



River Cities News

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

Volume 17, Issue 10

October 2020

Commandant's Corner

Jim Johnson

As I write this article for the news letter, I realize that we still haven't had a Marine Corps League meeting since February 2020. Hopefully by the time you receive this newsletter we should have had our first in 7 months. It is scheduled for the 23rd of September at our new location the American Legion Funkhouser post. We have missed a lot this year due to COVID-19. We have missed several funeral details and color guards. This was to be our first year to have our food booth at the Fall Festival. I hope and pray that everyone is being cautious and following all the rules to stay healthy. I, for one, will really be happy when

we get back to a normal life.(whatever that is).

With the passing of our Paymaster (Marine Don Landers) it left a huge hole in the operation of our Marine Corps League Det#1090. Myself and the Executive Committee had no idea how much that Don contributed to Det. #1090. His shoes are going to be extremely hard to fill. He truly was a great Marine.

Remember our regular scheduled meetings are the 4th Wednesday of the month at the American League Funkhouser Post starting at 1900. Plan on coming early and having dinner with us prior to the meeting. Semper Fi

Note from the Editor

Paula Landers

It saddens me to announce that after 17 years of being involved with the newsletter, that I will be resigning my post as editor. Bob Reutter will be taking over as editor.

I will be resigning from all my positions. Tim Jones will become the new Web Sergeant. As for as, Food Booth Chair and Ball Chair with Covid-19 closing everything down at the end of March, I never really got a chance to work on those. I did manage to get the Detachment a spot at the West Side Nut Club Fall Festival. Again Covid-19 messed that up, also.

I have been a member of River Cities Detachment since 2004, during that time I have either been a member of or chaired many committees. The detachment has been a major part of our live and it is hard to walk away but with the passing of my husband, Paymaster and Past

Commandant Don Landers I feel it is time to move on.

Once a Marine, Always a Marine that goes for being in the Marine Family also.

I never really considered myself the wife of a Marine, I am a "Marine Wife". We came from the old corps, they use to say "If the Marine Corps wanted you to have wife, they would issued you one"



Detachment Officers

Commandant
Jim Johnson

Paymaster
John Bryant

Sgt At Arms
Vacant

Sr. Vice Commandant
Vacant

Adjutant
Tim Jones (812) 454-8717

Newsletter Editor
Paula Landers

Jr. Vice Commandant
Melissa West

Judge Advocate
T C Shane

Web Sergeant
Paula Landers

Jr. Past Commandant
Bob Reutter

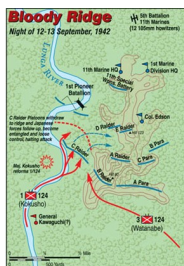
Chaplain
Bob Reutter (270) 314-9484

Marine Corps History

Gary Burk

The Battle at Bloody Ridge

Author's note: Last month we talked about the raid on Tasimboko by Colonel Merritt "Red Mike" Edson's First Marine Raider Battalion. That raid provided intel that proved the enemy was planning a big push to retake Henderson Field on Guadalcanal. The following story takes up at that point.



The Raiders had been joined during the Tasimboko raid, by Company E and the Parachute Battalion. Now, Edson told his men "Too much bombing and shelling here. Too close to the beach. We're moving to a quiet spot." The 840 men of the combined units moved to the ridge. Edson deployed his men as they approached the ridge line. The Raiders were on the southern hill with their lines reaching toward the Lunga River. The Parachutists were holding the left flank. The perimeter was nearly 900 yards long. It stretched from Lunda River to Hill 80. After more than a month of fighting on 'the Canal' the men were bone tired. Some of the companies were less than platoon strength. Every man knew that if the Japs broke this line, Henderson would fall and the island would be lost. The order was passed to dig in. Barbed wire 'double apron' obstacles were constructed. One of the Marines, digging with his e-tool yelled "Quiet area, my ass."

The 2nd Battalion, 5th Marines took up positions in reserve between the ridge and Henderson Field. Howitzers of the 11th Marines registered fields of fire with their forward observers. West of the Lunga River the 1st Pioneer and 1st Amphibious Tractor Battalions established a defensive line. To the east was nothing but a mile of thick green jungle.

As defensive preparations were continuing, a Japanese force led by Major General Kiyotake Kawaguchi was working its way to the battle. With the core being the 124th Infantry Regiment with attached machine gun, artillery, anti-tank and transportation sections. 4,000 trained soldiers, many of them coal miners who were in excellent physical condition. Working their way toward the ridge the day before, they had heard gunfire coming from Tasimboko. Kawaguchi nearly took his force to 'crush the Americans who made these daring and insulting attacks.' His superiors finally convinced him to proceed to the ridge. His complex attack plan assumed light defense, pinpoint timing and superior force. Unfortunately, the Marines had guessed his intentions, some of his troops had to disembark their transports of course and arrived at the battle late and others were held up navigating through the dense jungle. Kawaguchi was about to learn a lesson many other military leaders have learned – no battle plan survives the first contact.

One group (1,500) of his men would move against the Marines along their front while the other three groups (2,500) would move down the ridge itself, punching a hole in the line and swarming Henderson Field. On the morning of 11 September, a 25 man patrol was sent out to determine the

size and location of enemy forces. Just before noon the patrol was taken under fire by the enemy. Japanese aircraft (Mitsubishi G4M Betty Bombers) and commenced a bombing attack just ahead of the enemy advance. Fortunately, several bombs landed in the middle of a Japanese assault, breaking it up to allow the patrol to withdraw.

Arriving back at their lines just as darkness was falling, the Marines had a few minutes respite before a Jap cruiser and three destroyers started shelling the ridge. Fortunately, they did not have coordinated forward observers and most of the shells flew over the lines. At about 2220 the enemy struck the line in front of C Company. Using overwhelming numbers, they broke through forcing the Marines to withdraw and link up with B Company on Hill 80.

Despite some gains in the early hours of 13 September, dawn saw the defensive line still holding. Dawn also brought P-40 and F4F Wildcats to strafe enemy lines and the 11th Marine howitzers added to the carnage. One major casualty of the American fire was Kawaguchi's ship to shore radio. He could no longer coordinate anything with the Rabaul and Seventeenth Army Headquarters.

The rest of the day was spent by the Marines consolidating their lines and resting for the evening's attacks. At 1900 the Japanese attacked B Company's Lines. The understrength company managed to merge with the men of C Company and the Japanese did not capitalize on the opening they had made. The commander of C Company, Major Ken Bailey seemed to be everywhere during the battle. He was to be awarded the Medal of Honor for his bravery. Unfortunately, he was killed by machine gun fire a week later and the award was posthumous.

By midnight B Company had regrouped and the Raiders and Parachute Battalion formed a horseshoe shaped line. The 11th Marine's howitzers kept up firing, often within 200 yards of the Marine's perimeter. At 0200 red flares signaled an eminent attack. As the Japs hit the left flank the ParaMarines fought back savagely. The 11th Marine's guns kept dropping rounds into the charging Japanese cutting them to pieces. By 0400 the Raiders were nearly spent. Edson radioed for the reserves to move forward and relieve them. Soon elements of the 2nd Bn. 5th Marines started filtering into the line allowing the Raiders to withdraw. Pockets of stiff resistance still remained but dawn brought American air back to the table. .30, .50 and 20 mm fire from the fighters annihilated the retreating enemy. Kawaguchi had no choice but to break off the attack and retreat. It took almost a week before the bulk of his remaining force reached the rear area. They had discarded all their weapons in the jungle and many had maggots-infested wounds to which they succumbed later. When watching the once-proud Kawaguchi Detachment struggle in, one Japanese higher officer realized they were fighting a tough and determined foe. His comment? "Our army has been used to fighting the Chinese."

GENERAL INFORMATION:

The Marine of the Year award shall be presented to a regular member of the Detachment who has rendered service(s) and performed deed(s) **above** and **beyond** the duties and obligations required of a member of the River Cities Detachment. Nominations for the Marine of the Year shall be considered and selected by the current members of the Detachment Marine of the Year Society. The Marine of the Year Society shall be comprised of all recipients of the Detachment Marine of the Year Award in good standing with the Marine Corps League. The Society is charged with receiving and reviewing nominations for the Detachment Marine of the Year. The President of the Society will name their selection at the Marine Corps Ball in November. Each recipient of the Marine of the Year Award shall serve as President of the Society for the following year. The Society shall have no less than five members present to deliberate the selection.

- (1) Nominations for this award will be accepted from **any member** in good standing of the Detachment.
- (2) Each nomination shall have a brief sketch of the person being nominated as well as a written summery stating why this nominee should be the Marine of the Year. The nominee must also be a member in good standing. The President of the Society shall announce the recipient of the Marine of the Year Award at the Marine Corps Ball in November.
- (3) Nominations will be addressed to River Cities Detachment #1090, ATTN: Marine of the Year Society, P. O. Box 6581, Evansville, IN 47719-0581 and ***mailed postmarked or hand delivered no later than November 1, 2020. Nominations received after that date will not be considered.*** All letters should be in a sealed envelope and will remain sealed until the Society meets to make the selection. The society will convene on a date determined by the President of the Society in the month of November.

CRITERIA:

There are no minimum criteria to be eligible for this award, but consideration will be given to members who have demonstrated contributions in the following areas:

Commitment: This is defined as a member's participation in Detachment affairs, such as attendance at monthly meetings, working on committees and projects, taking a leadership role in detachment affairs and functions, supporting the various MCL programs sponsored by the Detachment. Also considered is the commitment to perpetuate membership through recruiting and retention efforts.

Service: This is defined as a member's participation in the community, which provides help and relief to underprivileged and reflect positively the Marine Corps League and on the nominee's character. Also, contributing to patriotic programs, which espouse good citizenship and strong moral values. (i.e.—volunteer work in the community, as well as service to church and similar activities.)

Marine of the Year Nomination Form

Nominee: _____

Person Nominating: _____

Commitment: (Indicate here MCL activities in which the nominee has contributed)

Service in the Community: (Community Activities— Organizations supported)

Personal Statement of Recommendation: (You may attach a letter if you wish.)

Signature of person making the nomination: _____

Mail to: River Cities Detachment #1090
Attn: Marine of the Year Society
P. O. Box 6851
Evansville, IN 47719-0851

NOMINATIONS MUST POSTMARKED OR HAND DELIVERED

NO LATER THAN NOVEMBER 1, 2020

Newsletter Booster Club

<i>Booster Member</i>	<i>Expires</i>
MCLA, Southern Belles Unit 441	<i>Oct- 2020</i>
Joe & Kathy Filipczak	Dec - 2020
David Jones	Dec - 2020
Casey Canfield	Feb - 2021
Tom and Alice Kick	May - 2021
Gary Burk	May - 2021
Tom Kremer	July - 2021
Ned E. & Rose Wellmeier	July - 2021
Dannie & Debbie Russell	July - 2021
Roy & Carolyn McWilliams	Aug - 2021
John & Judy Bryant	Sept - 2021
Richard Schuler	July - 2021
Dorothy Odom	Sept- 2021

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.

NEWSLETTER BOOSTER MEMBER

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**Please Mail to: River Cities Detachment
P.O. Box 6581
Evansville, IN 47719-0581**

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Advertisements are available at the following rates.

Business Card Size....\$15.00 for 6 months

1/4 page \$25.00 for 6 months

1/2 page\$50.00 for 6 months

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

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They help make this Newsletter possible

SEMPER FI!

Mike Mitchell

Life Member
River Cities Detachment #1090



06/2021

Compliments of
Joe and Kathy Filipczak

Life Member
River Cities Detachment #1090

12/2020

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

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07/2021

Place Your Ad Here

In Memory of
Marine Tommy Collins
And Deceased
Detachment Members

Our prayers for our nephew who was recently deployed. May God bless all of our service members, protect them, and give them strength to carry on, Amen!

Roy & Carolyn McWilliams



05/2021



Semper Fi

09/2021

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.



2020
 Donald Landers, Sr

04/2021

***Compliments of
Casey Canfield***

*Life Member
River Cities Detachment #1090*

01/2021

***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

10/2020

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

*Life Member
River Cities Detachment #1090*

05/2021

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

www.mclrivercities.org
 mclrivercities@gmail.com

Once a Marine, Always a Marine



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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

IMPORTANT

ANNOUNCEMENTS

National changed the due date,
 so that everyone is
 paying at the same time.

Dues for 2020 - 2021
 Before August 1st - \$25
 After August 1st - \$35

Initial Membership Dues are \$35

Mail your annual membership fees to:

River Cities Det. #1090
 Attn: Membership
 PO Box 6581
 Evansville IN 47719-0581

Everyone is welcome to join
 Detachment Members every
 Tuesday for Breakfast at
 Libby's and Mom's Café,
 2 Richardt Avenue 47711

«AddressBlock»

Semper Fi

October 2020

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Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Newsletter Articles, Ads, and Pictures for NOVEMBER 2020 are due NO LATER THAN OCTOBER 22, 2020 There are No Exceptions to this deadline.				1	2	3
4	5	6 Det. 1090 Breakfast Libby's and Mom's Cafe 0800	7	8	9	10 Dept of Indiana Fall Conference
11 Dept of Indiana Fall Conference	12 MODD Growl 1830 Funkhouser	13 Det. 1090 Breakfast Libby's and Mom's Cafe 0800	14	15	16	17
18	19	20 Det. 1090 Breakfast Libby's and Mom's Cafe 0800	21	22	23	24
25	26 Southern Belles #441 6:30 p.m. AmVets #84	27 Det. 1090 Breakfast Libby's and Mom's Cafe 0800	28 River Cities Det #1090 1900 Funkhouser	29	30	31