



River Cities News

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

Volume 15, Issue 10

October 2018

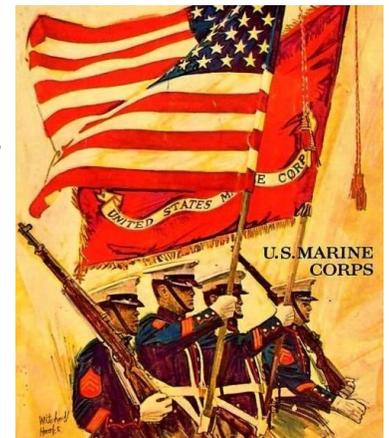
Commandant's Corner

Bob Reutter, Commandant

By the time you read this, the Toys for Tots campaign for 2018 will be started. This will be my 8th year as coordinator of the Southwest Indiana Toys for Tots campaign. Each year we have endeavored to make the campaign run a little smoother, get more of the community involved and to make the Tri-state aware of the history of Toys for Tots. It is the only nation-wide community service event that is sponsored by a branch of the military. As you know, in 1947 a Marine Reserve Major Bill Hendricks who looked around and saw the number of military families out of work following the end of WWII as well as the number of orphan children who had lost their father during that time. Major Hendricks and his fellow Marine Reservists collected over 5,000 toys that year, repaired, repainted and renovated them and delivered them to children in their California neighborhood. When the Commandant of the Corps heard about it, he decided it would be good public relations for the Corps to hold TFT campaigns all over the country. This will be the 71st annual Toys for Tots campaign around the country. There are over 800 campaigns taking place with about 250 lead by active duty (mostly volun-told) Marines and the rest by MCL and civic organizations. Annually over 8 million children receive toys for TFT.

Our food booth will be at Harbor Freight this month raising funds for our detachment. On Thursday, 10/11 thru Sunday, 10/14 we will be in the parking lot of HFT selling BBQ, German Bologna, burgers and drinks. If you are not able to work a shift or two, at least stop by and have lunch or dinner to support our Detachment. We start serving around 10:30 and stay until 6:00 PM. We typically meet two or three Marines who are members for the League each time we work at Harbor Freight.

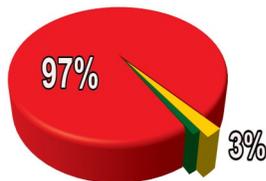
I don't like beating a dead horse but we need to continuously recruit new members to our Detachment. It is getting increasingly difficult to field enough Marines to do a cemetery service to honor a fallen Marine. To do it right, we need two flag bearers, one bugler and one detail commander and seven riflemen. We have had to pass on a couple of services because we couldn't field even five Marines to be there. We have 93 Marines on our roster of which 30-35 come to an occasional meeting. Out of those 30-35 we can't find 11 who can (or will) honor a fallen brother Marine? Something to think about.....



Toys for Tots is a Top-Rated Charity

Fund Expenditure
97:3 Program to Support Ratio

- Program 96.7%
- Fundraising 2.8%
- Overhead 0.5%



Semper Fi

Detachment Officers

Commandant
Bob Reutter (270) 314-9484

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Jim Grayson

Jr. Vice Commandant
Joe Filipczak

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Jack Kincaide

Newsletter Editor
Paula Landers

Web Sergeant
Paula Landers

Marines in the News

Bob Reutter

Battle for Guadalcanal

Note: This is the third installment of the *Battle for Guadalcanal*.)

Air battles over Henderson Field and strengthening of the Lunga defenses



U.S. Marine [Grumman F4F Wildcats](#) from Henderson Field preparing to attack incoming Japanese aircraft

Throughout August, small numbers of U.S. aircraft and their crews continued to arrive at Guadalcanal. By the end of August, 64 aircraft of various types were stationed at Henderson Field. On 3 September, the commander of 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, U.S. Marine Brigadier General Roy S. Geiger, arrived with his staff and took command of all air operations at Henderson Field.^[64] Air battles between the Allied aircraft at Henderson and Japanese bombers and fighters from

Rabaul continued almost daily. Between 26 August and 5 September, the U.S. lost about 15 aircraft while the Japanese lost approximately 19 aircraft. More than half of the downed U.S. aircrews were never recovered. The eight-hour round-trip flight from Rabaul to Guadalcanal, about 1,120 miles (1,800 km) total, seriously hampered Japanese efforts to establish air superiority over Henderson Field. Australian coastwatchers on Bougainville and New Georgia islands were often able to provide Allied forces on Guadalcanal with advance notice of inbound Japanese air strikes, allowing the U.S. fighters time to take off and position themselves to attack the Japanese bombers and fighters as they approached the island. Thus, the Japanese air forces were slowly losing a war of attrition in the skies above Guadalcanal.

During this time, Vandegrift continued to direct efforts to strengthen and improve the defenses of the Lunga perimeter. Between 21 August and 3 September, he relocated three Marine battalions, including the 1st Raider Battalion, under Merritt A. Edson (Edson's Raiders), and the 1st Parachute Battalion from Tulagi and Gavutu to Guadalcanal. These units added about 1,500 troops to Vandegrift's original 11,000 men defending Henderson Field.^[66] The 1st Parachute Battalion, which had suffered heavy casualties in the Battle of Tulagi and Gavutu–Tanambogo in August, was placed under Edson's command.

The other relocated battalion, the 1st Battalion, 5th Marine Regiment (1/5), was landed by boat west of the Matanikau near Kokumbuna village on 27 August with the mission of attacking Japanese units in the area, much as

in the first Matanikau action of 19 August. In this case the Marines were impeded by difficult terrain, hot sun, and well-emplaced Japanese defenses. The next morning, the Marines found that the Japanese defenders had departed during the night, so the Marines returned to the Lunga perimeter by boat. Losses in this action were 20 Japanese and 3 Marines killed.

Small Allied naval convoys arrived at Guadalcanal on 23 August, 29 August, 1 September, and 8 September to provide the Marines at Lunga with more food, ammunition, aircraft fuel, and aircraft technicians. The convoy on 1 September also brought 392 construction engineers to maintain and improve Henderson Field. In addition, on 3 September Marine Aircraft Group 25 began airlifting high-priority cargo, including personnel, aviation gasoline, munitions, and other supplies, to Henderson Field.

Tokyo Express

By 23 August, Kawaguchi's 35th Infantry Brigade reached Truk and was loaded onto slow transport ships for the rest of the trip to



Japanese troops load onto a destroyer for a "Tokyo Express" run to Guadalcanal

Guadalcanal. The damage done to Tanaka's convoy during the Battle of the Eastern Solomons caused the Japanese to reconsider trying to deliver more troops to Guadalcanal by slow transport. Instead, the ships carrying Kawaguchi's soldiers were sent to Rabaul. From there, the Japanese planned to deliver Kawaguchi's men to

Guadalcanal by destroyers staging through a Japanese naval base in the Shortland Islands. The Japanese destroyers were usually able to make round trips down "The Slot" (New Georgia Sound) to Guadalcanal and back in a single night throughout the campaign, minimizing their exposure to Allied air attack. The runs became known as the "Tokyo Express" to Allied forces and were labeled "Rat Transportation" by the Japanese.^[72] Delivering the troops in this manner, however, prevented most of the heavy equipment and supplies, such as heavy artillery, vehicles, and much food and ammunition, from being transported to Guadalcanal with them. In addition, this activity tied up destroyers the IJN desperately needed for commerce defense. Either inability or unwillingness prevented Allied naval commanders from challenging Japanese naval forces at night, so the Japanese controlled the seas around the Solomon Islands during nighttime. However, any Japanese ship remaining during daylight hours within range of the aircraft at Henderson Field, about 200 miles (320 km), was in great danger from air attack. This tactical situation existed for the next several months of

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)*

The Marines continued to play ambiguity games against the Iraqis. The amphibious force snorted and huffed; a bogus Marine division seemingly deployed to the east, Operations Troy, with helicopters and staff vehicles cycling in and out, and a lot of phony radio traffic being generated.

Quietly, westward, Keys and Myatt began their final preparations for the Marine ground war. Between them they made several dozen cuts in the Berm, the fifteen-foot wall of sand that paralleled the Kuwaiti borders, built years earlier by Japanese contractors for the Saudis.

Through these cuts during the dark of night went Marine combat patrols of considerable strength, clearing the most immediate obstacles, reconnoitering Iraqi positions, calling in more artillery and air strikes. Technically they were "crow-hopping," crossing the international border before the President directed the start of ground hostilities. Their goal was to make the G-Day passage a bit easier, faster, safer for the main forces.

Finally, President Bush approved G-Day for February 14. General Boomer sent a message to his huge force poised along The Berm: "May the spirit of you Marine forefathers ride with you. . . ."

Then each Marine took counsel of his private thoughts, waiting for the assault signal. Officers checked their watches. The troops watched their NCOs. It was a cold night. The air fouled by heavy smoke of burning oil wells. Saddam's "Scorched Earth" policy at work. It was time.

General Bill Key's double-barreled assault strategy would catapult the spearheads of both divisions well clear of the obstacle belts before the demoralized Iraqis could mount serious armored counter-attacks.



The 1st Marine Division initiated the Allies' ground war at 0400, surging across The Berm, the ear-splitting noise of artillery and MLRS rockets masking the telltale sound of tank plows, armored bulldozers, and line-charge-firing AAVs grinding through mine fields.

The advance task forces had done their nocturnal clearing and misleading work well. The Iraqis were spooked, slow to react, tentative in their fire missions. Myatt met each outburst of fire with immediate counterbattery fire by his 11th Marines or with "Quick-Fire" calls to Marine Harriers stacked up overhead.

Here was Marine close air support as first envisioned sixty years earlier: on station, responsive, loaded for bear. "This is the time we start earning our flight pay," Royal Moore told his pilots. "Now we have Marines in combat."

Moore's pilots would not have an easy time of it. The Ground War occurred during the four worst flying days of the entire war.

The weather was bad; the oil well fires made things worse. Four low-flying Harrier jets would fall to Iraqi shoulder-fired infrared missiles. On several occasions Marine Cobras resorted to air-taxing down highways, searching for their targets at almost eyeball level. Darkness notwithstanding, the 3rd Wing flew 671 support missions on G-Day, hitting six different Iraqi divisions.

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.

(to be continued)

Marines in the News continued from pg 2

the campaign.

Between 29 August and 4 September, Japanese light cruisers, destroyers, and patrol boats were able to land almost 5,000 troops at Taivu Point, including most of the 35th Infantry Brigade, much of the Aoba (4th) Regiment, and the rest of Ichiki's regiment. General Kawaguchi, who landed at Taivu Point on 31 August Express run, was placed in command of all Japanese forces on Guadalcanal. A barge convoy took another 1,000 soldiers of Kawaguchi's brigade, under the command of Colonel Akinosuke Oka, to Kamimbo, west of the Lunga perimeter.

Battle of Edson's Ridge

U.S. Marine Lieutenant Colonel Merritt A. Edson who led Marine forces in the Battle of Edson's Ridge.



Merritt A. Edson

On 7 September, Kawaguchi issued his attack plan to "rout and annihilate the enemy in the vicinity of the Guadalcanal Island airfield". Kawaguchi's attack plan called for his forces, split into three divisions, to approach the Lunga perimeter inland, culminating with a surprise night attack. Oka's forces would attack the perimeter from the west while Ichiki's Second Echelon, now renamed the Kuma Battalion, would attack from the east. The main attack would be by Kawaguchi's "Center Body", numbering 3,000 men in three battalions, from the jungle south of the Lunga perimeter. By 7 September, most of Kawaguchi's troops had departed Taivu to begin marching towards Lunga Point along the coastline. About 250 Japanese troops remained behind to guard the brigade's supply base at Taivu.

Meanwhile, native scouts under the direction of Martin Clemens, a coastwatcher officer in the British Solomon Islands Protectorate Defense Force and the British district officer for Guadalcanal, brought reports to the U.S. Marines of Japanese troops at Taivu near the village of Tasimboko. Edson planned a raid on the Japanese troop concentration at Taivu. On 8 September, after being dropped-off near Taivu by boat, Edson's men captured Tasimboko as the Japanese defenders retreated into the jungle. In Tasimboko, Edson's troops discovered Kawaguchi's main supply depot, including large stockpiles of food, ammunition, medical supplies, and a powerful shortwave radio. After destroying everything in sight, except for some documents and equipment carried back with them, the Marines returned to the Lunga perimeter. The mounds of supplies along with intelligence gathered from the captured documents informed the Marines that at least 3,000 Japanese troops were on the island and apparently planning an attack.

Edson, along with Colonel Gerald C. Thomas, Vandegrift's

operations officer, correctly believed that the Japanese attack would come at a narrow, grassy, 1,000 yards (910 m)-long coral ridge that ran parallel to the Lunga River located just south of Henderson Field. The ridge, called Lunga Ridge, offered a natural avenue of approach to the airfield, commanded the surrounding area and, at that time, was almost undefended. On 11 September, the 840 men of Edson's battalion were deployed onto and around the ridge.

On the night of 12 September, Kawaguchi's 1st Battalion attacked the Raiders between the Lunga River and ridge, forcing one Marine company to fall back to the ridge before the Japanese halted their attack for the night. The next night Kawaguchi faced Edson's 830 Raiders with 3,000 troops of his brigade plus an assortment of light artillery. The Japanese attack began just after nightfall with Kawaguchi's 1st battalion assaulting Edson's right flank just to the west of the ridge. After breaking through the Marine lines the battalion's assault was eventually stopped by Marine units guarding the northern part of the ridge.

Two companies from Kawaguchi's 2nd Battalion charged up the southern edge of the ridge and pushed Edson's troops back to Hill 123 on the center part of the ridge. Throughout the night Marines at this position, who were supported by artillery, defeated wave after wave of frontal Japanese attacks, some of which resulted in hand-to-hand fighting. Japanese units that infiltrated past the ridge to the edge of the airfield were also repulsed. Attacks by the Kuma battalion and Oka's unit at other locations on the Lunga perimeter were also defeated. On 14 September Kawaguchi led the survivors of his shattered brigade on a five-day march west to the Matanikau Valley to join with Oka's unit. In total Kawaguchi's forces lost about 850 killed and the Marines 104. On 15 September Hyakutake at Rabaul learned of Kawaguchi's defeat and forwarded the news to Imperial General Headquarters in Japan. In an emergency session the top Japanese IJA and IJN command staffs concluded that "Guadalcanal might develop into the decisive battle of the war". The results of the battle now began to have a telling strategic impact on Japanese operations in other areas of the Pacific. Hyakutake realized that in order to send sufficient troops and matériel to defeat the Allied forces on Guadalcanal, he could not at the same time support the major ongoing Japanese offensive on the Kokoda Track in New Guinea. Hyakutake, with the concurrence of General Headquarters, ordered his troops on New Guinea who were within 30 miles (48 km) of their objective of Port Moresby to withdraw until the "Guadalcanal matter" was resolved. Hyakutake prepared to send more troops to Guadalcanal for another attempt to recapture Henderson Field.

(Next month: Reinforcement and the battle for Henderson Field.)

River Cities Detachment #1090, Marine of the Year Nominations



River Cities Detachment #1090
1st Battalion 24th Marines Bravo Company

Marine Corps 243rd Birthday Ball

This years our detachment is co-hosting the Birthday Ball with the Marine Corps Reserve Unit located in Terre Haute, Indiana.

Saturday, November 10, 2018

1800 to 2400 (6:00 p.m. to Midnight)
Tropicana Casino Atrium
(formerly River Boat Entrance)
241 NW Riverside Drive
Evansville, IN 47708



Guest Speaker, Cake Cutting Ceremony

Tickets are \$35 per person
Includes a plated meal with your choice of 3 entrees,
Birthday Cake, and More
Cash Bar, Hosted Keg, Plenty of Seating, Elevator

Advance Ticket Sells Only

Purchase on-line at mclrivercities.org/ball2018 or
by mail using the form below.



243rd Marine Corps Birthday Ball

NAME: _____

Tickets: \$35.00

ADDRESS: _____

Quantity: X

CITY: _____ ST: _____ ZIP: _____

Total: _____

Make checks payable to: River Cities Det. #1090

Meal Choices: Indicate
the number of meals orders

Please Mail with Payment to: Attention: Marine Corps Ball
P.O. Box 6581
Evansville, IN 47719-0581

Beef: _____
Chicken: _____
Vegetarian: _____

Women in the Marine Corps

Barbara Kortz



In the August Newsletter I told you about the first women to enlist in the Marine Corps in 1918. This month the woman that I will talk about is from the Indiana area. Pearl Chandley (Oagley) was born Jan. 26, 1898 in Lamar, IN. (Spencer County.) She attended Lock-

year College and became a clerk. She enlisted in the Marine Corps Sept. 25, 1918 and was assigned as a clerk in the Adjutant and Inspector Dept. in Washington DC. reaching the rank of Corporal. Pearl completed her active duty on Aug. 1, 1919. She joined the Marine Corps Reserves where she stayed until Sept. 24, 1922. At that time she was released from the Marine Corps.

At the time of Pearl's death in 1989 she lived on Baseline Rd. in Vanderburgh County. There have been several articles in the newspaper

about Cpl. Chandley. It is obvious from the articles she was proud to have been one of the first Women Marines. Amber Gowen is researching information on the Ladies of Mercy - WWI nurses from Vanderburgh County. She found this info and passed it on to me. There are several more pictures and documents available about Cpl. Chandley.

Three hundred women from across the U.S. enlisted in the Marines in 1918. These ladies took over clerical jobs so the male Marines could be released to be sent overseas were they were needed. The motto was "Free a Man to Fight". Now our ladies are 8.3% of the Marines and are assigned almost every MOS. Many are fighting along side their brother Marines. It is an honor to have one of the first women Marines from our area.

Semper Fi.

Southern Belles Unit 441

Paula Landers, Treasurer

Our Unit has received the necessary license to conduct a raffle in the State of Indiana. As I mentioned in the article last month, this is a cash raffle with prizes of \$1000, \$500, and \$250 being paid to the winners. There will only be 500 tickets sold and the 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

MCIA Southern Belles Unit 441

\$ Cash Raffle \$

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ ST: _____ ZIP: _____

Make checks payable to: Southern Belles Unit 441

**Please Mail with Payment to: c/o Paula Landers
807 Frank Avenue
Evansville, IN 47712-4548**

Tickets: \$10.00

Quantity: **X** _____

Total Due: _____

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They help make this Newsletter possible



*IAFF Local 357 and FOP Lodge 73
proudly support our veterans*

*IAFF Local 357 and FOP Lodge 73 --
Serving those who have served our nation*

*Your Local Firefighters and Law Enforcement Officer
are proud to support the River Cities Detachment*

*Semper Fidelis from the members of
IAFF Local 357 and FOP Lodge 73*

01/2019

***Compliments of
John and Judy Bryant***

Life Member

River Cities Detachment #1090

05/2019

***Compliments of
Gary Burk, Life Member***
**OPTIMIST CLUB OF EVANSVILLE
DOWNTOWN**

Friend of Youth Since 1921

07/2019



I'm not sure the ROTC training is gonna work out.

***In Memory of
Marine Tommy Collins
And Deceased
Detachment Members***



Semper Fi

03/2019

Support our Sponsors
They help make this Newsletter possible



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

2018
 Larry Scott



04/2021

***Compliments of
Casey Canfield***

*Life Member
River Cities Detachment #1090*

07/2019

***Compliments of
Bob and Linda Reutter***

*Life Members
River Cities Detachment #1090*

06/2021

**Compliments of the
Marine Corps League Auxiliary**



Southern Belles Unit 441

12/2018

PLACE YOUR AD HERE



**Fraternal Order
of Police**
 STATE LODGE OF INDIANA

MICHAEL SIDES
 SOUTHWEST DISTRICT TRUSTEE

E-mail: msides@fop.net

07/2019

River Cities Detachment 1090
 Marine Corps League Inc.
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www.mclrivercities.org
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Once a Marine, Always a Marine



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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
 Evansville IN 47719-0581

243rd Marine Corps Birthday
TICKETS NOW ON SALE
 See pg 5
 For more information

«AddressBlock»

Semper Fi

October 2018

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Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2 Det. 1090 Breakfast Libby's and Mom's Cafe 0800	3	4 MCLA Southern Belles VA Clinic 8 a.m. - 11 a.m.	5	6
7	8 MODD Growl Mission Bar-B-Que 1830	9 Det. 1090 Breakfast Libby's and Mom's Cafe 0800	10	11 Food Booth Harbor Freight 1000 to 1800 Volunteers Needed	12 Food Booth Harbor Freight 1000 to 1800 Volunteers Needed	13 Food Booth Harbor Freight 1000 to 1800 Volunteers Needed
14 Food Booth Harbor Freight 1000 to 1800 Volunteers Needed	15	16 Det. 1090 Breakfast Libby's and Mom's Cafe 0800	17	18	19	20
21	22 MCLA Southern Belles Unit #441 AmVets 84 6:30 p.m.	23 Det. 1090 Breakfast Libby's and Mom's Cafe 0800	24 MCL River Cities Det. #1090 VFW 1114 1900	25	26	27
28	29	30 Det. 1090 Breakfast Libby's and Mom's Cafe 0800	31	Newsletter Articles, Ads, and Pictures for November 2018 are due NO LATER THAN October 22, 2018		