



River Cities News

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

Volume 15, Issue 5

May 2018

Commandant's Corner

Bob Reutter, Commandant

One hundred years – one century. Next month (June 2018) marks the 100th year since the Battle of Belleau Wood during World War I. Although the Corps had a celebrated history up to that point, Belleau Wood and the subsequent lore of the Corps, took a huge upturn at that point. It was, unfortunately, the beginning of the extreme dislike of the Marines by many Army men, including several who went on to important posts in government. The Army high command did not allow the press to name individual units in their press releases back home. Therefore, the people did not have much information on who was doing what on the battlefield. The Corps did not have any such restriction so when the 5th and 6th Marine Regiments with the 6th Machine Gun Battalion helped to break the stalemate of the battle, the 'folks back home' received the news. A whole new era was started for the Marine Corps legend. Part one of a two-part story of the battle is in this month's issue of our newsletter.



2018 marked the 100th anniversary of another event in the Corps. In 1918 in Kokomo, Indiana Opha May



Johnson became the first female to go through the Marine Corps recruitment process. She had the good fortune to be first in a line of over 300 women in line that day to enlist in the US Marine Corps Reserve. Opha was also a founding member of the first chartered American Legion post (Belleau Wood Post No.

1) of women's Marine Corps Reservists. There will be a program to commemorate her enlistment on Monday, August 13th at 1200 hours at Foster Park in downtown Kokomo. The guest speaker will be General Carol Mutter. Gen. Mutter is the first woman in the US military to be ap-

pointed to a three-star grade. Organizers are hoping to have the newest Devil Dog pup from Parris Island (named Opha May) as well as the governor of Indiana in attendance.



We are working on plans for a summer picnic for all Marines in our area. Paula Landers (our newsletter editor) is the Chairperson of the committee. We will try to get the word out to all on the date, time and location of the event. We want to get all local Marines and their families involved if possible. The last event was well attended, and everyone had a great time. Hope you can make plans to join us.

Don and Paula Landers and my wife and I represented the Detachment at the Department of Indiana Spring Conference in LaPorte in March. Most of the detachments in the state were represented. Our report on activities in our area since the fall conference was delivered to the conference as was my report as Liaison to the Department of Indiana for Toys for Tots. We had a good time and I hope more of our detachment can make the next gathering which will be the summer convention in Richmond on June 22-24, 2018.

It has been two months since I sent out a letter to all our members asking for their commitment to supporting a building of our own. Of the 97 letters sent (including a stamped, self-addressed post card for reply) I have received 26 replies. The dollar amount pledged is disappointing as is the rate of reply. I think it is time for some very difficult questions to be honestly evaluated as to the future of this project. Semper Fi.

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Marine Corps History

Gary Burk

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

GULF WAR/DESERT STORM (continued)

Boomer and Schwarzkopf held their breath as the Allied buildup went forward frantically. Within sixty days Boomer had 42,000 Marines on hand.

As time passed and Saddam failed to respond to diplomatic and economic pressures, President Bush realized that Kuwait would have to be liberated by force from her occupying legions.

For such an offensive against the world's fourth-largest army, Schwarzkopf asked for double the amount of forces, Marines and Army.

Again, the old warhorse, the 2nd Marine Division, got the call to combat, its first as a division since Okinawa in 1945. President Bush, also called up 23,000 Marine Reservists. These were flowed into Camp Lejeune to be processed and integrated into the division.

Said Major General William Keys, commanding the 2nd Division, "Camp Lejeune looked like it must have during World War II, with Marines reporting at all hours of the night, then starting out first thing the next morning to train for combat."

By late January, Boomer commanded what was called the 1st Marine Expeditionary Force (in reality, a Marine expeditionary corps.), which included the 1st and 2nd Marine Divisions and an enormous 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing. More than 17,000 of Boomer's Marines were embarked and combat-loaded on board thirty-one amphibious ships in the Persian Gulf, a larger force than those MacArthur had assembled to seize Inchon forty years earlier.

Marine Corps Commandant General Al Gray spoke the obvious, we now have four kinds of Marines: those going to the Gulf, those who want to go to the Gulf, and those who don't want to go to the Gulf but

are going anyway.

As autumn gave way to winter, the Allied coalition began to stir itself for a massive offensive to wrest Kuwait from the Iraqi forces.

Among the competing strategies being discussed for this mission was the role to be played by the huge American amphibious armada loitering in the Persian Gulf. Meanwhile, the amphib Marines were not exactly idle.

Small units trained in special operations helped enforce the maritime blockade of Iraqi shipping. Whenever an Iraqi ship captain refused to stop and allow a conventional naval boarding party to inspect his cargo holds, the Marines would take the direct approach. With one helicopter gunship hovering nearby with its guns and missiles trained on the ship's bridge, a transport chopper would hover directly overhead while the Marines scampered down the ropes like so many armed spiders to conduct a little heart-to-heart talk with the captain.

The Navy and Marines also conducted a series of purposefully published amphibious "rehearsals," resulting in a dramatic video footage of helicopters and Harriers and air-cushion landing craft converging on the objective. News clips of these active demonstrations proved downright riveting in Peoria. And in Bagdad.



General Schwarzkopf had things he wanted to plant in Saddam Hussein's mind. He wanted Saddam to believe these Marines would swoop ashore at any minute in the northern Gulf. Saddam bought the stratagem.

Actually, Schwarzkopf had decided against a forcible amphibious assault.

(to be continued)

MCLA Southern Belles Unit 441

Dani Cook, President



I have to say we had our best turnout to date for our Bowling Fundraiser in April. We had 14 teams!!! Thank you to everyone who helped make this such a big success. All of your hard work does not go unnoticed.

The next order of business will be our summer fun with the Boys and Girls Club. I am hoping to see all of our members at the next meeting to help with this decision.

Please keep trying to recruit new members.

Semper Fi

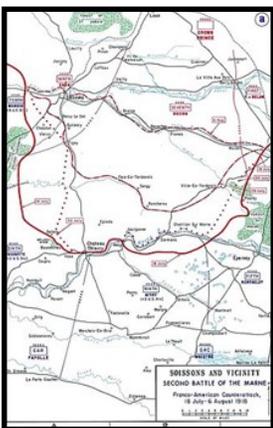
Marines in the News

Bob Reutter

This is the first part of a three-part story on the Battle of Belleau Wood in June of 1918. In addition to being a compelling story, it is one of the cornerstones of the history and lore of the Corps.

Some background on the battle: In March 1918, with nearly 50 additional divisions freed by the Russian surrender on the Eastern Front, the German Army launched a series of attacks on the Western Front, hoping to defeat the Allies before U.S. forces could be fully deployed. A third offensive launched in May against the French between Soissons and Reims, known as the Third Battle of the Aisne, saw the Germans reach the north bank of the Marne River at Château-Thierry, 59 miles from Paris, on 27 May. On 31 May, the 3rd Division held the German advance at Château-Thierry and the German advance turned right towards Vaux and Belleau Wood.

On 1 June, Château-Thierry and Vaux fell, and German troops moved into Belleau Wood. The U.S. 2nd Division—which included a brigade of U.S. Marines—was brought up along the Paris-Metz highway. The 9th Infantry Regiment was placed between the highway and the Marne, while the 6th Marine Regiment was deployed to their left. The 5th Marine and 23rd Infantry regiments were placed in reserve.



The Battle begins: On the evening of 1 June, German forces punched a hole in the French lines to the left of the Marines' position. In response, the U.S. reserve—consisting of the 23rd Infantry Regiment, the 1st Battalion, 5th Marines, and an element of the 6th Machine

Gun Battalion—conducted a forced march over 6.2 miles to plug the gap in the line, which they achieved by dawn. By the night of 2 June, the U.S. forces held a 12 mile front line north of the Paris-Metz Highway running through grain fields and scattered woods, from Triangle Farm west to Lucy and then north to Hill 142. The German line opposite ran from Vaux to Boursches to

Belleau.

German advance halted at Belleau Wood:

German commanders ordered an advance on Marigny and Lucy through Belleau Wood as part of a major offensive, in which other German troops would cross the Marne River. The commander of the Marine Brigade, Army General James Harbord, countermanding a French order to dig trenches further to the rear, ordered the Marines to "*hold where they stand*". With bayonets, the Marines dug shallow fighting positions from which they could fight from the prone position. In the afternoon of 3 June, German infantry attacked the Marine positions through the grain fields with bayonets fixed. The Marines waited until the Germans were within 100 yds before opening deadly rifle fire which mowed down waves of German infantry and forced the survivors to retreat into the woods.

Having suffered heavy casualties, the Germans dug in along a defensive line from Hill 204, just east of Vaux, to Le Thiolet on the Paris-Metz Highway and northward through Belleau Wood to Torcy. After Marines were repeatedly urged to turn back by retreating French forces, Marine Captain Lloyd W. Williams of the 2nd Battalion, 5th Marines uttered the now-famous retort "*Retreat? Hell, we just got here*". Williams' battalion commander, Major Frederic Wise, later claimed to have said the famous words.

On 4 June, Major General Bundy—commanding the 2nd Division—took command of the American sector of the front. Over the next two days, the Marines repelled the continuous German assaults. The 167th French Division arrived, giving Bundy a chance to consolidate his 2,000 yards of front. Bundy's 3rd Brigade held the southern sector of the line, while the Marine brigade held the north of the line from Triangle Farm.

Attack on Hill 142: At 03:45 on 6 June, the Allies launched an attack on the German forces, who were preparing their own strike. The French 167th Division attacked to the left of the American line, while the Marines attacked Hill

Marines in the News continued from pg 3

with a network of machine gun nests and artillery. At dawn, 1st Battalion, 5th Marines—commanded by Major Julius Turrill—was to attack Hill 142, but only two companies were in position. The Marines advanced in waves with bayonets fixed across an open wheat field that was swept with German machine gun and artillery fire, and many Marines were cut down. Captain Crowther commanding the 67th Company was killed almost immediately. Captain Hamilton and the 49th Company fought from wood to wood, fighting the entrenched Germans and overrunning their objective by 6 yards. At this point, Hamilton had lost all five junior officers, while the 67th had only one commissioned officer alive. Hamilton reorganized the two companies, establishing strong points and a defensive line.

In the German counter-attack, then-Gunnery Sergeant Ernest A. Janson—who was serving under

the name Charles Hoffman—repelled an advance of 12 German soldiers, killing two with his bayonet before the others fled; for this action he became the first Marine to receive the Medal of Honor in World War I. Also cited for advancing through enemy fire during the counter-attack was then-Marine Gunner Henry Hulbert who was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross.

The rest of the battalion now arrived and went into action. Turrill's flanks lay unprotected, and the Marines were rapidly exhausting their ammunition. By the afternoon, however, the Marines had captured Hill 142, at a cost of nine officers and most of the 325 men of the battalion.

Next month: The Marines attack Belleau Woods and secure their place in history!

Marine Family Picnic

Paula Landers

The detachment is planning a Marine Family Picnic. This year it will be held on Sunday, July 29th at the FOP Camp. We are still in the planning stages so watch your newsletter for more information.

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



The Detachment will be providing the meat and we are asking each family to bring a cover dish or dessert to share and their own drinks. Beer and wine are ok but no hard liquor is allowed per FOP rules.

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

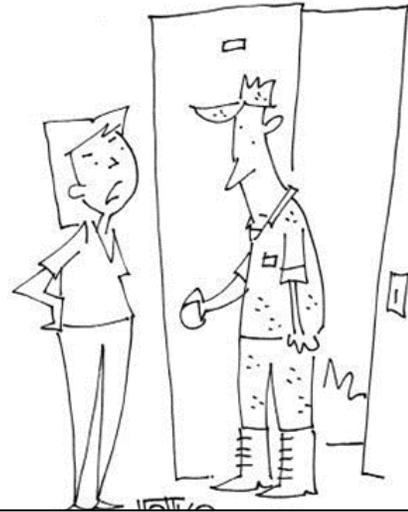


Humor in (Marine) Uniform

A Soldier, Sailor, and Airman walk into a bar. They make a bet with the bartender that they can each drink a keg of beer and make it with the hottest girl in the room in one hour. The Bartender says ok and gives them the key to the back room and one keg each. The Airman goes in with the hottest girl. After one hour the Bartender walks into the room to find the keg barely touched, the woman untouched, and the Airman blacked out. The bartender says next and the Sailor attempts. This time when the bartender walks in, the keg is half empty and the sailor is blacked out. The woman still untouched. Next up is the soldier, after an hour the bartender walks in to find all three kegs empty, the woman ravished and barely able to walk, but the soldier is beaten in the corner. The bartender wakes the soldier up and asked him what happened. The soldier responded by saying, A man came in drank everything, beat me silly, and made love to the woman, then jumped out of the window and yelled Ooooh Raaaah!!!!!!



I don't care what dad calls it, eat your chipped beef!



Seriously, you can remember your general orders but forget our anniversary?

A former Sergeant having served his time with the Marine Corps took a new job as a school teacher. Just before the school year started he injured his back. He was required to wear a plaster cast around the upper part of his body. Fortunately, the cast fit under his shirt and was n't noticeable.

On the first day of class, he found himself assigned to the toughest students in the school. The smart-aleck punks, having already heard the new teacher was a Marine, were leery of him and decided to see how tough he really was before trying any pranks.

Walking confidently into the rowdy classroom, the new teacher opened the window wide and sat down at his desk. When a strong breeze made his tie flap, he took a stapler and promptly stapled the tie to his chest, twice.

He had no trouble with discipline that year.

SEMPER FI

Newsletter Booster Club

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Gary Burk	April -19

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.

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Anyone can use these forms to put an ad in the newsletter. The editor has the right to reject an ad that is not appropriate such as loan companies, adult entertainment, etc.

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 - \$500.00

Age 36 up to and including age 50 - \$400.00

Age 51 up to and including age 64 - \$300.00

Age 65 and over - \$200.00

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

MCL River Cities Fundraiser

Own a piece of Marine Corps history. This card has a small vial of actual volcanic ash from the Island of Iwo Jima. Scott Hanson, whose father was in an Army unit occupying Iwo after the island had been deemed 'secure', visited Iwo recently as part of the Japanese program to allow family of Americans who participated in the battle to visit the island, brought us back some actual volcanic 'sand' from the island. For a small donation of \$10 (including postage) our detachment will send you the pictured 5 ½ by 8 ½ inch card with a small piece of Iwo Jima.



Sands of Iwo Jima

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

Battle of Iwo Jima Facts and Figures	
Number of Japanese troops on Iwo	21,000
Number of Japanese survivors of invasion	1,083
11 miles of tunnels were dug to depths of 75 feet which protected the defenders from Allied naval and Air Corps bombardment.	
Number of American Marines in attack	69,893
Number of American's killed	6,800
Number of Americans wounded	62,000



Actual volcanic ash

Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

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

MCLA Southern Belles Unit 441

AMERICAN VETERAN
12 TILE



Name _____

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Quantity Total

\$5 X _____ = _____

Mail order form along with payment to:

Southern Belles Unit 441, c/o Paula Landers
807 Frank Avenue, Evansville, IN 47712-4548

American Veteran (12 tile) Bracelet

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

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



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 Richard Swonder
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04/2021

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***In Memory of
Marine Tommy Collins
And Deceased
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**River Cities Detachment
 Fundraiser**
 See pg 7 for details

Semper Ji

May 2018

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Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 Det. 1090 Breakfast Libby's and Mom's Cafe 0800	2	3 MCLA Southern Belles VA Clinic 8 a.m. - 11 a.m.	4	5
6	7	8 Det. 1090 Breakfast Libby's and Mom's Cafe 0800	9	10	11	12
13	14 MODD No Growl	15 Det. 1090 Breakfast Libby's and Mom's Cafe 0800	16	17	18	19
20	21 MCLA Southern Belles Unit #441 AmVets 84 6:30 p.m.	22 Det. 1090 Breakfast Libby's and Mom's Cafe 0800	23 MCL River Cities Det. #1090 AmVets 84 1900	24	25	26
27	28 memorial DAY	29 Det. 1090 Breakfast Libby's and Mom's Cafe 0800	30	31		

Newsletter Articles, Ads, and Pictures for June 2018 are due
 NO LATER THAN May 22, 2018