



River Cities News

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

Volume 16, Issue 3

March 2019

Commandant's Corner

Bob Reutter, Commandant

I would like to talk about two terms. One of them 'SNAFU' is one that all Marines are familiar with. The second 'Nunc Fidelis' will likely not be so familiar, and you will see why.

This morning we had a cemetery ceremony scheduled for a 75 year old Marine. We were supposed to be there at 11:00 because we expected the funeral procession to arrive at 11:30. The initial 'heads up' was sent after breakfast on Tuesday. The same email told about a Color Guard scheduled for Friday at a local nursing home. We have provided Marines for this event for several years. I asked that anyone who was able to attend to contact me because we needed 4 Marines. By 2130 on the evening prior to the event, I had heard from one Marine who said he could attend. I had heard from 2 who said they could not. I did not want to leave the nursing home hanging so I called the activities director and left her a voice mail saying that due to personnel issues, we would not be able to attend this year. Sometime after midnight on Friday morning I received emails from two Marines saying they could attend. At 8:30 Friday morning I received a call from another who also said he could attend. I was not going to call the activities director back and say "oh, we now don't have a personnel issue and we will be there." So, we missed an event that we had attended several times. In the grand scheme of things, I am sure they didn't lose much sleep about us missing. It just looked bad that one of our members assured them we would be there and then we weren't.

For the second event, the Marine cemetery service, by Friday evening we had heard from only three Marines saying they could attend. To do a decent service we need 7, to do a minimum service we need 5. After calling everyone on Joe's list, we had 5 who said they would attend. Our bugler, Art Midle had another funeral on Saturday morning in the cemetery next door and after that event he went to see where we would be for this morning's service. Imagine his surprise when he was told that the funeral was – yester-

day. At this point, I am not certain where that SNAFU occurred, but we just flat missed the service for a Marine brother. The 5 of us who were attending were called and told to go back home. Tim Jones was on his way to the VFW to help me load the flags and rifles. I was a block away from the VFW. Tom Kick and Jim Grayson were preparing to leave their houses when they got the 'stand down' call. Art was the one who first learned of the SNAFU and started the chain.

All of this leads to the second term 'Nunc Fidelis.' Nunc Fidelis is Latin for 'sometimes faithful,' a term which seems more and more to describe the members of our detachment. To be fair, it describes a large part of our society these days. You cannot count on people to be involved in anything. I don't know if it is just a reflection on the fact that people are just too busy, too lazy or just too apathetic to care about things outside their arm's reach. When only 5 Marines, given a week's notice, can be available to honor a 75 year old Marine, how can we expect the rest of society to behave any differently? I would have thought Marines would be more resistant and dedicated. I apparently thought wrong.

Just a reminder to all the Marines in the River Cities Detachment 1090. Initial nominations Detachment officers was held during the February meeting. Final nominations will be at the March meeting. Voting for those nominees will follow the close of nominations. The offices to be elected are: Commandant, Senior Vice Commandant, Junior Vice Commandant, Adjutant, Paymaster and Judge Advocate. Appointed officers (to be selected by the new Commandant) are: Chaplain and Sgt. at Arms. All our elected offices will be open for nominations. Remember your nominee has the right to decline to be placed in nomination. Please think about who you would like to see leading our Detachment for the coming year.

Semper Fi

Detachment Officers

Commandant
Bob Reutter (270) 314-9484

Paymaster
Don Landers Sr. (812) 483-3014

Sgt At Arms
Jack Kincaide

Sr. Vice Commandant
Jim Grayson

Adjutant
Kyle Swain (812) 550-5560

Newsletter Editor
Paula Landers

Jr. Vice Commandant
Joe Filipczak

Judge Advocate
T C Shane

Web Sergeant
Paula Landers

Jr. Past Commandant
Tim Jones (812) 454-8717

Chaplain
Barbara Kortz (812)550-0552

The Battle of the Chosin Reservoir

Researched By Bob Reutter

This is the fourth and final installment of a four part series on one of the signature battles of Marine Corps history and legend. Not only is it an important battle in Marine history, we are fortunate enough to have one of our Marines who was in the middle of the campaign. John Mills is one of the 'Chosin Few' who endured and persevered during this incredibly difficult time.

27 November – 13 December 1950

Aftermath

Casualties. The US X Corps and the ROK I Corps reported a total of 10,495 battle casualties: 4,385 US Marines, 3,163 US Army personnel, 2,812 South Koreans attached to American formations and 78 British Royal Marines. The 1st Marine Division also reported 7,338 non-battle casualties due to the cold weather. Despite the losses, the US X Corps preserved much of its strength. About 105,000 soldiers, 98,000 civilians, 17,500 vehicles, and 350,000 tons of supplies were shipped from Hungnam to Pusan, and they would later rejoin the war effort in Korea. Commanding General Smith was credited for saving the US X Corps from destruction, while the 1st Marine Division, the 41 Royal Marines Commando and RCT-31 were awarded the Presidential Unit Citation for their tenacity during the battle. Fourteen Marines, two other soldiers and one Navy pilot received the Medal of Honor, and all of the UN troops that served at Chosin were later honored with the nickname "The Chosin Few". On 15 September 2010, the Veterans of the Korean War Chosin Reservoir Battle memorial was unveiled by the United States Marine Corps Commandant General James T. Conway at Camp Pendleton.

The PVA 9th Army, on the other hand, officially reported 48,156 casualties during the course of the battle - about one third of its total strength. Of those casualties, 19,202 were attributed to combat, while 28,954 were attributed to the harsh Korean winter and lack of food. Outside of official channels, the estimation of Chinese casualties has been described as high as 60,000 by Patrick C. Roe, the chairman of Chosin Few Historical Committee, citing the number of replacements requested by 9th Army in the aftermath of the battle. Regardless of the varying estimates, historian Yan Xue of PLA National Defence University noted that the 9th Army was put out of action for three months, describing the situation as a "giant hospital." With the absence of 9th Army, the Chinese order of battle in Korea was re-

duced to 18 infantry divisions by December 31, 1950, as opposed to the 30 infantry divisions present on November 16, 1950.

Operation Glory. During the battle, UN dead were buried at temporary grave sites along the road. Operation Glory took place from July to November



The National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific where many of the UN war dead which were exchanged under Opera-

1954, during which the dead of each side were exchanged. The remains of 4,167 US soldiers were exchanged for 13,528 North Korean and Chinese dead. In addition, 546 civilians who died in UN prisoner-of-war camps were turned over to the South Korean government. After Operation Glory, 416 Korean War "unknowns"

were buried in the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific (the "Punchbowl Cemetery" in Honolulu, Hawaii). According to a Defense Prisoner of War/Missing Personnel Office (DPMO) white paper, 1,394 names were also transmitted from the Chinese and North Koreans during the operation, of which 858 proved to be correct. The 4,167 returned remains were found to be 4,219 individuals, of whom 2,944 were found to be Americans, with all but 416 identified by name. Of the 239 Korean War unaccounted for, 186 are not associated with the Punchbowl Cemetery unknowns. From 1990 to 1994, North Korea excavated and returned more than 208 sets of remains, which possibly include 200 to 400 US servicemen, but very few have been identified due to the co-mingling of remains. From 2001 to 2005, more remains were recovered from the Chosin Battle site, and around 220 were recovered near the Chinese border between 1996 and 2006.

Outcome assessment. Roy E. Appleman, the author of US Army official history *South to Naktong, North to Yalu*, writes that both sides could claim victory: the PVA 9th Army ultimately held the battlefield, while X Corps defeated the 9th Army in a series of battles that enabled it to withdraw most of its forces as an effective tactical unit. Appleman also believed that had the UN forces possessed determined leadership and good soldier morale, the X Corps could also fight its way out of Hungnam instead of requiring an evacuation from sea at the end of the battle. Allan R. Millett qualifies a Chi-

Humor in (Marine) Uniform

A Marine proposed to his girlfriend at a restaurant on St. Patrick's day and gave her a ring with a fake diamond. She yelled at him "you cheap-skate, this isn't even real." He looked her in the eyes and said "but dear, in honor of St. Patty's Day I thought I'd buy you a 'sham rock.'

Someone broke into a Marine private's footlocker and stole his limbo stick. I mean how low can you go?

A Marine Captain's wife told him one morning that she had a dream the night before their anniversary that he gave her a diamond necklace. She asked him what he thought the dream meant? He told her wait until tonight and you will know. That night at dinner he gave her a beautifully wrapped package. She ripped open the paper to find a book "***The Meaning of Dreams.***"

Q. How many Marine privates does it take to change a light bulb?

A. None. Marines are not afraid of the dark. Besides they are used to being kept there.

A Marine was making love to his girlfriend when she suddenly exclaimed, "Oh no, my husband just came home early. Quick jump in that dresser." The husband came into the room and said "I know you have a man here." He proceeded to search the whole room. When the dresser was the last place he hadn't looked, he wrapped his arms around it and pushed it out the window. The exertion caused him to have a heart attack and die.

Next thing he knew he was standing in line in front of St. Peter who asked him what happened. He told St. Peter about the dresser. He was told to go ahead into the pearly gates. St. Peter asked the next man in line why he was there. The man told him "I was walking out of my apartment building when a dresser fell on me and killed me." St. Peter told him to enter. Looking at the next man in line St. Peter asked what his story was. The Marine told him, "I don't know. I was just sitting naked in this dresser, minding my own business, when suddenly....."

Tax day, April 15, was looming when an elderly woman showed up at the IRS. She said she required a thick stack of tax forms. "Why so many?" the clerk asked. "My son is stationed overseas," she said. "He asked me to pick up forms for the Marines on the base." "You shouldn't have to do this," the clerk told her. "It's the base commander's job to make sure that his troops have access to the forms they need." "I know," said the woman. "I'm the base commander's mother."

On some air bases the Air Force is on one side of the field and civilian aircraft use the other side of the field, with the control tower in the middle. One day the tower received a call from an aircraft asking, "What time is it?" The tower responded, "Who is calling?" The aircraft replied, "What difference does it make?" The tower replied "It makes a lot of difference. If it is an American Airlines Flight, it is 3 o'clock. If it is an Air Force, it is 1500 hours. If it is a Navy aircraft, it is 6 bells. If it is an Army aircraft, the big hand is on the 12 and the little hand is on the 3. If it is a Marine Corps aircraft, it's Thursday afternoon."

Q: What does U.S.M.C. stand for?

A: Uncle Sam's Misguided Children.



11th Annual Marine Corps League Auxiliary Bowling Tournament



Sponsored by
Southern Belles Unit 441

Bowlers, and non-bowlers can get in on the action of this bowling event. The proceeds from this event will help fund the activities of Southern Belles Unit 441, such as community projects and Operation Care Package. There will be Door Prize Drawings, a 50/50 Drawing, and a silent auction with great merchandise to bid on. So come on down to Franklin Lanes on Saturday, April 27, 2019. If you don't want to get a team together you can still help by participating in the silent auction.

Join Us For a Fun Afternoon

Saturday, April 27, 2019

Franklin Lanes

11:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Entry Fee: \$60 per team of 4

9-Pin No Tap * Three Games

Mixed Teams (No separate divisions)

Registration Deadline is April 20, 2019

Your entry fee includes:

Three games of bowling * Shoe Rental *
2 Soft Drinks * Prize drawings

Prizes

First Place Team - \$200

Second Place Team - \$100

Third Place Team - \$50

High Series Male - \$25

High Series Female - \$25

Youth: Ages 16 and under

Individual prizes for High Series

Prizes are based on 40 bowlers, we reserve the right to lower prize money based on number of participants.

In case of a tie, prize money will be combined.

Sponsorship Opportunities

Semper Fi Sponsor

[] \$200 - Includes business or sponsor name on Semper Fi Signage, 1 team of 4

Lane Sponsor

[] \$100 - Includes business or sponsor name on Signage

Entry Form

Contact Person:

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Team Name: _____

Team Members:

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

Make Checks Payable to **Southern Belles Unit 441**

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Evansville, IN 47712-4548

To pay using debt card or credit card please use our convenient online registration form at

www.mclrivercities.org/auxiliary

The Battle of the Chosin Reservoir continued from pg 2

nese "geographic victory" that ejected X Corps from North Korea with the fact that it put the Ninth Army Group out of action for some three months and failed to achieve the objective of destroying the 1st Marine Division, adding that the campaign gave the UN confidence that it could defeat the superior numbers of the Chinese forces. The official Chinese history, published by PLA Academy of Military Science, states that despite the heavy casualties, the PVA 9th Army had earned its victory by successfully protecting the eastern flank of Chinese force in Korea, while inflicting over 10,000 casualties to the UN forces.

Eliot A. Cohen writes that the retreat from Chosin was a UN victory which inflicted such heavy losses on the Chinese Ninth Army Group that it was put out of action until March 1951. Paul M. Edwards, founder of the Center for the Study of the Korean War, draws parallels between the battle at Chosin and the Dunkirk evacuation. He writes that the retreat from Chosin following a "massive strategic victory" by the Chinese has been represented as "a moment of heroic history" for the UN forces. Chinese historian Li Xiaobing acknowledges X Corps' successful withdrawal from North Korea, and writes that the Battle of Chosin "has become a part of Marine lore, but it was still a retreat, not a victory." Bruce Cumings simply refers to the battle as a "terrible defeat" for the Americans.

Patrick C. Roe, who served as an intelligence officer with the 7th Marine Regiment at Chosin, asserts that X Corps directly allowed the Eighth Army to hold the south and quoted MacArthur in corroborating his view. Yu Bin, a historian and a former member of the Chinese People's Liberation Army, states that while the destruction of Task Force Faith was the single greatest Chinese victory of the war, ultimately the PVA 9th Army Group had become "a giant hospital" while failing to destroy the numerically inferior UN forces at Chosin as planned. Zhang Renchu, whose 26th Corps was blamed for allowing the X Corps to escape, had threatened suicide over the outcome, while Song Shilun offered to resign his post.

The battle exacerbated inter-service hostility, the Marines blaming the US Army and its leadership for the failure. The collapse of the army units fighting on the east of the reservoir was regarded as shameful, and for many years afterwards their role in the battle was largely ignored. Later studies concluded that Task Force MacLean/Faith had held off for five days a significantly larger force than previously thought, and that their stand was a significant factor in the Marines' survival. This was eventually recognized in September

1999 when, for its actions at Chosin, Task Force Faith was awarded the Presidential Unit Citation, an award that General Smith blocked when it was first proposed in 1952. The Marines evacuated from North Korea spent January and most of February 1951 rebuilding in the relatively secure south of South Korea and "chasing guerrillas" in Pohang. They returned to regular and heavy action on February 21 in Operation Killer.

Wider effect on the war. The battle was part of the PRC's intervention in the Korean War which, according to the US Army, ended the UN force's expectation of total victory, including the liberation of North Korea and the reunification of the peninsula. By the end of 1950, communist forces had recaptured North Korea and pushed UN forces back south of the 38th parallel. Serious consideration was given to the evacuation of all US forces from the Korean peninsula, and US military leaders made secret contingency plans to do so. The disregard by Far Eastern Command under MacArthur of the initial warnings and diplomatic hints by the PVA almost led the entire United Nations army to disaster at Ch'ongch'on River and Chosin Reservoir, and only after the formation and stabilization of a coherent UN defensive line under Lieutenant General Matthew Ridgway did the "period of headlong retreats from an attacking, unsuspected foe" cease.

On the other hand, the battle affected the PVA in two ways, both of which had the ultimate result of helping the United Nations Command secure its position in South Korea, while losing North Korea. First, according to historian Shu Guang Zhang, the belief amongst PVA commanders of their victories at Chosin and Ch'ongch'on helped convince them that they could "defeat American armed forces", and this led to "unrealistic expectations that the CPV [PVA] would work miracles." Second, the heavy casualties caused by both combat and poor logistical support destroyed much of the PVA's eight elite divisions of the 20th and 27th Corps. Of those eight divisions, two were forced to disband. With the absence of 12 out of 30 of Chinese divisions in Korea in early 1951, Roe says that the heavy Chinese losses at Chosin ultimately enabled the UN forces to maintain a foothold in Korea.

Marine Corps League Department of Indiana 2019 Spring Conference



**Saturday, April 13, 2019 &
Sunday, April 14, 2019**
Fairfield Inn
5400 Weston Road
Evansville, IN 47712



Fairfield Inn offers free breakfast and free wireless high-speed Internet access in all rooms. Make your reservation by **March 22, 2019** to receive the group rate of \$89 plus tax. Rooms are available from Friday, April 12th through Sunday, April 14th, for anyone wanting to arrive earlier.

Contact the hotel directly. Ask for the Marine Corps League Rate. (812) 429-0900

Check in time is **3:00 pm**; however, guests will be able to check in as early as rooms are available.

Check out time is **12:00 noon**.

Marine Corps League Detachment

Marine Corps League Auxiliary

Det. Name: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Office Held (if applicable): _____

Phone: _____

Unit Name: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Office Held (if applicable): _____

Phone: _____

Registration prior to April 4, 2019 will be **\$20.00 per attendee**, or **\$25.00 per attendee** when registering at the Conference.

Early Registration Fee: **\$20.00 per attendee**
 Number attending: **X** _____
 Total Due: _____

**Make Check Payable to:
MCL River Cities Det. #1090**

**Mail Registration with Payment to:
MCL River Cities Det. #1090
Attn: Spring Conference
P O Box 6581
Evansville, IN 47719-0581**

You may also register online at :
mclrivercities.org/springconf2019
Online registration will be closed **4/5/2019**

Questions:
E-mail: mclrivercities@gmail.com

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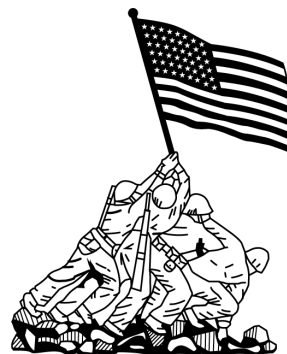
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In Memory of
Marine Tommy Collins
And Deceased
Detachment Members



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



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IMPORTANT

ANNOUNCEMENTS

All membership dues are currently due. Last year National changed the due date so that everyone is paying at the same time.

If you have not already paid your annual membership please mail \$35 to

River Cities Det. #1090
 PO Box 6581
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«AddressBlock»

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Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Newsletter Articles, Ads, and Pictures for April 2019 are due NO LATER THAN March 22, 2019 <i>There will be No Exceptions to this deadline</i>					1	2
3	4	5 Det. 1090 Breakfast Libby's and Mom's Cafe 0800	6	7 MCLA Southern Belles VA Clinic 8 a.m. - 11 a.m	8	9
10	11 MODD No Growl	12 Det. 1090 Breakfast Libby's and Mom's Cafe 0800	13		15	16
17	18	19 Det. 1090 Breakfast Libby's and Mom's Cafe 0800	20	21	22	23
24	25 MCLA Southern Belles Unit #441 AmVets #84 6:30 p.m.	26 Det. 1090 Breakfast Libby's and Mom's Cafe 0800	27 MCL River Cities Det. #1090 VFW 1114 1900	28	29	30
31						