops for a second then "1-2-3-4 I love the Marine Corps." God thinks, "ahah, this will do it" and removes the Marine's testicles. Silence. God thinks "YES, I have done it again." Suddenly he hears "in the Navy you can sail the seven seas. In the Navy, in the Navy."



****** A salty Marine Gunny walks into a bar. He strides up to the bar and orders a beer. Making conversation he says to the bartender "Do you want to hear a swabbie joke?" The bartender says to the Gunny, "You might want to rethink that. I'm retired Navy, those three guys at the next table are Seals and the table over there has 2 Master Chiefs. Do you still want to tell a Navy joke?" Taking a minute to drink the last of his beer he says, "I guess you are right. I don't want to tell a joke if I have to explain it 6 times."

****** A recently divorced Marine sniper was slapped with a 1500 yard restraining order. Now he is struggling to understand the distance that has come between them. (And also the windage.)

If you have not already responded (or if you don't receive my emails) please send me your birthday so I can add you to this column. Email me at rapid1@evansville.net.

Happy Birthday to:

Gary Wagoner7/1

Frank Bocting 7/15

John Bryant7/23



Chaplain (from page 5) and, as another mounting barrage of enemy fire shattered the immediate area, unhesitatingly shielded the wounded man with his own body. Mortally wounded by flying shrapnel while carrying out this heroic action, Kilmer, by his great personal valor and gallant spirit of self-sacrifice in saving the life of a comrade, served to inspire all who observed him. His unyielding devotion to duty in the face of heavy odds reflects the highest credit upon himself and enhances the finest traditions of the United States naval service. He gallantly gave his life for another."



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Cape Gloucester airfields but after the Allied bombardment prior to the battle, it had been moved to Egaroppu, closer to Borgen Bay. The headquarters at Kalingi was taken over by the Colonel Koki Sumiya, commander of the 53rd Infantry Regiment, which defended the airfields primarily with the regiment's 1st Battalion, supported by elements of two artillery battalions, a heavy weapons company and a battalion of anti-aircraft guns. [36] The 2nd Battalion, 53rd Infantry Regiment was in reserve around Nakarop, while the 141st Infantry Regiment (Colonel Kenshiro Katayama) was positioned well to the south around Cape Bushing. At the time of the fighting around Cape Gloucester, the effectiveness of these troops had been degraded by disease and lack of supplies, due to interdiction of the Japanese coastal supply barges. Air support was available from the naval 11th Air Fleet and 6th Air Division.

Preparations

The landing on Cape Gloucester

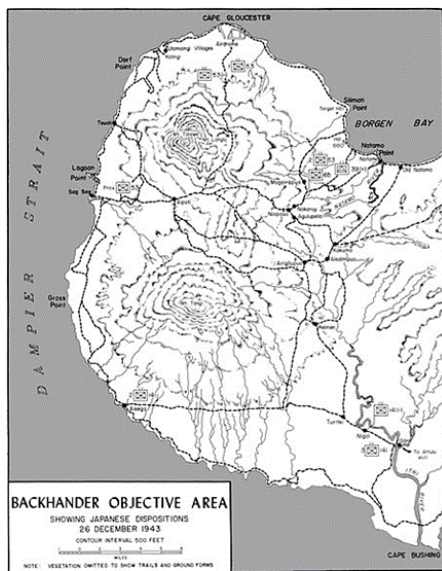
was scheduled for 26 December. Prior to the operation, planners directed that a stockpile of supplies – enough for a month of combat operations – be built up around Oro Bay, and this was in place by 16 December and would be shuttled to Cape Gloucester by landing craft as required. The day before, supporting operations began, when the US Army 112th Cavalry Regiment landed at Arawe on the south-central coast, to block the route of Japanese reinforcements and supplies from east to west and as a diversion from the Cape Gloucester landings. The operation around Arawe succeeded in diverting about 1,000 Japanese troops from Cape Gloucester.

For several months before the landings, the area around the airfields and the coastal plain between Cape Gloucester and Natamo, south of Borgen Bay, was bombed by Allied aircraft, mainly from the US Fifth Air Force. Japanese entrenchments were destroyed and the airfields around Cape Gloucester were put out of action from November. A total of
(continued on page 28)

Gloucester (from page 11) had been conducted around Port Phillip Bay, prior to the division's movement to the forward assembly areas in New Guinea in August and September; however, the majority of Allied amphibious assets were tied up with operations around the Huon Peninsula, which meant that only limited rehearsals could take place until after November 1943. The combat teams moved into three staging locations (Milne Bay, Cape Sudest and Goodenough Island) after which further practice

landings were conducted around the Taupota Bay area, before they concentrated at Cape Sudest in the Oro Bay area, southeast of Buna in December 1943.

The US troops were opposed by elements of the Japanese 17th Division (Lieutenant General Yasushi Sakai), which had previously served in China before arriving on New Britain in October and November 1943. These troops were known as "Matsuda Force", after their commander, Major General Iwao Matsuda and consisted of the 65th Brigade, with the 53rd and 141st Infantry Regiments and elements of the 4th Shipping Group. These troops were supported by field and anti-aircraft artillery, and a variety of supporting elements including engineers and signals troops. Just prior to the battle, there were 3,883 troops in the vicinity of Cape Gloucester. Matsuda's headquarters had been at Kalingi, along the coastal trail northwest of Mount Talawe, within 5 miles (8.0 km) of the



Battle of Cape Gloucester

Researched by Gary Burk

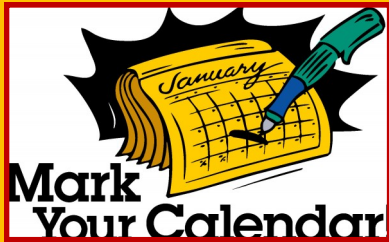
(Editors note: This is the first part of a multi-part story. To be continued in the July issue.)

Opposing forces

Responsibility for the seizure of western New Britain was given to Lieutenant General Walter Krueger's Alamo Force. For the Cape Gloucester operation, US planners assigned the 1st Marine Division (Major General William H. Rupertus) which had previously fought on Guadalcanal. The operation would be the 1st Marine Division's second landing of the war. Initial planning had envisaged an airborne landing from the 503rd Parachute Infantry near the airfields in conjunction with a two-pronged seaborne landing either side of the cape, with two battalions of the 7th Marine Regiment advancing on the airfields from the beaches north of Borgen Bay, while another blocked ingress and egress routes along the opposite coast around Tauai. However, the airborne landing was later removed from the plan due to concerns about overcrowding of staging airfields and possible delays due to weather. To compensate, the size of the

seaborne assault forces was increased. The main force assigned to the assault was drawn from the 7th Marine Regiment (Colonel Julian N. Frisbie) reinforced by the 1st Marine Regiment (Colonel William J. Whaling). In addition, the 5th Marine Regiment (Colonel John T. Selden) formed the reserve. Artillery was provided by the 11th Marines (Colonel Robert H. Pepper and later Colonel William H. Harrison). These troops were organized into three combat teams, designated 'A' to 'C': the 5th Marines formed Combat Team 'A'; the 1st Marines formed Combat Team 'B' and the 7th Marines were Combat Team 'C'.

Staging areas for Operation Backhander. In mid-1943, elements of the 1st Marine Division had still been in Australia, where they had been withdrawn following the fighting on Guadalcanal. Around this time, preliminary landing rehearsals (continued on page 22)



Upcoming events
for our members

Wednesday, July 27nd. July meeting of the River Cities Detachment. Golden Corral on east side. Reminder: we are starting the meeting 30 minutes earlier, 1830. You are not required to eat to attend. If you plan to eat, come early. Remind the cashier that you are a Marine. \$\$ discount!

Wednesday, July 13th. Devil Dog Growl. Nominations for 2022-2023 officers.

August 27—Rib and Butt cook to benefit the Detachment. See flyer in this issue.

October 15th. Fall Social Gathering of the River Cities Detachment. More info to follow.

November—Marine Birthday Ball to be held at the Evansville Country Club. Details coming.

---They Help Make This Newsletter Possible

“Oorah”

Stan Rickard

Life Member

River Cities Detachment 1090



05/2023

Compliments of
Casey Canfield

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In Memory Of
Marine Tommy Collins



Semper Fi

And All Deceased Detachment Members

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Semper Fi!
Mike Mitchell

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Jim Grayson
Gene Grigsby
Daniel Fuller
Brenda Bergwitz
Paula Landers
Richard VanGordon

04/2023

Compliments of
John & Judy Bryant
Life Member
River Cities Detachment #1090

01/2023

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

06/2023

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

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



Semper Fi



06/2023

In fond memory of my life's love
Dorothy Lee "Dottie" (McCord) Mills



1930-2020

08/2022

Khe Sanh from page 6)
The Marines at KSCB credited 40% of intelligence available to their fire-support coordination center to the sensors.

By the end of the battle, USAF assets had flown 9,691 tactical sorties and dropped 14,223 tons of bombs on targets within the Khe Sanh area. Marine Corps aviators had flown 7,098 missions and released 17,015 tons. Naval aircrews, many of whom were redirected from Operation Rolling Thunder strikes against North Vietnam, flew 5,337 sorties and dropped 7,941 tons of ordnance in the area. Westmoreland later wrote, "Washington so feared that some word of it might reach the press that I was told to desist, ironically answering what those consequences could be: a political disaster."

Meanwhile, an interservice political struggle took place in the headquarters at Phu Bai Combat Base, Saigon, and the Pentagon over who should control aviation assets supporting the entire American effort in Southeast Asia. Westmoreland had given his deputy commander for air operations, Air Force General William W. Momyer, the responsibility for coordinat-

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

ing all air assets during the operation to support KSCB. This caused problems for the Marine command, which possessed its own aviation squadrons that operated under their own close air support doctrine. The Marines were extremely reluctant to relinquish authority over their aircraft to an Air Force general. The command and control arrange
(continued on page 14)

Khe Sanh (from page 13) ment then in place in Southeast Asia went against Air Force doctrine, which was predicated on the single air manager concept. One headquarters would allocate and coordinate all air assets, distributing them wherever they were considered most necessary, and then transferring them as the situation required. The Marines, whose aircraft and doctrine were integral to their operations, were under no such centralized control. On 18 January, Westmoreland passed his request for Air Force control up the chain of command to CINCPAC in Honolulu.

Heated debate arose among Westmoreland, Commandant of the Marine Corps Leonard F. Chapman Jr., and Army Chief of Staff Harold K. Johnson. Johnson backed the Marine position due to his concern over protecting the Army's air assets from Air Force co-option.^[85] Westmoreland was so obsessed with the tactical situation that he threatened to resign if his wishes were not obeyed.^[86] As a result, on 7 March, for the first time during the Vietnam War, air operations were placed under the control of a single manager. Westmoreland insisted for several months that the entire Tet Offensive was a di-

version, including, famously, attacks on downtown Saigon and obsessively affirming that the true objective of the North Vietnamese was Khe Sanh.

Attacks prior to relief of the base

On the night of the fall of Lang Vei, three companies of the PAVN 101D Regiment moved into jump-off positions to attack Alpha-1, an outpost west of the Combat Base held by 66 men of Company A, 1st Platoon, 1/9 Marines. At 0415 on 8 February under cover of fog and a mortar barrage, the PAVN penetrated the perimeter, overrunning most of the position and pushing the remaining 30 defenders into the southwestern portion of the defenses. For some unknown reason, the PAVN troops did not press their advantage and eliminate the pocket, instead throwing a steady stream of grenades at the Marines. At 0740, a relief force from Company A, 2nd Platoon set out from the main base and attacked through the PAVN, pushing them into supporting tank and artillery fire. By 1100, the battle was over, Company A had lost 24 dead and 27 wounded, while 150 PAVN bodies were found around the posi-

Note from the editor:

I would like to thank all those who contribute to our Newsletter. No matter if you contribute an article, an ad, are a booster, or just send me suggestions, **everyone** is part of the success.

I am always looking for new ideas for what **you** want to see in our newsletter. Please send me your thoughts so we can keep the River Cities News fresh and alive.

Bob Reutter

****** A Marine Major and a Gunny were getting shaves in a barber shop. Both barbers reached for some fancy after-shave lotion to put on their faces. The Major shouted "don't put that stuff on me. My wife will think I have been in a whorehouse."

The Gunny looks at his barber and says "Go ahead and slap some on me. My wife doesn't know what the inside of a whorehouse smells like."

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT

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

Dues for 2022 - 2023

If paid between 3/1 and 6/30 - \$25

If paid July 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.*



Khe Sanh (from page 15) of PAVN units from the Khe Sanh sector. The 325C Divisional Headquarters was the first to leave, followed by the 95C and 101D Regiments, all of which relocated to the west. At the same time, the 304th Division withdrew to the southwest. That did not mean, however, that battle was over. On 22 March, over 1,000 North Vietnamese rounds fell on the base, and once again, the ammunition dump was detonated.

On 30 March, Bravo Company, 26th Marines, launched an attack toward the location of the ambush that had claimed so many of their comrades on 25 February. The Marine attack advanced through two PAVN trench lines, but the Marines failed to locate the remains of the men of the ambushed patrol. The Marines claimed 115 PAVN killed, while their own casualties amounted to 10 dead, 100 wounded, and two missing. At 08:00 the following day, Operation Scotland was

officially terminated. Operational control of the Khe Sanh area was handed over to the US Army's 1st Air Cavalry Division for the duration of Operation Pegasus. Cumulative friendly casualties for Operation Scotland, which began on 1 November 1967, were: 205 killed in action, 1,668 wounded, and 25 missing and presumed dead. These figures do not include casualties among Special Forces troops at Lang Vei, aircrews killed or missing in the area, or Marine replacements killed or wounded while entering or exiting the base aboard aircraft. As far as PAVN casualties were concerned, 1,602 bodies were counted, seven prisoners were taken, and two soldiers defected to allied forces during the operation. American intelligence estimated that between 10,000 and 15,000 PAVN troops were killed during the operation, equating to up to 90% of the attacking 17,200-man PAVN force. The PAVN acknowledged 2,500 men killed in action. They also reported 1,436 wounded before mid-March, of which 484 men returned to their units, while 396 were sent up the Ho Chi Minh Trail to hospitals in the north.

(To be continued in August.)

tion, which was then abandoned.

On 23 February, KSCB received its worst bombardment of the entire battle. During one 8-hour period, the base was rocked by 1,307 rounds, most of which came from 130-mm (used for the first time on the battlefield) and 152-mm artillery pieces located in Laos. Casualties from the bombardment were 10 killed and 51 wounded. Two days later, US troops detected PAVN trenches running due north to within 25 m of the base perimeter. The majority of these were around the southern and southeastern corners of the perimeter, and formed part of a system that would be developed throughout the end of February and into March until they were ready to be used to launch an attack, providing cover for troops to advance to jumping-off points close to the perimeter. These tactics were reminiscent of those employed against the French at Dien Bien Phu in 1954, particularly in relation to entrenching tactics and artillery placement, and the realization assisted US planners in their targeting decisions. Nevertheless, the same day that the trenches were detected, 25 February, 3rd Pla-

toon from Bravo Company 1st Battalion, 26th Marines was ambushed on a short patrol outside the base's perimeter to test the PAVN strength. The Marines pursued three enemy scouts, who led them into an ambush. The platoon withdrew following a three-hour battle that left six Marines dead, 24 missing, and one taken prisoner.

In late February, ground sensors detected the 66th Regiment, 304th Division preparing to mount an attack on the positions of the 37th ARVN Ranger Battalion on the eastern perimeter.^[122] On the night of 28 February, the combat base unleashed artillery and airstrikes on possible PAVN staging areas and routes of advance. At 21:30, the attack came on, but it was stifled by the small arms of the Rangers, who were supported by thousands of artillery rounds and air strikes. Two further attacks later in the morning were halted before the PAVN finally withdrew. The PAVN, however, were not through with the ARVN troops. Five more attacks against their sector were launched during March.

By mid-March, Marine intelligence began to note an exodus
(continued on page 18)

Q. How can you tell if someone has been in the Marine Corps?

A. Don't worry, they will tell you.





Breakfast at Libby's and Mom's—Everyone invited! Assemble after 0600 order at 0700

Breakfast at Libby's and Mom's—Everyone invited! Assemble after 0600 order at 0700

The 4th Brigade of Marines began an attack near Soissons, France, as part of a three-division counterattack against the Germans. In the first two days of battle, the brigade sustained 1,972 casualties . 1918

Breakfast at Libby's and Mom's—Everyone invited! Assemble after 0600 order at 0700

Breakfast at Libby's and Mom's—Everyone invited! Assemble after 0600 order at 0700







17:00
Keele Hound
Gu...

Detachment Golden Corral side of Evansville. Meet early to eat menu. Meet 1830.

2022



Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2 
Stain Glass 1800 in Cor The Villas Commons A	7 The 1st Marine Aircraft Wing was activated at Quantico, Virginia. Within a year of activation, the Wing would participate in the Marine Corps offensive at Guadalcanal. 1941	8	9
MODD J  17:00 Keele Hound Gu...	14 The USS IWO JIMA was decommissioned after over 30 years of service in a ceremony at Norfolk Naval Base, Virginia. The ship was named for the World War II battle during which three Marine divisions ousted 20,000 entrenched Japanese troops. The Iwo Jima was commissioned 26 August 1961, and it was the first ship specifically designed as an amphibious assault ship from the keel up. 1993		
	21	22	23
	28 	29	30
			The V Amphibious Corps, commanded by Major General Harry Schmidt, landed on Tinian, in the Mariana Islands. The following morning, the 2d and 4th Marine Divisions began a shoulder-to-shoulder southward sweep of the island. Organized enemy resistance faded within a week, and on 1 August, MajGen Schmidt declared the island secure. 1944
	August nd.		