



River Cities News



River Cities Detachment 1090
Marine Corps League—Evansville, Indiana

Volume 19
Issue 3
March 2022

Commandant's Corner

by Jim Johnson

I hope this finds everyone well and looking forward to Spring. A reminder that the next couple of League meetings are extremely important. We will be nominating and electing our new officers to lead us for the next year. It would be great if we had ALL Det#1090 members present to vote, however I know that that would be next to impossible. If you cannot be present and would like to nominate someone or volunteer to serve in some capacity let us know by e-mail, phone call, or snail mail to any current Officers. Check the March (and later) edition of the Newsletter for the P.O. Box of Det# 1090 also a list of current Officers with e-mails and phone numbers.

In our last Newsletter we talked about having a class on making stained glass sun catchers. We had to cancel that class due to weather. look for a rescheduled class in the near future. Our next big event will be March 12th at the Conservation Club. It will be a pitch in

dinner with the meat being donated by the Detachment. This should be a lot of fun and I hope to see a big crowd there. We are still planning on a big Birthday Ball this year. Marine West is the Chairperson for the Ball so if you have any suggestions or questions contact her.

See you at the next meeting.

Semper Fi

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11/2024

Chaplain's Comments

By Bob Reutter

This month during our regular Detachment meeting on Wednesday, March 23 we will be finalizing our nominations and electing our officers to guide our Detachment for 2022-2023. As Commandant Johnson said in his January column, the decision as to who is to guide our Detachment in the next year is an important one. Each member should think about who they would like to see at the helm of Det. 1090.

Our Detachment will be well represented at the Spring Conference this month. At last count, we had 6 members attending—Jr. Vice Melissa West, Paymaster John Bryant, Adjutant Tim Jones, Mike Mitchell, Chris Boyd and yours truly. This bodes very well for us. It may be the largest group we have had an event not held in Evansville for many years. I hope it is a sign of things to come for us.

I would like to remind everyone that our second quarterly social gathering will be held at the Robinson Township Conservation Club on Stierley Road. For those who attended, it is the same place we held the picnic in August. Like

the picnic, the Detachment will provide the main course with each family attending asked to bring a covered dish for all to enjoy as well as their own drinks. This is intended to be a family event. Please bring your kids, grandkids and great grandkids. We will have some games for the younger ones to play and some entertainment for the rest of us as well. It should be a good time for your whole family.

As I travel around our city and its neighboring cities, I see lots of Marine decals on cars and trucks. I see Marine flags flying on houses. I see shirts and jackets with EGA emblems. I have passed out about 25 flyers and cards to Marines in the past 3 months. The more members we recruit, the better our meetings will be. We are near capacity in the room we use at Funkhouser and if we can grow, we can ask to move to the basement. I would love to grow to the point we need a larger facility. The conservation club several of our members belong to has seen a growth of membership and the discussions at our monthly meetings have been much

(continued on page 24)



Marine
Spotlight On:

Spring Social Gathering

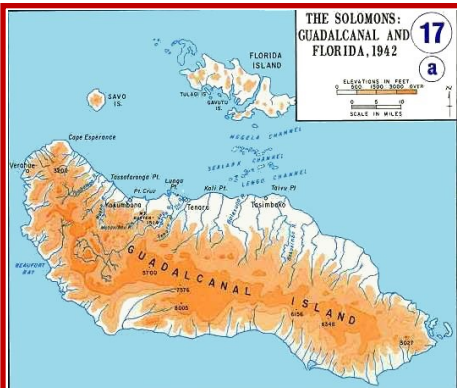
At the River Cities Detachment 1090 Awards Banquet in December, we decided to hold a quarterly gathering to encourage family participation in our Detachment. The 2022 Spring Gathering will be held on **Saturday, March 12th, beginning at noon** at the Robinson Township Conservation Club located at **1015 Stierley Rd N, Wadesville, IN 47638**. The Detachment will supply the main course with each family being asked to supply ***one covered dish*** and ***their own drinks***.

There will be some games and other entertainment for the children, cards, board games and other things to keep the adults entertained as well. Please feel free to bring any family games you and your family find enjoyable. We may even have a family movie to show.

Detachment 1090 Spring Gathering
Saturday, March 12th
Noon til 1700
Robinson Township Conservation Club
1015 Stierley Rd. N.
Wadesville, IN 47638

Mantanikau Offensive

by Gary Burk



The Matanikau Offensive, from 1–4 November 1942, sometimes referred to as the Fourth Battle of the Matanikau, was an engagement between United States

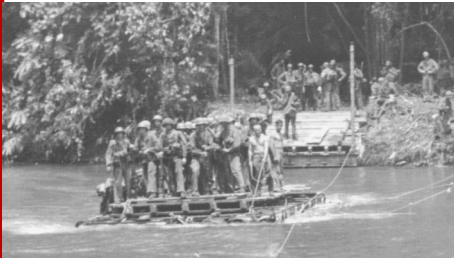
(U.S.) Marine and Army and Imperial Japanese Army forces around the Matanikau River and Point Cruz area on Guadalcanal during the Guadalcanal campaign of World War II. The action was one of the last of a series of engagements between U.S. and Japanese forces near the Matanikau River during the campaign.

In the engagement, seven battalions of U.S. Marine and Army troops under the overall command of Alexander Vandegrift and tactical command of Merritt A. Edson, following up on the U.S. victory in

the Battle for Henderson Field, crossed the Matanikau River and attacked Japanese Army units between the river and Point Cruz, on the northern Guadalcanal coast. The area was defended by the Japanese Army's 4th Infantry Regiment under Nomasu Nakaguma along with various other support troops, under the overall command of Harukichi Hyakutake. After inflicting heavy casualties on the Japanese defenders, U.S. forces halted the offensive and temporarily withdrew because of a perceived threat from Japanese forces

Guadalcanal campaign

On 7 August 1942, Allied forces (primarily U.S.) landed on Guadalcanal, Tulagi, and Florida Islands in the Solomon Islands. The landings on the islands were meant to deny their use by the Japanese (Continued on page 22)



U.S. Marines cross the Matanikau River on Guadalcanal on a raft ferry in November, 1942

A Message from the Editor by Bob Reutter

Safety First! We take that slogan to heart where the safety of our membership is a stake. After consulting the weather reports from several of the local television stations and other officers in the Detachment Commandant Johnson made the decision to cancel the February Detachment meeting. Sleet, freezing rain and ice were forecast to begin three hours prior to the start of our meeting. Good call, in my humble opinion.

Typically we hold our officer nominations, first call in February, second call and elections in March and installation of officers in April. We will just accordion that process with first nominations in March, second nominations, election and installations in April. No problem! Bring your thoughts about who you want to see leading our detachment to the March meeting.

The Department of Indiana Spring Conference is the 5th and 6th of March in Plainfield

Indiana. As of the middle of February, we had 6 signed up to attend from our Detachment. This is more than we have had at a Dept. event (one not held in Evansville) for quite some time. It is still not too late to register if you would like to go. Contact Paymaster Bryant for information.

I hope you are planning to bring your family to the Detachment Social Gathering that is spotlighted on page 4 of this newsletter. It will be a fun day for the whole family with games, food and entertainment for all.

Did you know that.....

Marines carry \$14,000 worth of gear? No, that is not a typo. The average Marine carries about \$14,000 tax-payer supplied worth of equipment and gear in combat and that doesn't account for night-vision goggles when supplied. In comparison, Marines in the early 2000's carried just \$2,500 worth of gear! **Semper Fi-nancial!**



Did you know that as a veteran you can shop at online exchanges? **Your online shopping benefits include:**

- Tax-free shopping
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To begin using your veteran's shopping privileges, go to one of the web sites below to get started. All require you register and verify your service status.

1. www.shopmyexchange.com

2. www.mynavyexchange.com

3. www.mymcx.com.

Once you have registered and been verified (very short process) you can log into several different online shopping platforms for everything from uniforms to electronics to, well, just about anything.

Thanks to **Ray Ko** for reminding us about this additional benefit to being a veteran. Ooh-rah!



Did you know that.....

Army Lt.Gen. Simon Bolivar Buckner, Jr. commanding The Tenth Army was the highest ranking officer killed by combat during WWII? Buckner was the son of Confederate General Simon Bolivar Buckner and his wife Delia Hayes Claiborne.



Buckner Sr. was governor of Kentucky from 1887-1891 and was the Democratic candidate for Vice-President in 1896.

Roy S. Geiger enlisted in the Marine Corps as a private in 1907. He accepted a commission as 2nd LT. in 1909. After attending Marine Officers' School, he served on the **Wisconsin** and **Delaware**. In 1916 Geiger joined NAS Pensacola where he was designated a naval aviator in June 1917. He was designated Naval Aviator #49 (Marine Aviator #5.)

Geiger was sent to France in 1918 where he served with 5 Group RAF at Dunkirk. He commanded a squadron of the First Marine Aviation Force. For distinguished service in leading bombing raids against the enemy, he was awarded the Navy Cross.

After various assignments associated with Marine Aviation,
(Continued on page 10)

Did you ever hear of**Jacklyn Ha**

On August 8, 1942, at the age of 14, Lucas enlisted in the Marine Corps Reserve at Norfolk, Virginia, giving his age as 17 and forging his mother's name on the parental consent form and bribing a notary. At 5 ft 8 in and 180 pounds with a muscular build, he was sent directly to Marine Corps Recruit Depot Parris Island, South Carolina, for recruit training. During his rifle qualification, he qualified as a sharpshooter.

He was next assigned to the Marine barracks at Naval Air Station Jacksonville, Florida. In June 1943, he was transferred to the 21st Replacement Battalion at Marine Corps Air Station New River, North Carolina, and one month later he went to the 25th Replacement Battalion, and successfully completed schooling at Camp Lejeune, North Carolina, which qualified him as a heavy machine gun crewman. He was sent by train to San Diego with his unit. He left the continental United States on November 4, 1943, and the following month he

World "Jack" Lucas? Neither had I.

joined the 6th Base Depot of the V Amphibious Corps at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. On January 29, 1944, he was promoted to private first class.

On January 10, 1945, according to statements he made to his comrades, Lucas walked out of camp to join a combat organization wearing a khaki uniform and carrying his dungarees and field shoes in a roll under his arm. He was declared UA (Unauthorized Absence) when he failed to return that night. He stowed away on board the USS *Deuel*, which was transporting the 1st Battalion, 26th Marines of the 5th Marine Division to Iwo Jima. On February 8, the day before he would have been placed on the Marine Corps "deserter list", he turned himself in to Marine Captain Robert Dunlap, commanding officer of C Company. He was taken by Dunlap to the battalion's commanding officer, Lieutenant Colonel Daniel C. Pollock, who assigned him to Dunlap's rifle company as a ri-

fleman. His punishment for going UA was an administrative reduction in rank to private. On February 14, Lucas had his 17th birthday while at sea, five days before the invasion of Iwo Jima began.

On February 19, Lucas participated in the 5th Division's landing on Iwo Jima with C Company, 1st Battalion, 26th Marines. On February 20, Lucas and three Marines who were members of a four-man fire team from one of C Company's platoons were creeping through a twisting ravine towards or at an enemy airstrip when they spotted an enemy pillbox and took cover in a trench. They then spotted 11 Japanese soldiers in a parallel trench (they had a tunnel to there from the pillbox) and opened fire on them with rifles.^[3] The Japanese also opened fire and threw two grenades inside the Marines' trench in front of them. Lucas spotted the grenades on the ground in front of his comrades and yelled "grenades". He then jumped over a Marine and dove for them, jamming one of them into the volcanic ash and soft sand with his rifle and covering (continued on page 18)

Did You Know (from page 8) Geiger was assigned as Naval Attaché, London. In August he became commanding general, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, where he was at the onset of WWII.

On September 3, 1942 he led the Cactus Air Force on Guadalcanal. He commanded the combined Army, Navy and Marine Air Forces on the island during this time. He was awarded his second Navy Cross during this time.

His citation reads in part, *"Despite almost continuous bombardment by enemy aircraft, hostile naval gunfire and shore based artillery, the combined total of Army, Navy and Marine Corps units stationed at Guadalcanal under Major General Geiger's efficiently coordinated command succeeded in shooting down 268 Japanese planes in aerial combat and inflicting damage on a number estimated to be as great ... Sank six enemy vessels, including one heavy cruiser, possibly sank three destroyers and one heavy cruiser, and damaged 18 other ships, including one heavy cruiser and five light cruisers."*

Geiger was recalled to Headquarters Marine Corps in May 1943, to become the Director of Aviation. In November 1943, he returned to the field, this time as command-

ing general of the I Amphibious Corps and led the corps from November 9, to December 15, 1943, in the Battle of Bougainville, for which he was awarded the Distinguished Service Medal.

Redesignated III Amphibious Corps in April 1944, he led this organization in the invasion and subsequent recapture of Guam during July and August 1944, and in the assault and capture of the southern Palau Islands in September and October of the same year. For those operations he was awarded two Gold Stars in lieu of a second and third Distinguished Service Medal.

Geiger led this corps into action for the fourth time as part of the Tenth Army in the invasion and capture of Okinawa. On June 18, 1945, Geiger assumed command of the Tenth Army following the death in combat of Lt. General Simon Bolivar Buckner Jr for the final five days of the battle. He was relieved by General Joseph Stilwell. To this day, Geiger remains the only Marine Corps officer to have ever held command of a field army.

Geiger was appointed commanding general of the Fleet Marine Force, Pacific in July 1945 and was promoted

to lieutenant general. Geiger was the only Marine Corps representative at the surrender of Japan aboard the USS Missouri (BB-63) on September 2, 1945.

And as Paul Harvey used to say "now you know the rest of the story."

you to this column. Email me at rapid1@evansville.net.

Happy Birthday to:



Joe Barron.....3/5

Darren Lewis.....3/5

Barb Cole.....3/18

Mike Kremer.....3/27

Bill Casey.....3/30



This is a feature I used to really enjoy in our newsletter. I want to bring it back but I need your help. If you have not already responded (or if you don't receive my emails) please send me your birthday so I can add



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River Cities Detachment—Ship's Store

Editor's Note: All the items listed for sale in the River Cities Detachment 1090 Ship's Store (unless otherwise noted) are as is. The clothing has been donated by members who have grown (up or down) into a different size or by family members of Marines who have gone on. All items are on a first come, first served basis. If you want an item shipped to you, we will add the actual cost of postage to your item. All items may be picked up with no shipping or handling.

Uniforms and Clothing

Dress Blue Trousers 34 waist	\$ 45.00
Dress Blue Trousers 38 waist	\$ 45.00
Dress Blue Trousers 40 waist	\$ 45.00
White L/S shirt with MCL patch & flag Size 18 1/2 X 34/35	\$ 15.00
White L/S shirt with MCL patch and Devil Dog patch Size 4X	\$ 25.00
Commandant Cover strip	\$ 8.00
Sgt at Arms Cover strip	\$ 8.00
MCL arm patch	\$ 4.00
 Sunburst collar emblem (pair)	\$ 12.00
Life Member Cover Strip	\$ 9.00
Life Cover Strip	\$ 4.00
Past Commandant Cover Strip	\$ 9.00
Jr Vice Cover Strip	\$ 9.00
Chaplain Cover Strip	\$ 5.00
MCL Cover Emblem	\$ 5.00
 MC Tie Bar	\$ 9.00
Black Tie	\$ 6.00
Ribbon Bar holders	
2,3,9,10,11,12,13,14,15,16,17,18	\$ ***
*** (Check with Tim Jones for cost)	
Marine Corps Belt Buckle for black leather belt.	\$ 18.00

Military Order of Devil Dogs

Devil Dog Arm Patch	\$ 4.00
Devil Dog Cover Patch	\$ 4.00
Devil Dog Pup Collar (black)	\$ 5.00
Devil Dog DD Collar (Red)	\$ 5.00
Devil Dog PDD Collar (Gold)	\$ 5.00

MCL Associates

MCL Associate Collar Emblem (pair)	\$12.00
Associate Cover Emblem	\$ 6.00

New Linens

White table cloth 102x60"	\$ 10.00 ea.
White table cloth 90" round	\$ 10.00 ea.
Red Satin Table Runner 14x108"	\$ 5.00 ea.
Gold Satin Table Runner 14x108"	\$ 5.00 ea.
New 22" square Red Napkins	\$ 10.00 doz.
New 22" square Gold Napkins	\$ 10.00 doz.

Miscellaneous Items (new)



Detachment Challenge Coin \$10.00 ea.



Min. K-bar letter opener
Overall 7 1/2 " \$15.00 ea.



12 ounce stemless wine glasses set of 4 \$ 20.00



USMC Shot Glass \$10.00 ea.



Curved Glass Picture Frame \$ 15.00 ea.

All items listed on the Detachment 1090 Ship's Store site are subject to prior sale. Limited Quantities on all items.

Ship's Store (continued)

Crossed flag \$10.00 ea.
tie pin/lapel/hat pin

Miscellaneous Clothing

George (brand) red polo w/1090 logo sz.52 \$10.00

L.L.Bean Polo with collar and 1090 logo \$10.00ea

Black size L/T

Black size L

Red size L

L.L.Bean Polo no collar with 1090 Logo \$10.00

Dark Red size L

Red size L

Navy Blue size L

mess. After deciding it was a miracle they were in good shape, another miracle occurred when the Marine found the full bottle of bourbon in his back seat was unbroken. The swabbie suggested that to celebrate their survival, they break open the bottle.

The Marine agreed and opened it, handing it to the sailor who drank several healthy swigs. He proceeded to hand the bottle to the Marine who tightly screwed the cap back on. "Aren't you going to drink to our survival?" he asked.

"No" said the Marine. "I think I will just wait until the state police get here."

Marine Humor

A Marine on his way back from leave in Boston collided with a sailor on his way back to base in Philadelphia. Neither was injured but their cars were a

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



SUN

MON

TU



Department of Indiana Spring Conference



The first group of 71 Women Marine officer candidates arrived at the U.S. Midshipmen School (Women's Reserve) at Mount Holyoke College. 1943



27 The 5th Marines, supported by the 2d Battalion, 7th Marines, in the first full day of fighting after the Chinese assault the previous evening of Outpost Vegas on Korea's western front, counterattacked to regain enemy-held positions. Companies E and F of 2/7, down to only three platoons between them, managed to regain partial control of Outpost Vegas that day. 1953

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

6

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

13

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

20

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

27

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

7

9th Marine Expeditionary Brigade landed at DaNang, Republic of Vietnam as the first U.S. ground combat troops to be committed to that conflict. 1965

14

21

Detachment Meeting Funkhouser Post on New Harmony Road 1900

28

March

2022

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN	
	1	2		3	4	Department of Indiana Spring Conference 	5
6	7	8	9	10	Marines participated the action when the Continental Navy frigate BOSTON, en-route to France, sighted, engaged, and captured the British merchant ship MARTHA . 1778	11	12
13	14	15	16	The first woman Marine to report to Vietnam for duty, Master Sergeant Barbara J. Dulinsky, began her 18-hour flight to Bien Hoa, 30 miles north of Saigon. 1967	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	After 35 days of bitter fighting, the amphibious assault on the rocky fortress of Iwo Jima finally appeared over. On the night of 25 March, however, a 300-man Japanese force launched a vicious final counterattack in the vicinity of Airfield Number 2. Army pilots, Seabees and Marines of the 5th Pioneer Battalion and 28th Marines fought the fanatical Japanese force till morning but suffered heavy casualties -- more than 100 killed and another 200 American wounded. Nearly all of the Japanese force was killed in the battle. 1945	25	26
27	28	29	30	31	<div style="border: 2px solid red; padding: 10px; text-align: center;"> If you have anything you would like to submit for the April Newsletter , the deadline for submission is March 22nd. </div>		

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In memory of Detachment Members
2021

Keith Benedict

Joe Shimek

Jim Grayson

Gene Grigsby

Daniel Fuller

Brenda Bergwitz

Paula Landers

Richard VanGordon

04/2022

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.....**

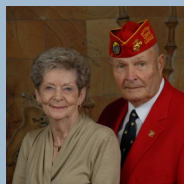


In fond memory of my
life's love

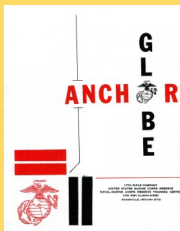
Dorothy Lee "Dottie"

(McCord) Mills

1930-2020



08/2022



**Semper
Fi**

06/2023

---They Help Make This Newsletter Possible

“Oorah”

Stan Rickard

Life Member

River Cities Detachment #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 De-

09/2022

Compliments of
Gary Burk, Life Member

Optimist Club of
Evansville Downtown

Friend of Youth Since 1921

07/2022

Jack Lucas (from page 9) it with his body, while reaching out and pulling the other one beneath him. One grenade exploded, tossing Lucas onto his back and severely wounding him in the right arm and wrist, right leg and thigh, and chest. He was still conscious and barely alive after the blast, holding in his left hand the other grenade, which did not explode. His three comrades were unharmed, and the Japanese soldiers in their trench were all killed. The three Marines left, believing Lucas was dead.

Lucas was found by Marines from another unit passing by who called for Navy corpsmen who attended to his wounds and protected him with a carbine from being shot and killed by a Japanese soldier in the trench. He was evacuated by stretcher bearers to the beach, onto an LST to a cargo ship used as a hospital (all the hospital ships were full) and then to the hospital ship *Samaritan*. He was treated at various field hospitals prior to his arrival in San Francisco, California, on March 28, 1945. He eventually underwent 21 surgeries. For the rest of his



life, there remained about 200 pieces of metal, some the size of 22 caliber bullets, in his body, which frequently set off airport metal detectors. In August, the mark of attempted desertion was removed from his record while he was a patient at the U.S. Naval Hospital at Charleston, South Carolina. On September 18, he was discharged from the Marine Corps Reserve because of disability resulting from his wounds following his reappointment to the rank of private first class.

On October 5, 1945, Lucas, three sailors and ten other Marines, including Robert Dunlap, his former company commanding officer on Iwo Jima, were presented the Medal of Honor by President Harry S. Truman during a ceremony on the South Lawn of the White House. Those in attendance at the ceremony included Lucas's mother and brother, Admiral Chester Nimitz and Secretary of Defense James Forrestal.

After the war, Lucas earned a business degree from High Point University and was initiated into the Pi Kappa Alpha fraternity (Delta Omega

Chapter). He joined the United States Army in 1961 and served in the 82nd Airborne Division as a paratrooper to conquer his fear of heights. He reportedly survived a training jump in which both of his parachutes malfunctioned. He volunteered to serve in the Vietnam War, but was not allowed to go, and ended his time as a captain in 1965 at Fort Bragg, North Carolina, training younger troops who would see action in Vietnam.

After his military service ended, Lucas married, fathered several children and established a profitable chain of butcher shops in Maryland. However, he accrued back taxes with the IRS, depriving him of his disability benefits. In 1977, Lucas was notified by Maryland police that his second wife and son-in-law were plotting to kill him; the two pleaded guilty to conspiracy and were granted probation after Lucas asked the court to show mercy. By the 1980s, Lucas was living off his life savings. In 1985, his mobile home burned down, forcing him to camp. In August of that year, Lucas was arrested when marijuana plants were found in the corn field he was camping in. The State of Maryland initially planned to charge Lucas with

unlawful manufacture and possession of controlled dangerous substances, but the charges were eventually dropped.

When the keel of the USS *Iwo Jima* (LHD-7) (christened in 2000) was laid, Lucas placed his Medal of Honor citation in the ship's hull, where it remains sealed.



On August 3, 2006, Lucas, along with 15 other living Marine Medal of Honor recipients, was presented the Medal of Honor flag by Commandant of the Marine Corps General Michael Hagee at the Marine Barracks in Washington, D.C., in front of over 1,000 people, including family, friends and Marines. Lucas said of the ceremony, "To have these young men here in our presence — it just rejuvenates this old heart of mine. I love the Corps even more knowing that my country is defended by such fine young people." (continued on page 25)

David L. Jones

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

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 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

04/2022

River Cities Detachment 1090 Officers

<u>Office</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Email Address</u>	<u>Telephone</u>
<u>Commandant</u>	James Johnson	devildogjd2@aol.com	812-431-2451
<u>Sr. Vice</u>	Gary Burk	gaburk05@gmail.com	812-499-3045
<u>Jr. Vice</u>	Melissa West	melissa_gill21@yahoo.com	812-589-8992
<u>Jr. Past Comdt.</u>	Bob Reutter	rapid1@evansville.net	270-314-9484
<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>	Bob Reutter	rapid1@evansville.net	270-314-9484
<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.

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Matanikau

(from page 3)

as bases for threatening the supply routes between the U.S. and Australia, and to secure the islands as starting points for a campaign with the eventual goal of isolating the major Japanese base at Rabaul while also supporting the Allied New Guinea campaign. The landings initiated the six-month-long Guadalcanal campaign.

Taking the Japanese by surprise, by nightfall on 8 August the 11,000 Allied troops, under the command of Lieutenant General Alexander Vandegrift and mainly consisting of United States Marine Corps units, had secured Tulagi and nearby small islands, as well as an airfield under construction at Lunga Point on Guadalcanal. The airfield was later named Henderson Field by Allied forces. The Allied aircraft that subsequently operated out of the airfield became known as the "Cactus Air Force" (CAF) after the Allied codename for Guadalcanal. To protect the airfield, the U.S. Marines established a perimeter defense around Lunga Point.

In response to the Allied landings on Guadalcanal, the Japanese Imperial General Headquarters assigned the Imperial Japanese Army's 17th Army,

a corps-sized command based at Rabaul and under the command of Lieutenant-General Harukichi Hyakutake, with the task of retaking Guadalcanal from Allied forces. Beginning on 19 August, various units of the 17th Army began to arrive on Guadalcanal with the goal of driving Allied forces from the island.

Because of the threat by CAF aircraft based at Henderson Field, the Japanese were unable to use large, slow transport ships to deliver troops and supplies to the island. Instead, the Japanese used warships based at Rabaul and the Shortland Islands to carry their forces to Guadalcanal. The Japanese warships, mainly light cruisers or destroyers from the Eighth Fleet under the command of Vice Admiral Gunichi Mikawa, were usually able to make the round trip down "The Slot" to Guadalcanal and back in a single night, thereby minimizing their exposure to CAF air attack. Delivering the troops in this manner, however, prevented most of the soldiers' heavy equipment and supplies, such as heavy artillery, vehicles, and much food and ammunition, from being carried to Guadalcanal with them. These high speed warship runs to Guadalcanal occurred through-

out the campaign and were later called the "Tokyo Express" by Allied forces and "Rat Transportation" by the Japanese. The first Japanese attempt to recapture Henderson Field failed when a 917-man force was defeated on 21 August in the Battle of the Tenaru. The next attempt took place from 12 to 14 September, with the 6,000 soldiers under the command of Major General Kiyotake Kawaguchi being defeated in the Battle of Edson's Ridge. After their defeat at Edson's Ridge, Kawaguchi and the surviving Japanese troops regrouped west of the Matanikau River on Guadalcanal.

As the Japanese regrouped, the U.S. forces concentrated on shoring up and strengthening their Lunga defenses. On 18 September, an Allied naval convoy delivered 4,157 men from the U.S. 7th Marine Regiment to Guadalcanal. These reinforcements allowed Vandegrift, beginning on 19 September, to establish an unbroken line of defense completely around the Lunga perimeter.

General Vandegrift and his staff were aware that Kawaguchi's troops had retreated to the area west of the Matanikau and that numerous groups of Japanese

(Continued on page 24)

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 2021 - 2022

By July 31st - \$25

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Chaplain (from page 3)

livelier and more productive. I know it takes a lot of talking to recruit each new member but like playing a sport, the more 'at bats' we have, the more hits we can achieve. This month is our chance to show we are a family oriented group with our social event on the 12th. Invite every Marine you encounter to bring his family out. If you have approached a Marine in the past, use the social gathering as an opportunity to try again. If you are low on brochures or cards, contact me and I will get a supply to you. Remember when you recruit three new members in one year you will be awarded the Detachment Recruiter ribbon or a star when you do it again.

 Wouldn't this ribbon look good on your uniform?

Another ribbon that is easy to earn and looks good is the Ceremonial Guard Ribbon. To earn it you need only participate in 10 qualifying events. These include color guards, funeral walk throughs, grave side services, parades, etc.  Each 10 events earns a star.

**Matanikau** (from page 22)

stragglers were scattered throughout the area between the Lunga Perimeter and the Matanikau River. Vandegrift, therefore, decided to conduct a series of small unit operations around the Matanikau Valley.

The first U.S. Marine operation against Japanese forces west of the Matanikau, conducted between 23 September and 27 September 1942 by elements of three U.S. Marine battalions, was repulsed by Kawaguchi's troops under Colonel Akinosuke Oka's local command. In the second action, between 6 October and (?) October, a larger force of U.S. Marines successfully crossed the Matanikau River, attacked newly landed Japanese forces from the 2nd (Sendai) Infantry Division under the command of generals Masao Maruyama and Yumio Nasu and inflicted heavy casualties on the Japanese 4th Infantry Regiment. The second action forced the Japanese to retreat from their positions east of the Matanikau.

In the meantime, Major General Millard F. Harmon, commander of United States Army forces in the South Pacific, convinced Vice Admiral Robert

L. Ghormley, commander of Allied forces in the South Pacific Area, that U.S. Marine forces on Guadalcanal needed to be reinforced immediately if the Allies were to successfully defend the island from the anticipated Japanese offensive. Thus on 13 October, a naval convoy delivered the 2,837-strong 164th U.S. Infantry Regiment, a North Dakota Army National Guard formation from the U.S. Army's Americal Division, to Guadalcanal.

(Editor's note": This is the end of part one. The second installment will be in the April Rivrer Cities News, with the conclusion in May.)

Jack Lucas (From page 19)

Lucas died at a hospital in Hattiesburg, Mississippi, on June 5, 2008, of leukemia, with family and friends by his side. On September 18, 2016, Secretary of the Navy Ray Mabus announced that an Arleigh Burke-class destroyer, DDG-125, would be named in honor of Lucas.



Some of Lucas' ribbons.

The Vietnam 'Conflict'

Many of our readers are Marines of the 'Vietnam era.' For that reason, I would like to include a monthly story about the Marines during this period. I would love to hear from any of our readers who have stories of their time in the Corps during this troubled time for our country. If you were in specific battles during 'Nam, I will research them and include them in our River Cities News. I will work your story into the overall story of the battle. Any experiences you had would be of interest to our readers. Let me hear from you. **Editor**



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