



# River Cities News

River Cities Detachment #1090  
Marine Corps League, Inc.  
Evansville, Indiana

Volume 15, Issue 6

June 2018

## Commandant's Corner

**Bob Reutter, Commandant**

As most of you know, the first of March I sent out a letter to each member of our Detachment asking if they would pledge to contribute monthly to support a home of our own. I mailed out 98 letters, each with a postcard (with a stamp already affixed) so the member could just check a box with an amount or check a box and put in their own amount or check a box stating they were unable/unwilling to commit to an amount at this time. It has been over 2 weeks since I received a reply card so I think it is time to tally and submit the results. I received 37 post cards with replies. 37 cards is a 39% response rate. 1 did not have a name or return address on it. 16 declined to commit to an amount. That left 21 who did commit. These 21 monthly commitments would provide an income of \$423 per month. Based on a very modest \$32,000 building (including property) our mortgage payment would be around \$260 per month. That would leave only \$165 to pay for insurance, utilities, upkeep and incidentals for our 'home.'

I guess the most disappointing thing to me was the fact that of the 61 people that received the letter and didn't bother to reply, 10 were members who regularly attend meetings. I guess being a Marine doesn't mean as much to some people as to others.

The next few weeks are some of the busiest of the year for our Detachment. Near the end of May we had the annual Patriot Guard "Ride to Remember" in which the members of the Guard travel to local cemeteries to celebrate the lives of

local Military personnel who have lost their lives in our country's past several conflicts. Our detachment has traditionally provided a Color Guard for the all-day event at 5 different venues. This year only one member of our Detachment could find the time to honor these 50 local people who gave their all in service to our Flag. We also had the Veteran's Day services at Locust Hill and Tupman cemeteries as well as the Color Guard to support a local Boy Scout troop during a flag retirement ceremony. A long day starting at 0900 and ending around 2100. In June we have 3 locations for our food booth to perhaps raise some funds. The Evansville Food Booth event at historic Bosse Field will be a 5-hour event where there will be 40 food booths and over 5000 people attending. We will once again be attending the 4-day Sidewalk/Tent Sale at Harbor Freight Tools. We set up our food booth and sell lunch and dinner to the customers at Harbor Freight Tools. The annual Shriners Fest on the riverfront in Evansville is a 5-day event with all sorts of entertainment and another opportunity to put our best foot forward to the public. Within that same period we have several Color Guard presentations, including the Maritime Days at the LST 325 Memorial, the annual Women's Veteran Conference at the University of Evansville and a parade along the recently renovated North Main Street in Evansville. We are also preparing for our summer family picnic for all Marines we can contact in our local area.

Semper Fi

### Detachment Officers

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T C Shane

Web Sergeant  
Paula Landers

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## Marine Corps History

Gary Burk

*The following is an excerpt from "The Battle History of the U.S. Marines"*

### GULF WAR/DESERT STORM (continued)

As the North Koreans had so convincingly demonstrated at Wonsan in 1950, the cheapest, most effective way to defend against an amphibious assault is to flood the zone with anti-ship mines. Saddam had released close to a million of these in the northern Gulf. Two ships of the amphibious task force sustained major mine damage. The Navy and Marines insisted they could still pull it off --- but it would take time. And cost casualties.

Schwarzkopf could ill-afford either. He asked Walt Boomer if I MEF could achieve its objectives without resorting to an amphibious assault.

This was a tough call for Boomer. A century of institutional history weighed heavily. But this was no time to be parochial. Yes, we can, Boomer told the CINC, but we've got to maintain the amphib force as an offshore diversion to defending the coast against the expected landing from the sea.

The grand assault plan took shape.

First, the "air supremacy" advocates would be given the opportunity to prove their claim that a smart campaign would win the war without the need for a single infantryman to seize any contested ground.

Failing that, the half-million Allied troops would retake Kuwait and punch out the Iraqi military the old-fashioned way.

With the amphibious force posing a major distraction in the Gulf, General Boomer would launch his two Marine divisions through the Iraqi barricades into Kuwait, a "fixing attack" in Army lingo, to further divert Saddam's attention from Schwarzkopf's main effort, the celebrated "Left Hook" around enemy forces on the left flank by two heavily armored Army corps.

Boomer's first plan involved a breaching of the Iraqi defenses by Myatt's 1<sup>st</sup> Marine Division. The breach successfully accomplished, Keys's 2<sup>nd</sup> Division would execute a passage of lines and lead the attack farther into Kuwait. The plan

reflected practical limitations. Breaching equipment was scarce; strategic lift assets were so tight the 2d Division could only dribble a thousand Marines a day into the theater.

Myatt and his staff examined their mission in light of what they had learned from the recent Iraqi-Iranian War.

The Iraqis had constructed two belts of obstacles and minefields opposite Myatt's division. "We knew we would have to breach those belts rapidly or face destruction by the Iraqi artillery," he said. More than 1,200 Iraqi artillery pieces confronted the Marines. "We knew the Iraqis were planning on trapping us in two 'fire-sacks' when we were attacked.



(to be continued)

Next month will be the beginning of the Gulf war.



Dates you might remember in history:

June 14 --- Flag Day (get that flag flying)

June 12 1948: President Harry Truman authorized the first women Marines in the regular Corps.

June 18 1912: War of 1812 began.

June 18 1950: Korean War began.

June 30 1834: Congress placed the Marine Corps under Navy jurisdiction.

## Marines in the News

Bob Reutter

*This is the second of three installments of the Battle of Belleau Wood which occurred in June of 1918 – 100 years ago. It is one of the Marine Corps cornerstones and secured our place in history. Because of the press coverage of the battle it contributed to the animosity of the Army and many future politicians who saw the Marines as glory hounds and tried many times to have the Corps disbanded and absorbed into the Army.*



### **Marines attack Belleau Wood:**

On the night of 4 June, the intelligence officer for the 6th Marines, Lieutenant William A. Eddy, and two men stole through German lines to gather information about German forces. They gathered

valuable information showing the Germans were consolidating machine gun positions and bringing in artillery. While this activity indicated an attack was not immediately likely, their increasing strength was creating a base of attack that raised concern about breaking through to Paris.

At 17:00 on 6 June, the 3rd Battalion 5th Marines (3/5)—commanded by Major Benjamin S. Berry, and the 3rd Battalion 6th Marines (3/6)—commanded by Major Berton W. Sibley, on their right—advanced from the west into Belleau Wood as part of the second phase of the Allied offensive. Again, the Marines had to advance through a waist-high wheat field into deadly machine gun fire. One of the most famous quotations in Marine Corps history came during the initial step-off for the battle when Gunnery Sergeant Dan Daly, a recipient of two Medals of Honor who had served in the Philippines, Santo Domingo, Haiti, Peking and Vera Cruz, prompted his men of the 73rd Machine Gun Company forward with the words: **"Come on, you sons of bitches, do you want to live forever?"**

The first waves of Marines—advancing in well-disciplined lines—were slaughtered; Major Berry was wounded in the forearm during the advance. On his right, the Marines of Major Sibley's 3/6 Battalion swept into the southern end of Belleau Wood and encountered heavy ma-

chine gun fire, sharpshooters and barbed wire. Marines and German infantrymen were soon engaged in heavy hand-to-hand fighting. The casualties sustained on this day were the highest in Marine Corps history up to that time. Some 31 officers and 1,056 men of the Marine brigade were casualties. However, the Marines now had a foothold in Belleau Wood.

**Fighting in Belleau Wood:** The battle was now deadlocked. At midnight on 7–8 June, a German attack was stopped cold and an American counter-attack in the morning of 8 June was similarly defeated. Sibley's battalion—having sustained nearly 400 casualties—was relieved by the 1st Battalion, 6th Marines. Major Shearer took over the 3rd Battalion, 5th Marines for the wounded Berry. On 9 June, an enormous American and French barrage devastated Belleau Wood, turning the formerly attractive hunting preserve into a jungle of shattered trees. The Germans counter-fired into Lucy and Bouresches and reorganized their defenses inside Belleau Wood.

In the morning of 10 June, Major Hughes' 1st Battalion, 6th Marines—together with elements of the 6th Machine Gun Battalion—attacked north into the wood. Although this attack initially seemed to be succeeding, it was also stopped by machine gun fire. The commander of the 6th Machine Gun Battalion—Major Cole—was mortally wounded. Captain Harlan Major—senior captain present with the battalion—took command. The Germans used great quantities of mustard gas. Next, Wise's 2nd Battalion, 5th Marines was ordered to attack the woods from the west, while Hughes continued his advance from the south.

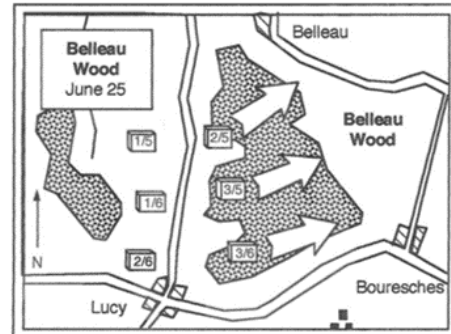
At 04:00 on 11 June, Wise's men advanced through a thick morning mist towards Belleau Wood, supported by the 23rd and 77th companies of the 6th Machine Gun Battalion, and elements of the 2nd Battalion, 2nd Engineers and were cut to pieces by heavy fire. Platoons were isolated and destroyed by interlocked machine gun fire. It was discovered that the battalion had advanced in the wrong direction. Rather than moving northeast, they had moved directly

## Marines in the News continued from pg 3

across the wood's narrow waist. However, they smashed the German southern defensive lines. A German private, whose company had 30 men left out of 120, wrote *"We have Americans opposite us who are terribly reckless fellows."*

Overall, the woods were attacked by the Marines a total of six times before they could successfully expel the Germans. They fought off parts of five divisions of Germans, often reduced to using only their bayonets or fists in hand-to-hand combat.

On 26 June, the 3rd Battalion, 5th Marines, under command of Major Maurice E. Shearer, supported by two companies of the 4th Machine Gun Battalion and the 15th Company of the 6th Machine Gun Battalion, made an attack on Belleau Wood, which finally cleared that forest of Germans. On that day, Major Shearer submitted a report simply stating, *"Woods now U.S. Marine Corps entirely"*, ending one of the bloodiest and most ferocious battles U.S. forces would fight in the war.



Map showing location of Marine push to secure Belleau Wood, 25 June 1918

Next month: The aftermath of the battle and the legacy of the Corps.

## Marine Family Picnic

Paula Landers

We are still in the planning stages so watch your newsletter for more information.

The Detachment will be providing the meat and we are asking each family to bring a cover dish or dessert to share and their own soft drinks.

We are planning to have bouncy houses for the kids and maybe some organized games, as well.

This picnic is for **ALL Marines and their families in the tri-county area.** If you know a Marine invite them to join us. All we ask is that they make reservations and also bring a covered dish or dessert.

Reservations can now be made online at:

**[mclrivercities.org/picnic2018](http://mclrivercities.org/picnic2018)**

Please share this link with every Marine that you know.

### **UPDATE:**

FOP rules do not allow for BYOB, so no alcohol may be brought to the picnic, not even beer or wine.



# Humor in (Marine) Uniform



## Bumper Stickers





## MCL River Cities Fundraiser

Own a piece of Marine Corps history. This card has a small vial of actual volcanic ash from the Island of Iwo Jima. Scott Hanson, whose father was in an Army unit occupying Iwo after the island had been deemed 'secure', visited Iwo recently as part of the Japanese program to allow family of Americans who participated in the battle to visit the island, brought us back some actual volcanic 'sand' from the island. For a small donation of \$10 (including postage) our detachment will send you the pictured 5 1/2 by 8 1/2 inch card with a small piece of Iwo Jima.



# Sands of Iwo Jima

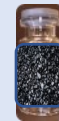
The island of Iwo Jima (Japanese for Sulfur Island) was strategically located for airfields to receive US Army Air Corps b-29s damaged in air strikes against Japan. The Japanese had built two airstrips on the island and used them to harass Allied aircraft. For these reasons Iwo Jima as selected as a target.

### Battle of Iwo Jima Facts and Figures

Number of Japanese troops on Iwo	21,000
Number of Japanese survivors of invasion	1,083

11 miles of tunnels were dug to depths of 75 feet which protected the defenders from Allied naval and Air Corps bombardment.

Number of American Marines in attack	69,893
Number of American's killed	6,800
Number of Americans wounded	62,000



Actual volcanic ash

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

I would like to order \_\_\_\_\_ "Sands of Iwo Jima" cards. I have enclosed a donation to the River Cities Detachment 1090 of \$10 for each card ordered. Makes checks payable to River Cities Detachment 1090. Mail requests to River Cities Detachment, PO Box 6581, Evansville, IN 47719-0581

## MCLA Southern Belles Unit 441

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\$5 X \_\_\_\_\_ = \_\_\_\_\_

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American Veteran (12 tile) Bracelet

*All branches of the military are honored on this versatile wooden bracelets for men and women. These would make great gifts for any occasion and the price is only \$5.00 each. You may contact any MCLA member or use the order form below to make your purchase. Thank you for your support.*

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



**2017**

Clarence Mitsdarffer  
 Frank Counts  
 Tom Coomes  
 Sparky Perette  
 Richard Swonder  
 Jack Moretto

04/2021

***Compliments of  
 Casey Canfield***

*Life Member  
 River Cities Detachment #1090*

07/2018

***Compliments of  
 Bob and Linda Reutter***

*Life Members  
 River Cities Detachment #1090*

06/2021

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*IAFF Local 357 and FOP Lodge 73 --  
Serving those who have served our nation*

*Your Local Firefighters and Law Enforcement Officer  
are proud to support the River Cities Detachment*

*Semper Fidelis from the members of  
IAFF Local 357 and FOP Lodge 73*

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***Compliments of  
Joe and Kathy Filipzcak***

*Life Member*

*River Cities Detachment #1090*

07/2018

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***In Memory of  
Marine Tommy Collins  
And Deceased  
Detachment Members***

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08/2018

River Cities Detachment 1090  
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Once a Marine, Always a Marine



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**IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT**

**June 3<sup>rd</sup>** - Color Guard for Streets Alive (4 Marines in summer uniform) to walk the same route as the Holiday Parade in November.

**June 3<sup>rd</sup>** - Streets Alive at Garvin's Park (setup by 10 AM) open from noon until 5PM.

**June 5<sup>th</sup>** - Setup booth at Harbor Freight

**June 7-10** - Sell food at HFT from 0900-1800 each day. Need 4 people each of 8 shifts - AM (0900-1300) and PM (1200-1800) each day.

**June 16<sup>th</sup>** - Color guard for Women's Conference at University of Evansville.

**June 27<sup>th</sup>** - Set up booth for Shrine Fest

**June 28 - July 1<sup>st</sup>** - Shrine Fest on the riverfront. Need 2 shifts

«AddressBlock»

**Semper Fi**

**June 2018**

**Inside this issue:**

Commandant's Corner	1
Marine Corps History	2
Marines in the News	3
Marines Family Picnic	4
Humor in (Marine) Uniform	5
Newsletter Boosters	6
Life Membership	6
Sponsors	8-9
Event Calendar	10

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>Newsletter Articles, Ads, and Pictures for July 2018 are due NO LATER THAN June 22, 2018</b>					1	2
3 Food Truck Festival 1200 Bosse Field	4	5 Det. 1090 Breakfast Libby's and Mom's Cafe 0800 Setup Booth for Harbor Freight	6	7 MCLA Southern Belles VA Clinic 8 a.m. - 11 a.m. Harbor Freight Food Booth	8 Harbor Freight Food Booth	9 Harbor Freight Food Booth
10 Harbor Freight Food Booth	11 <i>MODD No Growl</i>	12 Det. 1090 Breakfast Libby's and Mom's Cafe 0800	13	14	15	16 Women's Conference University of Evansville
17	18	19 Det. 1090 Breakfast Libby's and Mom's Cafe 0800	20	21	22	23
24	25 MCLA Southern Belles Unit #441 AmVets 84 6:30 p.m.	26 Det. 1090 Breakfast Libby's and Mom's Cafe 0800	27 MCL River Cities Det. #1090 AmVets 84 1900	28 Shrine Fest on the Riverfront	29 Shrine Fest on the Riverfront	30 Shrine Fest on the Riverfront