

River Cities Detachment 1090
Marine Corps League Inc.
P. O. Box 6581
Evansville, IN 47719-0581

www.mclrivercities1090.com

Once a Marine, Always a Marine



«AddressBlock»

Semper Paratus

Non Profit
US Postage
PAID
Permit #1151
Evansville, IN

Return Service
Requested

«Box



River Cities News



River Cities Detachment 1090
Marine Corps League—Evansville, Indiana

Volume 19
Issue 6
June 2022

Commandant's Corner

By Bob Reutter

In the May issue of this column I introduced a new term—**MINO**, referring to Marines in Name Only. The type who loudly proclaim that they are Marines but then do nothing positive to support that claim. This month I would like to talk about what has changed- for the better - about the River Cities Detachment.

When I joined the League in 2009, I was still working in Owensboro and was not able to devote much time. At the meetings I attended there was a lot of dissention and yelling. There were a couple of 'camps' who demanded things to be the way they thought it should be. On one issue they shouted '**bylaws**' and on the next it was '**tradition**.' The body of the Detachment only wanted things to go smoothly and 'went along' with the group shouting the loudest.

Time has a way of sorting these things out and so it is with our Detachment. Cooler heads have prevailed, time has

changed the makeup of the detachment and today we have mostly members—both Marines and Associates—who are willing to hear all sides of a discussion and work for the betterment of our League and Detachment. Our meetings are open to honest, sincere opinions on all sides of an issue. (continued on page 25)

Inside this Issue:

Commandant's Corner	1
Chaplain's Comments	3
Marine Spotlight On	4
Battle of Khe Sanh	6
Marines in Action	7
Happy Birthday	10
Battle of Cape Gloucester	11
Calling All Marines	12
Life Membership Info	13
Marine Humor	13
June Calendar	14-15
Sponsors	16, 17, 20
Detachment Officers	20
Advertising Rates	21
Newsletter Boosters	21
Upcoming Events	27



BROWNING
FUNERAL HOME

Diamond Avenue

Every life has a Story to be told..



**We are grateful
for the courage and
sacrifice of our nation's
veterans. At Browning
Funeral Home, we are
pleased to offer veteran
benefits to all our
honorably discharged
U.S. veterans.**

**738 E. Diamond Avenue
Evansville, IN 47711
812.425.2896
www.browningfuneral.com**

11/2024



Upcoming events for our members

June 18—Detachment Social Gathering at RTCC.
See page 12 in this Newsletter for further information. Family fun!

Wednesday, June 22nd. June meeting of the River Cities Detachment. Golden Corral on east side. 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. Sales info to be coming soon.

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

Beautify your home and support the River Cities Detachment 1090



Patriotic Sun Catcher **\$10.00**

Red, white and blue

Stained glass with lead frame

*Ready to hang in your window to
show your true colors*

Dress Blue Sun Catcher **\$15.00**

*White cover, Dress Blue blouse and
trousers with red blood stripes*

Stained glass with lead frame

*Great gift for a Marine's Man Cave
or office.*



I would like to order:

_____ Patriotic @\$10.00 \$ _____

_____ Dress Blue @\$15.00 \$ _____

Shipping \$2.00 each \$ _____

Total enclosed: \$ _____

Clip this coupon and mail with your check and mailing address to: River Cities Detachment 1090, P.O. Box 6581, Evansville, IN 47719-0581. To save postage, Sun Catchers can be picked up by contacting Paymaster John Bryant at (775) 287-1876.

Chaplain's Comments **By Chris Boyd**

During my 22-year, active-duty career, I had the pleasure of serving alongside countless brothers-in-arms. One of the unforgettable and unintended side-effects of 22 years of medical service was witnessing too many brothers and sisters who died defending our freedoms. One of the duties I held during my career was the Casualty Assistance Calls Officer (CACO). A grieving family slowly heals their wounds of a lost child, over time, knowing their son or daughter paid the ultimate price to protect our liberties.

When I retired in 2009, I had to step away from military life and service organizations for years to debrief myself and rest my mind. Now, as I have made friends among League brethren, I believe our Marine Corps League 1090 follows this prestigious tradition of being a true melting pot of Americana! We represent the very, very best mixture of former active and reserve brothers and sisters who never hesitate to lift one another's spirits and stand in the gap for our grieving com-

munity members, often standing tall for local funerals.

While it goes without saying, we all bleed red: active, reserve, male, female, black, white, Hispanic, Asian, etc.--all one united family who bravely, unselfishly fulfill Jesus' words recorded in John 15:13 Amplified Version "No one has greater love [nor stronger commitment] than to lay down his own life for his friends."

One of our fallen USMC heroes was 4th Marine Division (Reservist) SGT Ross F. Gray on Iwo Jima, 1945.



CITATION: *For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty as a platoon sergeant attached to Company A, 1st Battalion, 25th*

(continued on page 5)

Marine Spotlight On:

Our New Chaplain—Chris Boyd

Our new Detachment Chaplain comes to us through the traditional method—from the Navy. He graduated from Reitz High School in Evansville and joined the Navy as an E-1 in April of 1987. 22 years later he retired from the Navy as an O-4 (Lt. Cmdr.) While serving in the 1st FSSG (Force Service Support Group) in Camp Pendleton, the NBC (nuclear, biological and chemical) Warfare officer was relieved of duty after failing a readiness inspection from Quantico. The base Commanding General tapped a Naval Officer (Chris) to 'fix it yesterday.' The next inspection scored "mission capable" with a 95% score. Chris said it was odd to attend formal Marine NBC meetings and



training as the only Navy officer in a room full of Marines. He got a lot of double takes from the Marines.

During his time in the Navy he served at Walter Reed Hospital, as well as Naval Hospitals in Camp Pendleton, Bethesda, MD and Portsmouth VA. Since retiring from the Navy, Chris has served as Director of Trauma services, St. Mary's Medical Center, Director of Nursing Services, Harrisburg, IL and is currently (continued on page 24)

Commandant (from page 1)

The past few Commandants have guided the behavior of the meetings back to what they always should have been, orderly, civilized and productive.

As to the debate about 'tradition' versus 'bylaws,' it is important to understand the separation. As Marines our traditions are what make us stand out in any crowd of military organizations. From the first day in boot camp we learn about the Marines who went before us, who created the mystique that makes Marines stand apart. We should always respect those traditions.

Our bylaws, National, State and Detachment, are what keeps us grounded in accepted behavior. We should never allow bylaws to replace Marine tradition. Our local traditions should be founded around our bylaws and make a framework for living in an orderly society. When followed correctly, our bylaws and our traditions will not be mutually exclusive. Our members should know what to expect in almost every situation. There is no 'wrong' opinion. Every member of our Detachment should feel empowered to speak his/her mind without the fear of ridicule or

being 'put down.' When every voice has been heard, discussion and decisions can be made with all views considered. At that point our bylaws come into play and those decisions made will be grounded in correct procedures.

As with any volunteer driven group, recruiting is an on-going effort. Every one of us who put ourselves 'out there' in talking to every person we see wearing an EGA, driving a vehicle with Marine bumper stickers or otherwise identified as Marine, has had following experience.

"Well, I tried the League back in <whenever> and all they did was bicker and shout. I never came back." Unfortunately, this story has been repeated time and time again. And more unfortunately, it **was** true. What I am asking you now is to give us another chance. Come to a meeting, talk to current members, find out what the River Cities Detachment is all about. I know you won't be disappointed this time. **Semper Fi!**



Marines (from page 7)

Like talented craftsmen typically do, Roy took a tedious, time intensive process and made it look effortless. By the end of the evening, we felt like - with a little guidance - we could produce an acceptable quality the next time we get together.

Many thanks to Roy for his dedication and effort. Thus far his crosses have brought over \$875 into the Detachment's general fund.



Roy at work cutting foil.

Semper Fi!**Marine Spotlight** (from page 4)

Employed as a Financial Advisor/Insurance Agent by Bankers Life in Evansville. Chris and his wife, Kim live in Posey County and Chris is active in the community. He is ordained and church elder at Westside Family Church in Evansville. They have 4 daughters and one son. They also have 3 granddaughters and 4 grandsons. Chris joined the MCL in October of 2020 and the MODD a year

USMC Humor

A Marine company is doing training in a forest. They have to disguise themselves as trees and stand still until their Drill Sergeant allows them to move.

After 17 hours one of the Marines freaks out and starts jumping around. The Sergeant, visibly upset, approaches him.

Sergeant: "Marine! What the hell are you doing?"

Marine: "Sir, after 5 hours there was a dog and he started peeing on me. I didn't move an inch."

Sergeant: "Yes, I saw that."

Marine: "A few hours later Sir, there was this young couple. And when the guy pulled out a knife to carve a heart into my left butt cheek, it hurt, but I didn't move."

Sergeant: "I understand. But you moved now. Explain yourself Marine!"

Marine: "Well I finally had enough when those 2 squirrels climbed up inside my trouser leg and one said to the other, let's eat the nuts now and keep the pine cone for later."

later. Chris brings a new perspective and great creative energy to the River Cities Detachment.

Welcome !

Chaplain (from page 3)

Marines, 4th Marine Division, in action against enemy Japanese forces on Iwo Jima, Volcano Islands, 21 February 1945. Shrewdly gaging the tactical situation when his platoon was held up by a sudden barrage of hostile grenades while advancing toward the high ground northeast of Airfield No. 1, Sgt. Gray promptly organized the withdrawal of his men from enemy grenade range, quickly moved forward alone to reconnoiter, and discovered a heavily mined area extending along the front of a strong network of emplacements joined by covered trenches. Although assailed by furious gunfire, he cleared a path leading through the minefield to one of the fortifications, then returned to the platoon position and, informing his leader of the serious situation, volunteered to initiate an attack under cover of three fellow marines. Alone and unarmed but carrying a huge satchel charge, he crept up on the Japanese emplacement, boldly hurled the short-fused explosive, and sealed the entrance. Instantly taken under machine-gun fire from a second entrance to the same position, he unhesitatingly

braved the increasingly vicious fusillades to crawl back for another charge, returned to his objective, and blasted the second opening, thereby demolishing the position. Repeatedly covering the ground between the savagely defended enemy fortifications and his platoon area, he systematically approached, attacked, and withdrew under blanketing fire to destroy a total of six Japanese positions, more than 25 troops, and a quantity of vital ordnance gear and ammunition. Stouthearted and indomitable, Sgt. Gray had singlehandedly overcome a strong enemy garrison and had completely disarmed a large minefield before finally rejoining his unit. By his great personal valor, daring tactics, and tenacious perseverance in the face of extreme peril, he had contributed materially to the fulfillment of his company's mission. His gallant conduct throughout enhanced and sustained the highest traditions of the U.S. Naval Service."

To read more about Sgt. Gray:
<https://www.cmohs.org/recipients/ross-f-gray>

Have a blessed day.



Battle of Khe Sanh

Researched by Bob Reutter

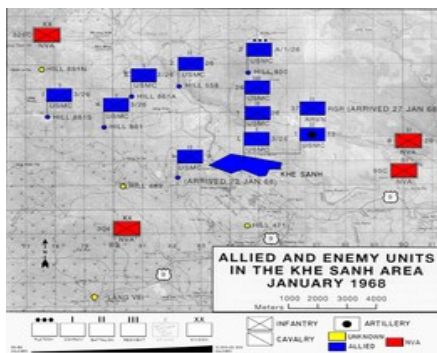
Editor's note: This is part three in a series. Part four will be in the July issue.

Attacks on the perimeter.

First skirmishes[

In early December 1967, the PAVN appointed Major General Tran Quy Hai as the local commander for the actions around Khe Sanh, with Le Quang Dao as his political commissar. In the coming days, a campaign headquarters was established around Sap Lit. Two divisions, the 304th and the 325th, were assigned to the operation: the 325th was given responsibility for the area around the north, while the 304th was given responsibility for the southern sector.^[51] In attempting to determine PAVN intentions Marine intelligence confirmed that, within a period of just over a week, the 325th Division had moved into the vicinity of the base and two more divisions were within supporting distance. The 324th Division was located in the DMZ area 10–15 miles (16–24 km) north of Khe Sanh while the 320th Division was within easy reinforcing distance to the northeast. They

were supported logistically from the nearby Ho Chi Minh Trail. As a result of this intelligence, KSCB was reinforced on 22 January 1968 by the 1st Battalion, 9th Marine Regiment. According to the official PAVN history, by December 1967 the North Vietnamese had in place, or within supporting distance: the 304th, 320th, 324th and 325th Infantry Divisions, the independent 270th infantry Regiment; five artillery regiments (the 16th, 45th, 84th, 204th, and 675th); three AAA regiments (the 208th, 214th, and 228th); four tank companies; one engineer regiment plus one independent engineer battalion; one signal battalion; and a number of local force units.



Dispositions of forces, January 1968

(continued on page 8)



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

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.



IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT

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

Dues for 2022 - 2023

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

Gloucester (from page 19)

On 22 September 1943, General Douglas MacArthur issued orders for the invasion of New Britain, codenamed Operation Dexterity. This operation was conceived with several phases, with the broad Allied scheme of maneuver being to secure all of New Britain west of the line between Gasmata and Talasea on the north coast. Within this scheme, Operation Backhand-er was a landing around Cape Gloucester aimed at the capture, and expansion of, two Japanese military airfields. This was to contribute to the increased isolation and harassment of the major Japanese base at Rabaul, which was subjected to heavy aerial bombing in October and November, as part of ongoing efforts to neutralize the large Japanese garrison there without the need to assault it head on. A secondary goal was to ensure free Allied sea passage through the straits separating New Britain from New Guinea. Amongst Allied commanders there was some debate about the necessity of invading New

Britain. Lieutenant General George Kenney, the US air commander, believed that the landing at Cape Gloucester was unnecessary. He believed that it would take too long for the airfields to be developed and that the pace of Allied advance would ultimately outstrip their usefulness. Nevertheless, army and naval commanders felt it was necessary to secure convoy routes through the Vitiaz Strait to support operations in western New Guinea and to the north.

The landing at Gasmata was later cancelled and replaced with a diversionary landing around Arawe, with the plan being to potentially establish a PT boat base there. Believing that the Allies could not bypass Rabaul as they attempted to advance towards the Japanese inner perimeter and would seek to capture it as quickly as possible, the Japanese sought to maintain a sizeable force for the defense of Rabaul, thus reducing the forces available for the defense of western New Britain. To be continued in July.

Marines in Action—Making Stained Glass Crosses

On the evening of Wednesday, May 11th, nine members of the River Cities Detachment met to learn the fine art of stained glass construction. Several of us met at Cheddar's for dinner and fellowship. After the meal we moved to the Community Room of a local complex. After unloading all the supplies our instructor provided and setting up the work area, the instruction began.

Led by Roy McWilliams we learned how to mark, cut, polish, foil, assemble and lead the pieces to make the crosses we sell to help raise money for the Detachment. Roy took us step by step in the process, setting up an assembly line. Master Roy showed us the ins and outs of turning the various pieces of 'raw material' and turning them into beautiful Crosses. (continued on page 24)



Detachment members watch intently as we are given instruction by the master. From right to left—Instructor and Master Roy McWilliams, Jim Johnson, John Bryant, Don Counts, Bob Reutter, Tim Jones and Linda Reutter. Not shown in this picture—Gary Burk and Chris Boyd.

Khe Sanh

(from page 6)

At positions west of Hill 881 South and north of Co Roc Ridge (16.561°N 106.632°E), across the border in Laos, the PAVN established artillery, rocket, and mortar positions from which to launch attacks by fire on the base and to support its ground operations. The PAVN 130 mm and 152 mm artillery pieces, and 122 mm rockets, had a longer range than the Marine artillery support which consisted of 105 mm and 155 mm howitzers. This range overmatch was used by the PAVN to avoid counter-battery fire. They were assisted in their emplacement efforts by the continuing bad weather of the winter monsoon.

During the rainy night of 2 January 1968, six men dressed in black uniforms were seen outside the defensive wire of the main base by members of a listening post. After failing to respond to a challenge, they were fired upon and five were killed outright while the sixth, although wounded, escaped.^[Note 5]

This event prompted Cushman to reinforce Lownds with the rest of the 2nd Battalion, 26th Marines. This marked the first time that all three battalions of the 26th Marine Regiment

had operated together in combat since the Battle of Iwo Jima during the Second World War.^[58] To cover a defilade near the Rao Quan River, four companies from 2/26 were immediately sent out to occupy Hill 558, with another manning Hill 861A.

On 20 January, La Thanh Ton, a PAVN lieutenant from the 325th Division, defected and laid out the plans for an entire series of PAVN attacks.^[60] Hills 881 South, 861, and the main base itself would be simultaneously attacked that same evening. At 00:30 on 21 January, Hill 861 was attacked by about 300 PAVN troops, the Marines, however, were prepared. The PAVN infantry, though bracketed by artillery fire, still managed to penetrate the perimeter of the defenses and were only driven back after severe close-quarters combat.

The main base was then subjected to an intense mortar and rocket barrage. Hundreds of mortar rounds and 122-mm rockets slammed into the base, levelling most of the above-ground structures. One of the first enemy shells set off an explosion in the main ammunition dump. Many of the artillery and mortar rounds stored in the

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

Full page\$100.00 for 6 months

The editor has the right to reject an ad that is not appropriate such as loan companies, adult entertainment, etc.

Booster Member Expires

Tom & Alice Kick.....**May-2022**

Gary Burk.....**May-2022**

Ned E & Rose Wellmeier.....**July-2022**

Dannie & Debbie Russell.....**July-2022**

Jim and Christie Johnson.....**Aug 2022**

Roy & Carolyn McWilliams.....**Aug-2022**

Bob & Linda Reutter.....**Aug-2022**

Dorothy Odom.....**Sep-2022**

Chris Boyd.....**Oct-2022**

Judy & John Bryant**Nov-2022**

Joe & Kathy Filipczak.....**Dec-2022**

David Jones.....**Jan-2023**

Casey Canfield.....**Feb-2023**

Gary & Cynthia Cullison**Aug 2023**

A big thank you to all those that donate to the Newsletter Booster Club. **We still need Booster Members! A donation of \$5.00 or more per individual** is all it takes to become a member. As a Booster Member you get your name listed in the Newsletter for 1 year. This lets everyone know that you help support the River Cities News. The Booster Club and Advertisements help to defray the cost of printing and postage.



NEWSLETTER BOOSTER MEMBER

NAME: _____

DONATION: \$ _____

Please Mail to:

River Cities Detachment

P.O. Box 6581

Evansville, IN 47719-0581

David L. Jones

Djones@joneswallace.com 20 N.W. Third St.
Suite 400
P.O. Box 1065
Evansville, IN
Telephone (812) 402-1600
Facsimile (812) 402-7977 47706-1065

JONES•WALLACE
ELEVATING LAW



01/2023

***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

<u>Office</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Email Address</u>	<u>Telephone</u>
<u>Commandant</u>	Bob Reutter	rapid1@evansville.net	270-314-9484
<u>Sr. Vice</u>	Melissa West	melissa_gill21@yahoo.com	812-589-8992
<u>Jr. Vice</u>	Gary Burk	gaburk05@gmail.com	812-499-3045
<u>Jr. Past Comdt.</u>	James Johnson	devildogjd2@aol.com	812-431-2451
<u>Adjutant</u>	Tim Jones	tsjones@wowway.com	812-454-8717
<u>Paymaster</u>	John Bryant	akajb1@gmail.com	775-287-1876
<u>Judge Advocate</u>	T.C. Shane Jr.	tcshane2@gmail.com	812-568-0912
<u>Chaplain</u>	Chris Boyd	cboyd67@gmail.com	812-549-7323
<u>Sgt. at Arms</u>	Tom Kremer	conniekremer@hotmail.com	812-479-3388
<u>Newsletter Editor</u>	Bob Reutter	rapid1@evansville.net	270-314-9484
<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.

dump were thrown into the air and detonated on impact within the base. Soon after, another shell hit a cache of tear gas, which saturated the entire area. The fighting and shelling on 21 January resulted in 14 Marines killed and 43 wounded. Hours after the bombardment ceased, the base was still in danger. At around 10:00, the fire ignited a large quantity of explosives, rocking the base with another series of detonations.

At the same time as the artillery bombardment at KSCB, an attack was launched against Khe Sanh village, seat of Hường Hóa District. The village, 3 km south of the base, was defended by 160 local Bru troops, plus 15 American advisers. At dawn on 21 January, it was attacked by a roughly 300-strong PAVN battalion. A platoon from Company D, 1/26 Marines was sent from the base but was withdrawn in the face of the superior PAVN forces. Reinforcements from the ARVN 256th Regional Force (RF) company were dispatched aboard nine UH-1 helicopters of the 282nd Assault Helicopter Company, but they were landed near the abandoned French fort/former FOB-3 which was occupied by the PAVN who

killed many of the RF troops and 4 Americans, including Lieutenant colonel Joseph Seymour the deputy adviser for Quang Tri Province and forcing the remaining helicopters to abandon the mission. On the morning of 22 January Lownds decided to evacuate the remaining forces in the village with most of the Americans evacuated by helicopter while two advisers led the surviving local forces overland to the combat base.

To eliminate any threat to their flank, the PAVN attacked Laotian Battalion BV-33, located at Ban Houei Sane, on Route 9 in Laos. The battalion was assaulted on the night of 23 January by three PAVN battalions supported by seven tanks. The Laotians were overrun, and many fled to the Special Forces camp at Lang Vei. The Battle of Ban Houei Sane, not the attack three weeks later at Lang Vei, marked the first time that the PAVN had committed an armored unit to battle.

PAVN artillery fell on the main base for the first time on 21 January. Several rounds also landed on Hill 881.^[66] Due to the arrival of the 304th Division, KSCB was further reinforced by
(Continued on page 10)

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:

Stacy Ahola 6/8

M.T, McWilliams6/16

Judy Bryant6/27



Khe Sanh (from page 9)

the 1st Battalion, 9th Marine Regiment on 22 January. Five days later, the final reinforcements arrived in the form of the 37th ARVN Ranger Battalion, which was deployed more for political than tactical reasons.^[67] The Marines and ARVN dug in and hoped that the approaching Tét truce (scheduled for 29–31 January) would provide some respite. On the afternoon of 29 January, however, the 3rd Marine Division notified Khe Sanh that the truce had been cancelled. The Tet Offensive was about to begin.

End of part three. Part 4 coming in July,



Evansville Vet Center

1100 N. Burkhardt Rd
Evansville, IN 47715



www.vetcenter.va.gov

812-473-5993

insula. Following the Japanese invasion of New Britain in early 1942, the landing ground had been developed into two airstrips (the larger of the two being 3,900 feet (1,200 m) long). The area was assessed by Allied intelligence as largely being unsuitable for large-scale development, with reefs to the south, west and north hampering the movement of large vessels, and a lack of protected anchorages suitable for such vessels. The few areas suitable for such vessels were open to the sea and were not considered perennial, being affected by the changing seasons. Nevertheless, small craft could operate along the coast, and Borgen Bay had been developed into a staging area for barge operations between mainland New Guinea and the main Japanese base around Rabaul on the eastern end of New Britain.

Strategic situation

By late 1943, the fighting in New Guinea had turned in the favor of the Allies after a period of hard fighting. The Japanese drive on Port Moresby during 1942 and early 1943 had been defeated during the Battle of the Coral Sea and the Kokoda Track campaign. The Japanese

beachhead at Buna–Gona was subsequently destroyed, albeit with many casualties.^[9] The Japanese had been forced to abandon their efforts on Guadalcanal and the Allies had secured the Salamaua region. The Allies then seized the initiative and implemented Operation Cartwheel, a series of subordinate operations aimed at the reduction of the Japanese base at Rabaul and the severing of lines of communication in the South-West Pacific Area, as the Allies advanced towards the Philippines where operations were planned for 1944–1945. The Australians had secured Lae by 16 September 1943 and operations to capture the Huon Peninsula had begun in earnest shortly after, to secure Finschafen before a drive on Saidor. A secondary effort pushed inland from Lae through the Markham and Ramu Valleys, with the two drives eventually aiming towards Madang. As Allied forces began to make headway on the Huon Peninsula, Allied attention then turned to securing their seaward flank on the other side of the Vitiaz and Dampier Straits.

(continued on page 22)

Gloucester (from page 11) Straits. At the time of the battle it was part of the Territory of New Guinea. It is 230 miles (370 km) west of Rabaul, and 245 miles (394 km) northeast of Port Moresby.^[2] The peninsula on which Cape Gloucester sits consists of a rough semi-circular coast, extending from Lagoon Point in the west to Borgen Bay in the east. At the base of the peninsula is Mount Talawe, a 6,600-foot (2,000 m) extinct volcano, which runs laterally east to west. Southwest of Talawe, a semi-active volcano, Langila, rises 3,800 feet (1,200 m), while further to the south, a second extinct volcano, Mount Tangi rises to 5,600 feet (1,700 m).^[2] The area is densely vegetated with thick rainforest, sharp kunai grass and deep mangrove swamps. In 1943, there were only a few beaches suitable for landing operations and there were no roads around the coast along which troops and vehicles could quickly advance. Temperatures ranged from 72 to 90 °F (22 to 32 °C), with high humidity. Rainfall was heavy, especially during the northwest monsoon season that ran until February. Air op-

erations in this period could be mounted from Finschhafen but after February, the climate there was expected to restrict air operations, which would have to be conducted from Cape Gloucester. The climate dictated the timetable for the Cape Gloucester operation. In 1943, an Allied intelligence survey of the area estimated the local population around Cape Gloucester at around 3,000. There were numerous villages spread across four main areas: on the western coast, near Kalingi; on the western bank of the Itini River in the south; inland from Sag Sag and towards Tauai (on the western coast); and to the east of Mount Tangi, around Niapaua, Agulupella and Relmen. Prior to the Japanese invasion of New Britain in 1942, there had been two European missions around Cape Gloucester: a Roman Catholic mission at Kalingi and an Anglican one at Sag Sag. Before the war a landing ground had been established on the relatively flat ground that lay at the apex of the pen-

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.)

The **Battle of Cape Gloucester** was fought in the Pacific theater of World War II between Japanese and Allied forces on the island of New Britain, Territory of New Guinea, between 26 December 1943 and 16 January 1944. Codenamed Operation Backhander, the US landing formed part of the wider Operation Cartwheel, the main Allied strategy in the South West Pacific Area and Pacific Ocean Areas during 1943–1944. It was the second landing the US 1st Marine Division had conducted during the war thus far, after Guadalcanal. The objective of the operation was to capture the two Japanese airfields near Cape Gloucester that were defended by elements of the Japanese 17th Division.

The main landing came on 26 December 1943, when US Marines landed on either side of the peninsula. The western landing force acted as a diversion and cut the coastal road near Tauai to restrict Japanese freedom of movement, while the main force, landing

on the eastern side, advanced north towards the airfields. The advance met light resistance at first, but was slowed by the swampy terrain which channeled the US troops onto a narrow coastal trail. A Japanese counterattack briefly slowed the advance but by the end of December, the airfields had been captured and consolidated by the Marines. Fighting continued into early January 1944 as the US troops extended their perimeter south from the airfields towards Borgen Bay. Organized resistance ceased on 16 January 1944 when US troops captured Hill 660; however, mopping up operations in the vicinity continued into April 1944 until the Marines were relieved by US Army forces.

Geography

Cape Gloucester is a headland that sits on the northern peninsula at the west end of the island of New Britain, which lies to the northeast of mainland New Guinea. It is roughly opposite to the Huon Peninsula, from which it is separated by Rooke Island with the intervening sea lane divided into the Vitiaz and Dampier (Continued on page 18)



Calling All Marines



The Marines of the River Cities Detachment 1090
of the Marine Corps League

are hosting a **Marine Family Social Gathering**

It will begin at 1200 on Saturday, April 9th

The location is the Robinson Township Conservation Club

Located at 1015 Stierley Road N. Wadesville, IN

The Detachment is providing BBQ Pork Ribs and hot dogs.

Each family attending is requested to bring a covered dish
and drinks for their family.

Please email cboyd67@gmail.com to tell us how many people
you are bringing.

What: Marine Family Social Gathering

When: Saturday, June 18th , 1200 - ????

Where: Robinson Township Conservation Club

1015 Stierley Road N., Wadesville, IN

There will be fun and games for all ages, including bingo,
Cards, outside games, prizes and surprises.

Catch and keep fishing. Bring your poles.

Semper Fi! We hope to see you there!

---They Help Make This Newsletter Possible

“Oorah”

Stan Rickard

Life Member

River Cities Detach-
ment 1090



05/2023

Compliments of
Casey Canfield

Life Member

River Cities Detachment #1090

01/2023

Semper Fi!
Mike Mitchell

Life Member

River Cities Detachment
#1090



06/2023

Compliments of
Joe & Kathy Filipczak

Life Member

River Cities Detachment #1090

12/2022

In Memory Of
**Marine Tommy
Collins**



Semper Fi

And All
Deceased
Detachment
Members

09/2022

Compliments of
Gary Burk, Life Member

Optimist Club of

Evansville Downtown

Friend of Youth Since 1921

07/2022

Support Our Sponsors -----



In memory of Detachment Members
2021

Keith Benedict

Joe Shimek

Jim Grayson

Gene Grigsby

Daniel Fuller

Brenda Bergwitz

Paula Landers

Richard VanGordon

04/202

Compliments of
John & Judy Bryant

Life Member

River Cities Detachment #1090

01/2023

Compliments of
Bob & Linda Reutter

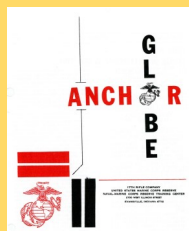
Life Members

River Cities Detachment #1090

06/2022

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

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



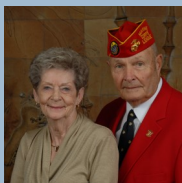
**Semper
Fi**

06/2023

In fond memory of my
life's love

**Dorothy Lee "Dottie"
(McCord) Mills**

1930-2020



08/2022

Marine Humor

Back in WWII, the Marine Corps used Navajo speakers as "code talkers"...The other Marines were always impressed with the enigmatic skills the Navajos had in predicting weather, where to find water, and tracking ability.

One day on a patrol, a Navajo Marine on point came across a footprint ostensibly left by the enemy.

"The man who left this footprint is an Imperial soldier. He stands five-foot-six tall and weighs 120 pounds..."

The Navajo proceeded to recite a litany of information on the man who left the tracks.

Amazed, one of the others remarked: "You got all that from a footprint??"

"No. We got his license."

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



"Yeah, it's a nice camera, but where does the bayonet go?"



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

BGen James G. Harbord, the Commanding General of the 4th Marine Brigade, notified AEF Headquarters that Belleau Wood was "now U.S. Marine Corps entirely." 1918

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

The crack German 28th Division attacked the axis of the Paris-Metz road hitting the 2d Division, including the 4th Marine. The Marines opened with deadly rifle fire helped hand the German troops a setback.

Preceded by naval gunfire and carrier air V Amphibious Corps assaulted the western side of Saipan, Marianas Islands. By nightfall, 4th Marine Divisions, moving against the enemy, had established a beachhead 11 miles wide and 1,500 yards deep. 1944

Detachment Meeting
Golden Corral on east side of Evansville—come early to eat dinner from menu. Meeting starts at 1900.

2022



	Fri	Sat	Sun
	3 	4 Department of Indiana Summer Convention MODD Indiana Pack Growl	5 
	10	11 The First Marine Battalion, commanded by LtCol Robert W. Huntington, landed on the eastern side of Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. The next day, Lt Herbert L. Draper hoisted the American flag on a flag pole at Camp McCalla where it flew during the next eleven days. LtCol Huntington later sent the flag with an accompanying letter to Colonel Commandant Charles Heywood noting that "when bullets were flying, ...the sight of the flag upon the midnight sky has thrilled our hearts." 1898	12
	17	18 Detachment Social Gathering. See information on page 12	19
	24	25 Shortly before dawn, eight divisions of the North Korean People's Army crossed the 38th Parallel and invaded the Republic of Korea. Two days later, General Douglas MacArthur, the Commander in Chief Far East, formally requested that a Marine regimental combat team be deployed to the Far East. 1950	26
	<div> <p>If you have anything you would like to submit for the July Newsletter, the deadline for submission is June 22nd.</p> </div>		

