



River Cities News



River Cities Detachment 1090
Marine Corps League—Evansville, Indiana

Volume 18
Issue 3
March 2021

Commandant's Corner

Jim Johnson

My article will be very short this month. I've had my left shoulder replaced and it's difficult to type with one hand. My message this month is about recruiting. We all need to do a better job of getting Marines in our Marine Corps League Det# 1090. Bob Reutter (aka McGyver) our go to guy for printing and publishing has redone our flyer and brought it up to date. The flyer really looks nice and we all should have a handful to pass out when we meet another Marine. Bob has also designed a generic business card that we can pass out also. It is generic so you must print your name on the card. These flyers and business cards are available at our meetings or just see Bob sometime. Our February meeting was great. I was glad to see the turn out that we had however we need a lot more members. Place these flyers and business cards at gas stations, supermarkets, any place that has a public bulletin

board. We need to get busy recruiting. Hope to see all members at the next meeting on March 24th. Semper Fi !

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Marines in the Public Eye By Bob Reutter

Our Marine this month was born Terrence Stephen on March 24, 1930 in Beech Grove, Indiana. Being of Scottish descent, he was raised a Roman Catholic. His father, William was a stunt pilot for a barnstorming flying circus and left his mother 6 months after meeting her. Stephen's mother was likely an alcoholic and left him with her parents in Slater Missouri in 1933. His great-uncle Claude gave him a red tricycle on his fourth birthday which ultimately sparked his interest in racing.

When Stephen turned eight, his mother came and got him to live with her and her new husband in Indianapolis. Dyslexic and partially deaf due to a childhood ear infection Stephen did not do well in his new home. His step-father regularly beat him and at the age of nine he left home to live on the streets of Indy. He later recalled "When a kid doesn't have any love when he's small

he begins to wonder if he's good enough. My mother didn't love me and I didn't have a father. I thought "Well, I must not be very good." Looking for a 'family,' soon he was running with a street gang. Another trip back to his grandparents. At the age of twelve his mother sent for him again to live with her and her third husband. Father #3 was another physical abuser who regularly used his fists on Stephen and his mother. After being sent back to his grandparents for the 4th time, he stayed for a short time before drifting back to his mother and step-father who had moved to Los Angeles. There he resumed his life as a gang member and petty criminal. He was caught stealing hub caps and the police turned him over to his step-father who beat him severely and threw him down a flight of stairs. After that incident, Stephen's mother signed papers committing him to the California Junior Boys Republic in Chino Ca. (Cont. page 4)

Marine History

By Gary Burk

(Editors note: this is part one of a two part series.)

Hellzapoppin Ridge and Hill 600A

Prelude: In early November 1943, the 3rd Marine Division, under Maj. Gen. Allen H. Turnage, landed at Cape Torokina near Empress Augusta Bay on the western coast of Bougainville. The landing took place as part of Allied efforts to advance towards the main Japanese base around Rabaul, the isolation and reduction of which was a key objective of Operation Cartwheel. Opposing the US troops at Cape Torokina were troops of Lt. Gen Ha-



rukichi Yuakutake's 17th Army, part of Gen Hitoshi Imamura's 8th Area Army, based at Rabaul. The bulk of the infantry forces were drawn from the 6th Division under Lt. Gen. Masatane Kanda.

Following the landing, a series of battles were fought around the beachhead, which was slowly expanded by the Marines out to about 8–10 kilometers (5.0–6.2 mi) by the end of the month. Throughout November, the Japanese had begun moving artillery pieces into position around the perimeter and began shelling the beachhead from several hills to the east of the Numa–Numa and East–West Trails, along the Torokina River. Following the fighting around Piva Forks in late November, plans were drawn up by US commanders to advance towards the Torokina River where a series of high features offered significant defensive advantages that could be exploited in the event of a Japanese counterattack, which US intelligence expected. The general outline of the US plan was to establish a defensive line parallel to the Torokina, along a ridge line that

(Continued on page 9)

Marines in the Public Eye (from page 2)

Here he began to mature and grow up. Eventually he became a role model and left at the age of 16, moving back to his mother, now living in Greenwich Village in New York. He joined the Merchant Marines, serving on a ship bound for the Dominican Republic. He abandoned the ship there. In the next 18 months he worked in a brothel, sold pens at a traveling carnival, worked as a lumberjack in Canada and served 30 days on a chain gang in the deep south for vagrancy.

In 1947 – with his mother’s signature – he joined the Marines at 17 years old. He got his first stripe and was assigned to an armored unit. In the Corps he reverted to his rebelliousness and was demoted to private 7 times. He went AWOL by failing to return from a weekend pass and was picked up by the Shore Patrol 2 weeks later. He resisted arrest and spent 41 days in the brig. This event

seemed to wake him up. He saved the life of 5 Marines, pulling them out of a tank just before it broke through some sea ice during an exercise in Alaska. He was assigned to the honor guard on the presidential yacht of Harry S. Truman. He served in the Corps until 1950 when he was honorably discharged.

In 1952, using his G.I Bill benefits, he studied acting in New York. He had several guest appearances on television and was in several Broadway productions before moving to California in 1955. There he had parts in several television shows before his major break. He played a bounty hunter named Josh Randall on an episode of a show called **“Trackdown”** in 1958. His co-star in the episode – Robert Culp – lobbied for a new show for Josh Randall. **“Wanted – Dead or Alive”** was born. It ran for 94 episodes from 1958 – 1961. You might remember

his sidearm – a sawed-off .44-40 Winchester rifle nicknamed the “Mare’s Leg” in a special holster.

He went on to star in such cel-



Yul Brenner, Steve McQueen, Horst Buchholt, Charles Bronson, Robert Vaughn, Brad Dexter, James Coburn

brated movies as **“The Magnificent Seven,” “The Great Escape,” “Nevada Smith,” “The Sand Pebbles,”** and one of his most critically acclaimed films **“Bullitt.”** Other starring roles included **“Papillion,” “The Thomas Crown Affair,” “Le Mans,” “Junior Bonner,” “The Getaway,”** where he met his future wife, Ali MacGraw. By 1971 Steve was the world’s highest paid actor. In December 1979, a biopsy revealed mesothelioma. He said

he believed his illness was a direct result of massive exposure to asbestos used in insulation he helped remove from a troop ship he was stationed on while in the Marines. He died on November 7, 1980 at the age of 50 of heart failure after surgery in Mexico under an assumed name.

Of course, you know our Marine is Steve McQueen. In one interview after he had become a household name he stated “he had enjoyed his time in the Marines. He remembered the Marines as a formative time in his life, saying, “The Marines made a man out of me. I learned how to get along with others, and I had a platform to jump off of.” A man’s man and a true Marine. And now you know ‘the rest of the story.’



McQueen in the hatch of his Amtrac in 1947



Marine Spotlight On:



John
Bryant



Last July the River Cities Detachment was in dire straits. We had just lost one of the most important members of the Detachment Staff—the Paymaster. There was talk of dissolving the unit if we could find no one who would and could step up to fill that role. Salvation came in the form of John S. Bryant, our spotlight Marine for March. John was born on July 23, 1952 and joined the Corps in March of 1971. Graduating San Diego Boot Camp he was assigned an MOS of 0331—machine gunner. John served at Camp Hansen in Okinawa, did a tour in Vietnam, served embassy duty in Taiwan and was at

Olangopo City, Philippines. He separated from active duty in March of 1975 as an E-5.

John is married to Judy. They have two girls and two boys, 7 grandchildren and 1 great-grandchild.

After leaving the Corps, John had several careers including Operating Engineer, owner of a trucking service, construction and doing Safety and Training for the state of Nevada.

John joined us 4 years ago and is doing a great job as Paymaster, learning on the go. Thanks John for assuming that vital role.

Cartoon Caption Contest



Well Private, you've earned your halo and wings. Don't you think it's about time you earned a stripe?

Our winner in February's caption contest was Gary Burk. Gary will receive a Detachment Challenge Coin.

We had several really good submissions this month. Honorable mention goes to:

"OK private. You can relieve Chesty at the Pearly Gates."

Submitted by Barb Cole

"I'm the sergeant that helped you enter heaven because I scared the Hell out of you in Boot Camp!"

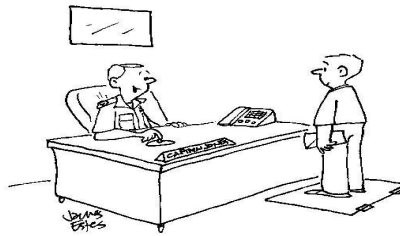
Submitted by Roy McWilliams

"Not a dumb question at all private. I was never a drill instructor so they didn't have

an open billet for me in the other place..."

Submitted by Daniel Brown

Our March Cartoon is:



Your caption here

Submit your caption idea to rapid1@evansville.net. Deadline is March 19. Winner chooses between a Challenge Coin or picture frame.



USMC HOSTS "TAKE YOUR DAUGHTER TO WORK" DAY



March 6, 2021

9 A.M to 3 P.M.

Veterans' Memorial Coliseum

We have been working really hard to make this one of the best Craft Fairs in the Tri-State. Breakfast and Lunch will be available for purchase from the Coliseum Concession Stand.

There are over 64 Crafters and Makers with a little bit everything like forged metal décor, woodworking, handcrafted jewelry, baked goods, even flavored kettle corn, etc. We will also be having Raffles and a Chance Auction.

Our advertising campaign starts this month. Our president Dani Cook is trying to contact the local TV station to see if we can get on their noon segments to talk about the auxiliary and the craft fair.

This is going to replace our bowling fundraiser. After 11 years of doing to bowling we decided to try something new. I would like to invite everyone to come out on March 6th to support this event.



History

(from page 3)

extended to the west from a position in the north known as Hill 1000 to Hill 600A in the south.

On 5 December, the US advance began and several minor clashes between patrol-sized elements took place. Two days later, Marines from the 3rd Parachute Battalion met resistance along a spur to the west of Eagle Creek, at a position north of the junction of the East–West Trail near Hill 1000, which later became known to US troops as "Hellzapoppin Ridge" due to its difficult terrain, part of a feature the Japanese dubbed "Picha Mountain". Documents captured by the advancing Marines indicated that a reinforced company of 235 men from the Japanese 23rd Infantry Regiment was holding the position. The hill, due to its position, threatened the flank of the 3rd Parachute Battalion's position and as a result, the Marine commander was forced to readjust his dispositions to place the spur to his front. After consolidating their position and sending out patrols, a number of minor skirmishes took place

before the Paramarines launched a company-level attack on the morning of 9 December. Although they managed to break-in to the Japanese position, the Marines were forced back by determined Japanese resistance, having sustained heavy casualties. A flanking maneuver also failed to dislodge the defenders. Late in the day, a company from the 1st Battalion, 21st Marines was sent up to reinforce the Paramarines and the following day the rest of the 21st Marine Regiment, under the command of Colonel Evans O. Ames, arrived to take over responsibility for capturing the spur line around Hill 1000.

Hellzapoppin Ridge

About 300 yards (270 m) long and consisting of sheer sides that rose to a sharp crest no more than 40 yards (37 m) wide, the spur was heavily vegetated and provided many advantages to defending force. Offering good concealment, this made accurate target identification difficult and reduced the effectiveness of the Marines' air support as well as the indirect fires offered by

(continued on page 12)





The 1st, 7th, and 11th Marine Regiments commenced operations against enemy forces at Hongchon, Korea. 1951

Marine medium bombers struck Japanese positions at Rabaul. 1944

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





Marines were placed under the command of French Marshall Foch in WW I. 1918

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUE.
<p>28</p> <p>Breakfast at Libby's and Mom's— Everyone invited! Assemble after 0600 order at 0700</p>	 <p>Star Spangled Banner made U. S. National Anthem. 1931</p>	2
<p>7</p> <p>Breakfast at Libby's and Mom's— Everyone invited! Assemble after 0600 order at 0700</p>	<p>8</p> <p>Marines in fighting tops of the USS Alliance helped defeat HMS Sibyll. 1783</p>	9
<p>14</p> <p>Breakfast at Libby's and Mom's— Everyone invited! Assemble after 0600 order at 0700</p>	<p>15</p> <p>The 5th Marine Regiment was the first Marine unit to move into WW I front-line trenches. 1918</p>	16
<p>21</p> <p>Breakfast at Libby's and Mom's— Everyone invited! Assemble after 0600 order at 0700</p>	<p>22</p> <p>Detachment Meeting Funkhouser Post on New Harmony Road 1900 begins—come early to eat dinner from menu.</p>	23
<p>28</p> <p>Breakfast at Libby's and Mom's— Everyone invited! Assemble after 0600 order at 0700</p>	<p>29</p> 	30

March

2021



MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		3	4 Five-year enlistments in the Corps replaced the previous three-year terms. 1809	5	6 Southern Belles Auxiliary Craft Fair Veteran's Coliseum 0900-1500 
	10	11	12 Marines of the Boston Barracks quelled a Massachusetts State	13 	
	17	18	19 Marine planes bombed a bandit group at Nueve Segovia, Nicaragua. This was the first use of close air support. 1928	20	
	24	25 Marines with Farragut's squadron engaged Confederates at the Battle of Vicksburg in Mississippi. 1863	26	27 The 1stMarDiv defeated communist Chinese in the Battle for "Vegas" Hill in Korea. 1953	
	31	<p>If you have anything you would like to submit for the April Newsletter , the deadline for submission is March 22nd.</p>			

History

(from page 9)

their artillery and naval gunfire support. The Japanese defenders were well dig-in on the position occupying the reverse slope, and having established a series of mutually-supporting positions that were protected with overhead cover and were supported by snipers who were tied in to the tree tops. Conversely, despite having captured a Japanese map which detailed their positions, lack of familiarity with the terrain and the confined nature of the approaches to it, adversely affected the tactical thinking of the US company commanders, who were unable to concentrate their forces beyond platoon strength in the thick jungle and which consequently took away from them one of their main advantages, firepower.

Commencing on 12 December, a series of assaults were attempted by the 21st Marines, utilizing the "partial envelopment" tactic. The well-sited Japanese positions, however, turned any attempt to take the position by an indirect approach into a frontal assault. Although the Japanese fields of fire were limited by the narrow-

ness of the position, they were well concealed and as a result, at least initially, the first that the Marines knew of the location of the Japanese positions was when they were engaged by them at close range. Attempts to reduce the Japanese positions through the use of mortars, artillery and airstrikes were hampered by the dense jungle – the thick vegetation caused tree bursts, while reducing the observation of attacking pilots which resulted in inaccurate strafing and bombing – and as a result it was not until 18 December that a large-scale attack could be launched by the Marines to take the hill. That morning three airstrikes were undertaken, along with an artillery barrage, in preparation for an attack at nightfall.

Prior to the attack, a thorough artillery preparation was followed by a fourth airstrike, which was undertaken by six Grumman TBF Avengers from VMTB-134, that through close coordination by forward observers on the ground, dropped forty-eight 100-pound (45 kg) bombs about 75 yards (69 m) in front of the US positions.

The aircraft also conducted strafing runs of the Japanese positions. A two-pronged attack was then put in by the 1st and 3rd Battalions, 21st Marines. Companies 'A' and 'C' from the 1st Battalion attacked the position from the northwest, while Companies 'L' and 'K' from the 3rd Battalion attacked from the south. This proved successful as the defenders had been forced from their dug-outs by the earlier artillery fire and air strikes, making them easier targets for the Marines. The previous strikes had also had the effect of clearing some of the vegetation, which made the going easier for the Marines during the attack.



In capturing Hellzapoppin Ridge, the Marines lost 12 men killed and 23 wounded. Japanese losses were at least 50 killed. The morning after the attack, the 1st Battalion, 21st Marines exploited the position as far east as the Eagle River – which flowed into the Torokina – where they began work on constructing defensive works to consolidate their position.

(next month—Hill 600 A and the aftermath of the battle)

Chaplain's Corner

I have been a member of the River Cities Detachment for 11 years. During that time, I have seen the membership rise and fall. It does my heart good to see our new and engaged members. From all appearances we might have turned a corner and might, perhaps begin the climb back to a healthy, vibrant group. Having our meetings at the Funkhouser American Legion Post 8 has been a good change for us. With our families in attendance, we have more participation, more interest and if we can get that word out to the invisible Marines in our Detachment as well as those who have not yet joined—more prospects for the future. Some things I would like for you to consider for discussion at upcoming meetings—Family Picnic, Birthday Ball, recruiting ideas, breakfast at Libby's and Mom's on Tuesday mornings. ***Ideas are always welcome.***

Support Our Sponsors -----



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

2020
Donald Landers, Sr.
Irene L. Midle-Blessing
Susan Grayson

2021
Keith Benedict
Joe Shimek

04/2021

**Compliments of
John & Judy Bryant**

Life Member

01/2022

**Compliments of
Bob & Linda Reutter**

Life Members

06/2021

**Compliments of
Casey Canfield**

Life Member

River Cities Detachment #1090

01/2022



**Compliments of the
Marine Corps League Auxiliary**



10/2021

Southern Belles Unit 441

---They Help Make This Newsletter Possible

*Place Your Ad
Here*

Our prayers for our nephew who was recently deployed. May God Bless all of our service members, protect them, and give the strength to carry. Amen!

**Roy and Carolyn
McWilliams.**



05/2021

Semper Fi!

Mike Mitchell

Life Member

River Cities Detachment #1090



06/2021

*In Memory Of
Marine Tommy Collins
And All Deceased
Detachment Members*



Semper Fi

09/2021

**Compliments of
Joe & Kathy Filipczak**

Life Member

*River Cities Detach-
ment #1090*

12/2021

**Compliments of
Gary Burk, Life Member**

Optimist Club of Evansville Downtown

Friend of Youth Since 1921

07/2021

Ship's Store

The following items are in stock at the Detachment Ship's Store. The Ship's Store will be brought to each meeting so you may purchase items. A slight increase in cost over National Ship's Store has been added to cover shipping costs.

Item	Cost	Item	Cost	FMF
EGA Cap Ornament, Regular Member, gold, screw-back \$	5.00	Department Staff Elected ribbon, silver		1.50
Patch, MCL logo with ASSOCIATE rocker, 3" for right shoulder	4.25	Detachment Commandant ribbon		2.00
Patch, MCL logo, for REGULAR member, 3" for right shoulder	4.00	Detachment Staff Appointed ribbon, bronze		2.00
Patch, US Flag, field forward, for regular member, right shoulder	4.00	Community Service Ribbon		2.00
Sunburst Collar ornament, regular member, prong back	12.00	National Meritorious Unit Commendation ribbon		2.00
Cover, MCL, woman's, 7 5/8	30.00	Individual Meritorious Commendation ribbon		2.00
Cap Strip, LIFE, Red with gold lettering and border	3.50	Ceremonial Guard ribbon		2.00
Metal Ribbon Holder, 3 ribbon	1.25	EGA Belt Buckle, for leather belt		18.50
Metal Ribbon Holder, 4 ribbon	2.50	Trousers, dress blue, 44R		45.00
Metal Ribbon Holder, 8 ribbon	3.50	Trouser stripe, red, 1 1/8"		15.00
Metal Ribbon Holder, 9 ribbon	3.50	Belt, white, for dress blues		15.00
Metal Ribbon Holder, 12 ribbon	4.50	Patch, Devil Dog, 3" round for cover		4.00
Tie Clasp	9.00	Rocker, Colorguard, for Devil Dog Vest		3.00
Star Clusters for Ribbons, 2 stars, bronze	1.50	Cap Strip, Dogrobber		3.50
Star Clusters for Ribbons, 3 stars, bronze	1.50	Neck Ribbon, PDD, gold with eyelet		5.00
Patch, Life Member	8.25	Neck Ribbon, DD, black with eyelet		5.00
Tie, black	6.00			
Pin, MCL	1.00			
Pin, MCL Life	1.00			
Pin, MCL Associate	1.00			

Information on Life Membership

***National Bylaws Article Six - Members,
Section 645 - Life Members:***

Any member of the Marine Corps League who is in good standing may become a Life Member, upon proper payment of the fee, as is required herein. A Life Member shall be subject to payment of no further dues of a Detachment, or National, such member shall have all the privileges, rights, and benefits enjoyed as a member so long as that Life Member shall live.

Current Life Membership

Price Information

(As of January 2014)

Up to and including age 35 - \$500.

Age 36 up to and including age 50 - \$400.

Age 51 up to and including age 64 - \$300.

Age 65 and over - \$200.

The cost of replacing a Life Membership Gold Card is \$10.00



Marine Corps League Department of Indiana News

The following dates have been selected by the Conference/Convention Committee and approved by the members through Motions at the 2020 Fall Conference:

March 6/7, 2021 Department of Indiana Spring Conference

June 4/6, 2021 Department of Indiana Summer Convention

October 16/17, 2021 Department of Indiana Fall Conference

All events will be held at the Embassy Suites by Hilton in Plainfield, IN. Specific information on each event will be sent appropriately beforehand, including hotel and event registration, agenda's and other pertinent information.

Questions can be directed to Conference/Convention Chair Glenn Newton at sgtglenn@psci.net or Department Paymaster Dave Englert at englertd@psci.net.

DAVID L. JONES

djones@joneswallace.com 420 Main Street, Suite 1600
Telephone (812) 402-1600 P.O. Box 1065
Facsimile (812) 402-7977 Evansville, IN 47706-1065

JONES•WALLACE
ELEVATING LAW



01/2022

IMPORTANT
ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

Dues for 2020 - 2021
By July 31st - \$25
August 1st or after - \$35

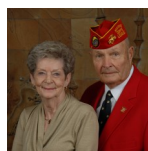
Initial Membership Dues are \$35

Mail your annual membership fees to:

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

In fond memory of my life's love

Dorothy Lee
"Dottie" (McCord) Mills



1930-2020

08/2021

River Cities Detachment Officers

Commandant Jim Johnson

(812) 431-2451

Sr. Vice Commdt. Gary Burk

Jr. Vice Commdt. Melissa West

Jr. Past Commdt. Bob Reutter

(270) 314-9484

Adjutant Tim Jones

(812)454-8717

Paymaster John Bryant

(775) 287-1876

Judge Advocate T.C. Shane **Chaplain** Bob Reutter

Sgt. at Arms Tom Kremer

Newsletter Editor Bob Reutter **Web**

Sergeant Tim Jones



We have space available in our ad pages.

Advertisements are available at the following rates.

Business Card Size....\$15.00 for 6 months

1/4 page \$25.00 for 6 months

1/2 page\$50.00 for 6 months

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

Newsletter Booster Club

Booster Member Expires

MCLA Southern Belles.....Oct-2021

Joe & Kathy Filipczak..... Dec-2021

David Jones.....Jan—2022

Casey Canfield.....Feb-2022

Tom & Alice Kick.....May-2021

Gary Burk.....May-2021

Tom Kremer.....July-2021

Ned E & Rose Wellmeier.....July-2021

Dannie & Debbie Russell.....July-2021

Roy & Carolyn McWilliams.Aug-2021

Bob & Linda Reutter.....Aug-2021

Dorothy Odom.....Sep-2021

Chris Boyd.....Oct-2021

John BryantNov-2021

Your name could go here

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

NEWSLETTER BOOSTER MEMBER

NAME: _____

DONATION: \$ _____

Please Mail to:

River Cities Detachment

P.O. Box 6581

Evansville, IN 47719-0581



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

www.mclrivercities.org
mclrivercities@gmail.com

Once a Marine, Always a Marine



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Semper Paratus