



River Cities News

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

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Commandant's Corner

Bob Reutter, Commandant

Happy Birthday! On Saturday, November 10th the Marine Corps has seen 243 years of service to our country. During that time the Corps has been called upon to step up in defense when the situation looked dire. The motto "First to Fight" was earned in WWI when the Allied armies were stalemated with the Germans in the fields of Flanders. The Marines were not satisfied to sit in trenches trading salvos with the enemy. We jumped off in the face of withering fire and took the battle to them. This was the beginning of the end of the war.

Again in the Pacific when the Japanese had an unbroken string of victories in the Pacific – India, Burma, Singapore, the Philippines and all along the Pacific Rim, it was the Marines who took the fight to them. Wake Island, Guadalcanal, Tarawa, Tinian, Saipan, Iwo Jima and Okinawa all showed the indomitable spirit of the Marines.

When the North Koreans overran the South in 1950, the war-weary American politicians were willing to sit back and let the chips fall where

they may. It was the Marine Corps – drastically reduced in size – that fielded a ready Division to stem the tide until our country could mobilize the forces to push the North back. It was the Marines who drove across the 38th parallel and when the Chinese introduced massively overwhelming forces and threatened to annihilate the NATO forces. If not for the politicians that war would have been won as well.

November is a busy time for us. With a Color Guard to welcome Honor Flight home on the 3rd, the Birthday Ball on the 10th, Veteran's Day on the 11th, the Christmas Parade on the 18th, Toys for Tots all month and anything else that comes our way, we will have our hands full. It is time for all members of our Detachment to step up and show the Gung Ho spirit that our Marine ancestors have taught us.

I hope to see all of our Detachment at as many of those events as possible.

Semper Fi



Detachment Officers

Commandant
Bob Reutter (270) 314-9484

Sr. Vice Commandant
Jim Grayson

Jr. Vice Commandant
Joe Filipczak

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

Paymaster
Don Landers Sr. (812) 483-3014

Adjutant
Kyle Swain (812) 550-5560

Judge Advocate
T C Shane

Chaplain
Barbara Kortz (812)550-0552

Sgt At Arms
Jack Kincaide

Newsletter Editor
Paula Landers

Web Sergeant
Paula Landers

Marines in the News

Bob Reutter

The Battle for Guadalcanal

Note: This is the fourth and final installment of the Battle for Guadalcanal. Bob

Reinforcement

As the Japanese regrouped west of the Matanikau, the U.S. forces concentrated on shoring up and strengthening their Lunga defenses. On 14 September Vandegrift moved another battalion, the [3rd Battalion, 2nd Marine Regiment \(3/2\)](#), from Tulagi to Guadalcanal. On 18 September an Allied naval convoy delivered 4,157 men from the 3rd Provisional Marine Brigade (the [7th Marine Regiment](#) plus a battalion from the [11th Marine Regiment](#) and some additional support units), 137 vehicles, tents, aviation fuel, ammunition, rations, and engineering equipment to Guadalcanal. These crucial reinforcements allowed Vandegrift, beginning on 19 September, to establish an unbroken line of defense around the Lunga perimeter. While covering this convoy the aircraft carrier [USS Wasp](#) was sunk by the Japanese [submarine I-19](#) southeast of Guadalcanal, leaving only one Allied aircraft carrier ([USS Hornet](#)) in operation in the South Pacific area. Vandegrift also made some changes in the senior leadership of his combat units, transferring off the island several officers who did not meet his performance standards and promoting junior officers who had proven themselves to take their places. One of these was the recently promoted Colonel [Merritt Edson](#) who was placed in command of the 5th Marine Regiment.

A lull occurred in the air war over Guadalcanal, with no Japanese air raids occurring between 14 and 27 September due to bad weather, during which both sides reinforced their respective air units. The Japanese delivered 85 fighters and bombers to their air units at Rabaul while the U.S. brought 23 fighters and attack aircraft to Henderson Field. On 20 September the Japanese counted 117 total aircraft at Rabaul while the Allies tallied 71 aircraft at Henderson Field. The air war resumed with a Japanese air raid on Guadalcanal on 27 September which was contested by U.S. Navy and Marine fighters from Henderson Field.

The Japanese immediately began to prepare for their next attempt to recapture Henderson Field. The 3rd Battalion, 4th (Aoba) Infantry Regiment

had landed at Kamimbo Bay on the western end of Guadalcanal on 11 September, too late to join Kawaguchi's attack. By now, though, the battalion had joined Oka's forces near the Matanikau. Tokyo Express runs by destroyers on 14, 20, 21 and 24 September brought food and ammunition as well as 280 men from the 1st Battalion, Aoba Regiment, to Kamimbo on Guadalcanal. Meanwhile, the Japanese [2nd](#) and [38th Infantry Divisions](#) were transported from the [Dutch East Indies](#) to Rabaul beginning on 13 September. The Japanese planned to transport a total of 17,500 troops from these two divisions to Guadalcanal to take part in the next major attack on the Lunga Perimeter set for 20 October 1942.

Between 9 and 11 October the U.S. [1st Battalion 2nd Marines](#) raided two small Japanese outposts about 30 miles (48 km) east of the Lunga perimeter at Gurabusu and Koilotumaria near Aola Bay. The raids killed 35 Japanese at a cost of 17 Marines and three U.S. Navy personnel killed.

Battle for Henderson Field

Between 1 and 17 October, the Japanese delivered 15,000 troops to Guadalcanal, giving Hyakutake 20,000 total troops to employ for his planned offensive. Because of the loss of their positions on the east side of the Matanikau, the Japanese decided that an attack on the U.S. defenses along the coast would be prohibitively difficult. Therefore, Hyakutake decided that the main thrust of his planned attack would be from south of Henderson Field. His 2nd Division (augmented by troops from the 38th Division), under Lieutenant General [Masao Maruyama](#) and comprising 7,000 soldiers in three infantry regiments of three battalions each was ordered to march through the jungle and attack the American defenses from the south near the east bank of the Lunga River. The date of the attack was set for 22 October, then changed to 23 October. To distract the Americans from the planned attack from the south, Hyakutake's heavy artillery plus five battalions of infantry (about 2,900 men) under Major General [Tadashi Sumiyoshi](#) were to attack the American defenses from the west along the coastal corridor. The Japanese estimated that there were 10,000 American troops on the is-

Continued on pg 4

Marine Corps History

Gary Burk

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

GULF WAR/DESERT STORM *(continued)*

Things got so dark at one-point Mike Myatt said he couldn't see beyond the front of his vehicle. Added an M-60 tank commander, "I couldn't even see the muzzle of the goddammed machine gun in my hand."

If it was dark and ghostly for the Marines, it was doubly terrifying for the Iraqis.

They were being plastered by everything in the books. Their tanks were getting nailed from impossible ranges, even in the smog. Marine infantry appeared out of nowhere, always on the flanks. Even the winds had turned against them, reversing the normal direction, blowing the smoke north into their faces, a bad omen. Iraqi soldiers began to quit. The 1st Marine Division would capture them by the thousands.

General Keys' 2d Marine Division launched its attack ninety minutes later. The PsyOps people had rigged their loudspeakers along The Berm for the occasion. "The Marines' Hymn" burst forth at mega-decibel level.

Each maneuver element of the 2d Division has run through a full-scale replica of the Iraqi defenses at dark in full MOPP (chemical warfare protective) gear. They found no surprises north of The Berm.

The 6th Marines led the way through the cleared lanes. Keys kept them moving. "Contrary to some reports, the Iraqis were still there, waiting for us," he said. "They fired about 300 rounds of artillery as we worked to breach the minefields, but they had no forward observers to coax the fire on target, so we could discount the prospect of heavy casualties from their shots in the dark."

Since one of Keys three infantry regiments (the 2d Marines) had been assigned to the amphibious role for he duration, General Schwarzkopf had assigned him the Army's Tiger Brigade of the 2d Armored Division.

The Tiger Brigade brought 118 brand-new M1-A1 Abrams tanks and a commendable proficiency to

the fight. Keys called them "a first-class outfit." (The Army tankers now wear the 2d Marine Division patch on their sleeves to reflect combat service with the Marines.)

The Tiger Brigade streamed through the gaps in trace behind the 6th Marines, then angled north. The superb M1-A1s began knocking out dug-in Iraqi T-55 tanks from two miles away.

By dark on G-Day, each division had substantial forces beyond both obstacle belts, with forward-deployed artillery battalions readily in range. The cost had be ridiculously low: three killed, seventeen wounded in action. They had taken 16,000 prisoners.

General Schwarzkopf would exult, "I can't say enough about the two Marine Divisions. If I used words like brilliant, it would really be an under-description of the absolutely superb job that they did in breaching the so-called impenetrable barrier. It was a classic, absolutely classic, military breaching of a very, very tough minefield, barbed wire, fire trenches-type barrier. Like it was water. . . . A textbook operation and I think it will be studied for many, many more years to come." *(to be continued)*

10 November 1921: This date marked the first formal commemoration of the birthday of the Marine Corps as 10 November. On 1 Nov 1921, Gen Lejeune issued Marine Corps Order No. 47 summarizing the history, mission, and tradition of the Corps, and directed that it be read to every command each 10 November.

11 November 1938: Veterans Day: In 1918, on the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month, an armistice, or temporary cessation of hostilities, was declared between the Allied nations and Germany in World War I, then known as "the Great War."

13 November 1982: The Vietnam Veterans Memorial, containing the names of more than 13,000 Marines who lost their lives in Vietnam, was dedicated this date at the Memorial site in Washington, D.C.

November 1941: Thanksgiving, currently celebrated on the fourth Thursday in November by federal legislation in 1941, and has been an annual tradition in the United States by presidential proclamation since 1863.

Marines in the News continued from pg 2

land, when in fact there were about 23,000.

On 12 October, a company of Japanese engineers began to break a trail, called the "Maruyama Road", from the Matanikau towards the southern portion of the U.S. Lunga perimeter. The 15-mile-long (24 km) trail traversed some of the most difficult terrain on Guadalcanal, including numerous rivers and streams, deep, muddy ravines, steep ridges, and dense jungle. Between 16 and 18 October, the 2nd Division began their march along the Maruyama Road.



Map of the battle, 23–26 October. Sumiyoshi's forces attack in the west at the Matanikau (left) while Maruyama's 2nd division attacks the Lunga perimeter from the south (right).

By 23 October, Maruyama's forces still struggled through the jungle to reach the American lines. That evening, after learning that his forces had yet to reach their attack positions, Hyakutake postponed the attack to 19:00 on 24 October. The Americans remained unaware of the approach of Maruyama's forces.

Sumiyoshi was informed by Hyakutake's staff of the postponement of the offensive to 24 October, but was unable to contact his troops to inform them of the delay. Thus, at dusk on 23 October, two battalions of the 4th Infantry Regiment and the nine tanks of the 1st Independent Tank Company launched attacks on the U.S. Marine defenses at the mouth of the Matanikau. U.S. Marine artillery, cannon, and small arms fire repulsed the attacks, destroying all the tanks and killing many of the Japanese soldiers while suffering only light casualties.

Finally, late on 24 October Maruyama's forces reached the U.S. Lunga perimeter. Over two consecutive nights Maruyama's forces conducted numerous frontal assaults on positions defended by troops of the [1st Battalion, 7th Marines](#) under Lieutenant Colonel [Chesty Puller](#) and the U.S. Army's 3rd Battalion, [164th Infantry Regiment](#), commanded by Lieutenant Colonel [Robert Hall](#). U.S. Marine and Army units armed with rifles, machine guns, mortars, and artillery, including direct [canister fire](#) from [37 mm anti-tank guns](#), "wrought terrible carnage" on the Japanese.^[109] A few small groups of Japanese broke through the American defenses but were hunted down and killed over the next several days. More than 1,500 of Maruyama's troops were killed in the attacks while the Americans lost about 60 killed. Over the same two days American aircraft from

Henderson Field defended against attacks by Japanese aircraft and ships, destroying 14 aircraft and sinking a light cruiser.

Further Japanese attacks near the Matanikau on 26 October were also repulsed with heavy losses for the Japanese. As a result, by 08:00 on 26 October, Hyakutake called off any further attacks and ordered his forces to retreat. About half of Maruyama's survivors were ordered to retreat back to the upper Matanikau Valley while the 230th Infantry Regiment under Colonel [Toshinari Shōji](#) was told to head for Koli Point, east of the Lunga perimeter. Leading elements of the 2nd Division reached the 17th Army headquarters area at Kokumbona, west of the Matanikau on 4 November. The same day, Shōji's unit reached Koli Point and made camp. Decimated by battle deaths, combat injuries, malnutrition, and tropical diseases, the 2nd Division was incapable of further offensive action and fought as a defensive force along the coast for the rest of the campaign. In total, the Japanese lost 2,200–3,000 troops in the battle while the Americans lost around 80 killed.

Japanese decision to withdraw

On 12 December, the Japanese Navy proposed that Guadalcanal be abandoned. At the same time, several army staff officers at the [Imperial General Headquarters](#) (IGH) also suggested that further efforts to retake Guadalcanal would be impossible. A delegation, led by IJA Colonel [Joichiro Sanada](#), chief of the IGH's operations section, visited Rabaul on 19 December and consulted Imamura and his staff. Upon the delegation's return to Tokyo, Sanada recommended that Guadalcanal be abandoned. The IGH's top leaders agreed with Sanada's recommendation on 26 December and ordered their staffs to begin drafting plans for a withdrawal from Guadalcanal, establishment of a new defense line in the central Solomons, and a shifting of priorities and resources to the campaign in New Guinea.

On 28 December, General [Hajime Sugiyama](#) and Admiral [Osami Nagano](#) personally informed [Emperor Hirohito](#) of the decision to withdraw from Guadalcanal. On 31 December, the Emperor formally endorsed the decision. The Japanese secretly began to prepare for the evacuation, called [Operation Ke](#), scheduled to begin during the latter part of January 1943. It was the beginning of the end for the Empire of Japan's domination of the Pacific.

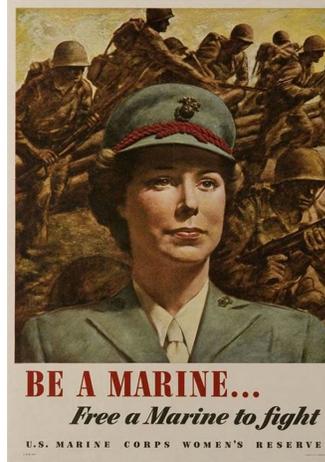
Women in the Marine Corps

Barbara Kortz



When the Marine Corps opened its ranks permanently to women in February 1943 they were recruited to "Free a man to fight" and they did.

By June 1944, women reserves constituted 85 percent of the enlisted personnel on duty at HQMC and



from 1/2 to 2/3rds of the personnel manning all major posts and stations in the U.S. At their peak, there were over 19,000 women in Marine uniforms, enough to free men to form the 6th Marine Division, a unit that was most essential to our victory in the Pacific.

Marine Quotes

I have only two men out of my company and 20 out of some other company. We need support, but it is almost suicide to try to get it here as we are swept by machine gun fire and a constant barrage is on us. I have no one on my left and only a few on my right. I will hold.

1stLt. Clifton B. Cates, USMC in Belleau Wood, 19 July 1918

We have two companies of Marines running rampant all over the northern half of this island, and three Army regiments pinned down in the southwestern corner, doing nothing. What the hell is going on?

Gen. John W. Vessey Jr., USA, Chairman of the the Joint Chiefs of Staff during the assault on Grenada, 1983

They told (us) to open up the Embassy, or "we'll blow you away." And then they looked up and saw the Marines on the roof with these really big guns, and they said in Somali, "Igaralli ahow," which means "Excuse me, I didn't mean it, my mistake".

Karen Aquilar, in the U.S. Embassy; Mogadishu, Somalia, 1991

Southern Belles Unit 441

Paula landers, Treasurer



Prizes of \$1000, \$500, and \$250 being paid to the winners. Drawing is being held at AmVets Post 84 on November 26, 2018 at 6:00 p.m. You do not have to be present to win.

You can purchase a ticket by using the order form below.

Thank you for your support.
Semper Fi and God Bless

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Marine Tommy Collins
And Deceased
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03/2019

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



2018
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E-mail: msides@fop.net

07/2019

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

www.mclrivercities.org
 mclrivercities@gmail.com

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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

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«AddressBlock»

Semper Ji

November 2018

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Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Newsletter Articles, Ads, and Pictures for December 2018 are due NO LATER THAN November 22, 2018, <u>Starting in January there will be No Exceptions to this deadline</u>				1 MCLA Southern Belles VA Clinic 8 a.m. - 11 a.m.	2	3 * TFT Work Day 0900 - 1100 * Color Guard Southern Indiana Honor Flight
4	5	6 Det. 1090 Breakfast Libby's and Mom's Cafe 0800	7	8	9	
	12 NO MODD Growl	13 Det. 1090 Breakfast Libby's and Mom's Cafe 0800	14	15	16	17
18 N. Main Christmas Parade	19	20 Det. 1090 Breakfast Libby's and Mom's Cafe 0800	21		23	24
25	26 MCLA Southern Belles Unit #441 AmVets 84 6:30 p.m.	27 Det. 1090 Breakfast Libby's and Mom's Cafe 0800	28 MCL River Cities Det. #1090 VFW 1114 1900	29	30	