



# River Cities News



River Cities Detachment 1090  
Marine Corps League—Evansville, Indiana

Volume 18  
Issue 9  
September 2021

## Detachment Rib and Butt Sale by Bob Reutter

By the time you read this the 2021 Rib and Butt sale will have been completed. This is a chance for every member to contribute in some way to a project for the Detachment. I am pleased to say that 19 of our members either sold, bought or both, ribs and/or butts to support the Detachment. This is one of the easiest projects that we do. The product we sell—pork butts and bbq ribs—is well known to our clients and over the Labor Day weekend



lots of families have picnics to mark the end of summer. What better way to do so while helping the River Cities Detachment than to buy ribs and butts for you celebration?



(These pics are from past cooks.)

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**Pre-Arrangement Planning.** When it comes to your final arrangements, shouldn't you make the decisions? The arrangements you make will reflect your exact wishes and desires. Pre-arranging your own service will help to ease the burden of your loved ones. It will also alleviate any questions, problems or differences, which can occur among family members.

Pre-payment will protect you from the rising cost of prices, and it will not be a financial burden on your loved ones. When you plan ahead you know that your wishes will be fulfilled.

Arrangements can be made in the comfort of your own home by clicking the button at [www.boonefuneralhome.net/pre-arrangements](http://www.boonefuneralhome.net/pre-arrangements) . Fill in as much as you are comfortable with and we'd be pleased to meet with you to discuss further. You can also make an appointment for us to help.



# Marine of the Year



One of the highlights of the annual Marine Birthday Ball is the presentation of the Detachment Marine of the Year Award. Every Marine member of our Detachment is eligible. Here is the description from our Awards Program document:

## **Detachment Marine of the Year Award**

**Description:** May be awarded annually to any regular detachment member whose personal acts and deeds has provided a noteworthy contribution to the River Cities 1090 Detachment, and whose personal conduct has reflected favorably on and has brought credit to the Marine Corps League and the United States Marine Corps. Activities to consider: regular attendance and participation in League functions (meetings, fund raisers, leading committees, work details, etc.,) and other things to support the League.

Some things to consider when nominating a member:

- \* **Attendance**
- \* **Leadership**
- \* **Recruiting**
- \* **Participation**
- \* **Contribution**
- \* **Enthusiasm**

On the rear of this page is the form to nominate your choice for Detachment Marine of the Year. Complete the form, tear it out of the newsletter (or print it on a plain sheet) and mail (or hand deliver) to Paymaster John Bryant. His address is on the form. **Must be received by 10/22/2021.**

## Marine of the Year Nomination Form

My nomination for 2021 Marine of the Year is:

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Here is why I feel this Marine should be recognized as  
the River Cities Detachment Marine of the Year:

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*(attach another sheet if you have more to include)*

*Hand your form to Paymaster John Bryant or mail it to:*

**River Cities Detachment 1090**

**P.O. Box 6581**

**Evansville, IN 47719-0581**

***Your nomination must be received by Paymaster Bryant no  
later than October 22, 2021 to be considered.***

## Coming Soon!!

**November 6, 2021**  
**Evansville Country Club**  
**246th Marine**  
**Birthday Ball**

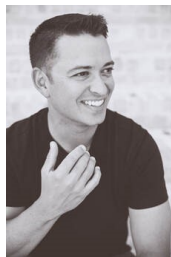


Tickets will be \$50 per person and will include dinner with your choice of a beef, chicken or vegetarian entrée with appropriate sides.

As always there will be the Birthday Ball ceremony with presentation of the cake and oldest and youngest Marine present. More information to follow.



C. G. Cooper is the USA TODAY and AMAZON BESTSELLING author of the CORPS JUSTICE novels, several spinoffs and a growing number of stand-alone novels. After college, Cooper was commissioned in the United States Marine Corps and went on to serve six years as an infantry officer. C. G. Cooper's final Marine duty station was in Nashville, Tennessee, where he fell in love with the laid-back lifestyle of Music City.



**For more information about C. G. Cooper and his writing (including a free short story and list of all his novels,) go to [www.cg-cooper.com](http://www.cg-cooper.com).**



10/2021

## Battle of Wickham Anchorage

By Gary Burk

The Battle of Wickham Anchorage took place during the New Georgia campaign in the Solomon Islands during the Pacific War from 30 June – 3 July 1943. During the operation US Marines and US Army troops landed by ship around Oleana Bay on Vangunu Island and advanced overland towards the anchorage where they attacked a garrison of Imperial Japanese Navy and Army troops. The purpose of the attack by the U.S. was to secure the lines of communication and supply between Allied forces involved in the New Georgia campaign and Allied bases in the southern Solomons. The

U.S. forces were successful in driving the Japanese garrison from the area and securing the anchorage, which would later be used to stage landing craft for subsequent operations.

The battle was one of the first actions of the New Georgia campaign. Located on the southern tip of Vangunu, Wickham Anchorage lies at the southern end of the New Georgia Islands archipelago between Vangunu and Gatokai. In formulating their plans to secure the New Georgia islands, US planners assessed that several preliminary operations were required. This included the capture of Wickham Anchorage. The anchorage had



little value for the Japanese, who secured the area with only a small garrison, but because of its proximity to New Georgia, it offered the Allies an important sheltered harbor that could support lines of supply as they advanced north from the Solomons through New Geor-



gia and towards Bougainville. Consequently, they planned to use the area as a staging base for landing craft proceeding towards Rendova, where the main US force would be built up prior to landing around Munda Point to capture the Japanese airfield there. Other preliminary operations were envisaged to capture Viru Harbor and Segi Point to secure another staging base and a location for an airfield.

At around 18:00 hours on 29 June, a small force of United States Marine Corps Raiders from the 4th Marine Raider Battalion and United States Army soldiers from the 2nd Battalion, 103rd Infantry Regiment embarked from the Russell Islands. A detachment of Colonel Daniel H. Hundley's Eastern Landing Force, these troops formed the Wickham Group, under the command of Lieutenant Colonel Lester E. Brown. The Marine element amounted to two companies (N and Q) who had not been deployed to Segi Point with the rest of their battalion as part of a preliminary operation a few days earlier. These companies were commanded by the battalion's executive officer Major James R. Clark, and were augmented by a demolitions platoon and headquarters element from the 4th Marine Raider Battalion, as well as a battery of 105 mm howitzers from the 152nd Field Artillery Battalion and a battery of 90 mm anti-aircraft guns from the 70th Coastal Artillery Battalion. A detachment of Seabees from the 20th Naval Construction Battalion

(Continued on page 12)



# Marine Spotlight On: **2021 Marine Family Picnic**

The annual Marine Family Picnic for the River Cities Detachment 1090 was held at the Robinson Township Conservation Club on Saturday, August 21. As you know, we invite not only Detachment members but also any Marines that we can contact to be part of our summer celebration of being part of the Marine Family.

Unfortunately the Evansville area recruiters were not able to attend. Summer is a time that most of the new recruits are shipped off to boot camp. Despite that the turnout at the picnic was great! We had 40 adults and 25 kids attending.

We started the picnic with the Star Spangled Banner. We had the American Flag, the Marine Flag and the Indiana State Flag at the front of the

room. Everyone paid respect to the flag with all right hands over hearts during the playing of the song.

To keep the kids involved and entertained, we had ladder golf, corn hole, velcro ball toss, washer toss, Matchbox toy cars, coloring books, crayons, croquet and many other forms of entertainment.

For the adults we had several types of board games but Clabber seemed to be the choice for some. Most of the time the adults just joined in conversation with other Marines and family members. Not a bad activity for our Marine Family.

One of the highlights of any picnic is the food. This one was not an exception as we had the choice of sliced pork



BBQ, grilled hamburgers or grilled hotdogs for a main course. Each family brought their own favorite summer side dish and the selection was outstanding. The list of selections included: Corn Salad, Potato Salad, Mac and Cheese, Pea Salad, Wolf's Baked Beans and German Potato Salad, Deviled Eggs, American Potato Salad, Chips, Seven Layer Salad, Fresh Carrots, and Baked Beans.

For those with a sweet tooth, we had Peach Cobbler, Fruit Salad, Fudge Brownies, Apple Pie, Key Lime Pie and Butter-Pecan Ice Cream.

My biggest regret is that with all that was happening, no-one thought to record the happenings in pictures. It was just that there was so much to do, every one was involved—which is never a bad thing.

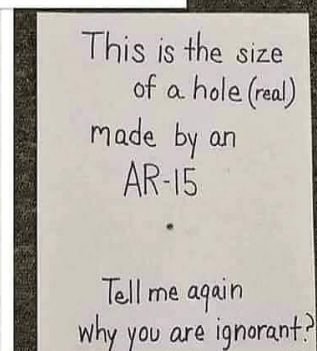
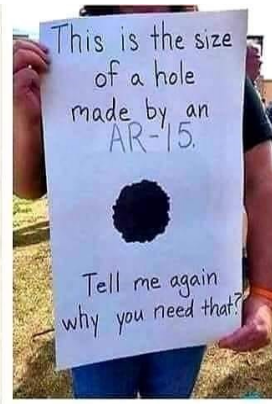
We are already looking at dates for next year's picnic. We plan to send an invitation to the officer in charge of the Recruiting Command early in the process to get him on board with including the recruiters in

our planning. Who knows? Perhaps the CO would consider joining us to put some higher echelon persuasion in our efforts.

If you have any suggestions about the picnic—either this year or for future years—please let me know at [rapid1@evansville.net](mailto:rapid1@evansville.net).

I look forward to seeing you at the picnic in 2022.

**Semper Fi !**





## Evansville Vet Center

1100 N. Burkhardt Rd  
Evansville, IN 47715



[www.vetcenter.va.gov](http://www.vetcenter.va.gov)

812-473-5993

**The Vet Center in Evansville** offers many services to aid the mental health of Veterans. Some of the services offered:

**\* Homecoming after Deployment**

Dealing with changes and expectations

Tips for reunion

**\* Becoming a couple again**

How to create a shared sense of purpose after deployment

**\* War-zone related stress reactions**

What Veterans need to know

**\* Coping with Traumatic Stress Reactions**

A National Center for PTSD fact sheet

**\* Depression**

A National Center for PTSD fact sheet

**\* Mild Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI)**

**\* What if I have sleep problems?**

A National Center for PTSD fact sheet

- \* PTSD and negative coping
- \* Help for Homeless Veterans
- \* Employment assistance” Career OneStop for Veterans
- \* Filing a disability claim
- \* Gulf War registry examination
- \* My HealtheVet
- \* E-benefits
- \* Information for Veterans” Websites
- \* Points of contact for new combat veterans

**If you feel** than any, some or all of these topics might be beneficial to you, contact The Vet Center at (812) 473-5993 or come by our offices at:

**Evansville Vet Center  
1100 N. Burkhardt Rd.  
Evansville, IN 47715**

**Our hours are      Mon—Thurs 8:00 AM—7:00 PM  
                                 Friday—8:00 AM—4:30 PM  
                                 (Other hours available by appointment)**

## Wickham Anchorage

(Continued from page 7)

were also assigned for base development work and engineer support tasks.

The invading force was carried aboard the destroyer transports *Schley* and *McKean*, upon which the Marines embarked, as well as seven Landing Craft Infantry (LCIs) for the US Army soldiers, escorted by a naval covering force under Rear Admiral George H. Fort aboard the destroyer *Trever*. The force was bound for a landing beach around 2.5 miles (4.0 km) to the west of the Vura village, around Oleana Bay.

The area was defended by a platoon of Japanese troops from the 229th Infantry Regiment, under the command of Colonel Genjiro Hirata, and a company of the Kure 6th Special Naval Landing Force. These forces formed part of Major General Minoru Sasaki's Southeast (Nanto) Detached Force. US intelligence had estimated that the Wickham–Vuru area was defended by between 290 and 460 Japanese personnel; in actuality there were a total of 310 troops (260 Army and 50 Navy) in the area. Prior to the operation, the Allies had carried out a reconnaissance of the area and the District Officer Donald Gilbert Kennedy, a New Zealander, had worked to establish a track inland from Oleana Bay along which his scouts operated without the knowledge of the Japanese. In conceiving the landing, US planners had determined that a landing at Oleana Bay, followed by an advance overland via this track, would be the best approach to Wickham Anchorage. They estimated that the march would take about five to six hours.

Bad weather hindered the voyage to Oleana Bay, but by 03:35 hours on 30 June the convoy reached their destination. Embarkation of the Marines into their LCVPs began shortly afterwards only to be stopped when US naval commanders realized they were too far west than had been planned. As a result, the Marines disembarked and the vessels moved further east. After this was completed, the Marines embarked once again, but found their run to the shore hampered by bad weather; rain and mist obscured the shore and the flares that had been fired by the scouts of the previously-landed reconnaissance party. In the confusion, the LCIs carrying the US Army troops veered off course and broke into the formation of LCVPs causing it to lose its cohesion. Disor-

ganized, each boat made its own way to the shore where several were badly damaged by waves as they crashed against the coral reef; nevertheless, the landing was unopposed and the Marines suffered no casualties. A further wave of Marines landed around 06:30 hours, while the LCIs carrying the 103rd Infantry waited until daylight and landed around 07:20 hours at the intended landing beach.


As the troops came ashore and the scattered groups rallied around a beachhead, they made contact with the reconnaissance party. Officers from this group had determined that the Japanese were concentrated around Kaeruka, and not at Vura as intelligence had previously assessed. As a result, Brown decided to change his plans: while the main body advanced overland towards Kaeruka via the inland track, another force moved along a coastal track in the direction of Vura. To support their advance, the battery of 105 mm howitzers fired from Oleana Bay. Naval gunfire support was also provided, as was air support from US Navy dive bombers. As the Marines and soldiers advanced, the beachhead was held by the artillery batteries and Seabees. The first major action between US and Japanese troops took place in the afternoon of 30 June in the Kaeruka area. During this action, Marine casualties amounted to 12 killed and 21 wounded. US Army losses were 10 killed and 22 wounded, while Japanese casualties amounted to around 120.

Meanwhile, also on 30 June, another action was fought around Vura by a company from the 103rd Infantry Regiment. As a result of this engagement, a detachment of 16 Japanese was forced to withdraw under heavy fire. After this US troops began consolidating their position around the beachhead for the night amidst heavy rain. Throughout the night, the perimeter came under mortar and machine gun fire from Japanese troops around Cheeke Point. Several Japanese barges attempted to land in the early morning, believing the area to be held by their own troops. Taken under heavy fire, 109 men out of the 120 on board the barges were killed; a further five were eventually killed ashore. The Marines lost two men killed during this fighting, while one US Army soldier was also killed.

(Continue on page 22)



If you have anything you would like to submit for the October Newsletter , the deadline for submission is September 22nd.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUES
29	30	31
		
5	6	7
12	13	14
19	20	21
26	27	28

*Labor Day*

Marines help seize the fortress of Chapultepec in Mexico City. 1847

Marines turn back Jap attack in Battle of Edson's Ridge on Guadalcanal. 1942



Marines raise the flag over the island of Peleliu. 1944. Pockets of Jap soldiers continued to fight until April of 1947.

Southern Belles #441  
AmVets Post #84  
2921 Broadway Ave.  
6:30 PM



Detachment Meeting  
Funkhouser Post on New Harmony Road 1900 begins—come early to eat dinner from menu.

# September 2021



DAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1	2	3 Dusting ribs and butts for cook tomorrow. 9010 Copperline Road, Mt. Vernon. 1730-1800. Need several Marines.	4 0700—Cook ribs and butts for fund raiser. Same place as yesterday. 9010 Copperline Road. Need all hands.. Should be finished by 1500.
	8	9 	10	11
	15	16 Marines destroy a pirate stronghold on the island of Grande Terre, near New Orleans, commanded by pirate Jean Lafitte. 1814	17	18 Soft opening to test the food booth setup and products. Bob Walther's Golf and Fun on First Ave. in Evansville. All Detachments members are encouraged to help.
	22	23	24 Marines land in Colombia South America to protect lives and property from local fighting. 1873	25
	29	30	1	2 

# Support Our Sponsors -----



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

2020

*Donald Landers, Sr.  
Irene L. Midle-Blessing*

*Susan Grayson*

2021

*Keith Benedict*

*Joe Shimek*

04/2022

## Compliments of John & Judy Bryant

Life Member

01/2022

## Compliments of Bob & Linda Reutter

Life Members

06/2022

## Compliments of Casey Canfield

Life Member

River Cities Detachment #1090

01/2022

## For All Who Served With The 17th Rifle Company.....



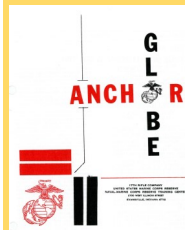
# Semper Fi

### Compliments of the Marine Corps League Auxiliary



Southern Belles Unit 441

10/2021



06/2023




**---They Help Make This Newsletter Possible**

***“Oorah”***

**Stan Rickard**

Life Member



River Cities Detachment 1090


05/2023

***Semper Fi!***

**Mike Mitchell**

Life Member

River Cities Detachment #1090



06/2023


***You're AD  
could be  
here!***

*In Memory Of*

**Marine Tommy Collins**

*And All Deceased*

*Detachment Members*



**Semper Fi**

09/2021

**Compliments of**

**Joe & Kathy Filipczak**

Life Member

River Cities Detachment #1090

12/2021

**Compliments of**

**Gary Burk, Life Member**

Optimist Club of Evansville Downtown

*Friend of Youth Since 1921*

07/2022

## Ship's Store

The following items are in stock at the Detachment Ship's Store. The Ship's Store will be brought to each meeting so you may purchase items. A slight increase in cost over National Ship's Store has been added to cover shipping costs.

Item	Cost	Item	Cost	FMF
EGA Cap Ornament, Regular Member, gold, screw-back \$	5.00	FMF device, for Marine of Year ribbon		1.50
Patch, MCL logo with ASSOCIATE rocker, 3" for right shoulder	4.25	Department Staff Elected ribbon, silver		2.00
Patch, MCL logo, for REGULAR member, 3" for right shoulder	4.00	Detachment Commandant ribbon		2.00
Patch, US Flag, field forward, for regular member, right shoulder	4.00	Detachment Staff Appointed ribbon, bronze		2.00
Sunburst Collar ornament, regular member, prong back	12.00	Community Service Ribbon		2.00
Cover, MCL, woman's, 7 5/8	30.00	National Meritorious Unit Commendation ribbon		2.00
Cap Strip, LIFE, Red with gold lettering and border	3.50	Individual Meritorious Commendation ribbon		2.00
Metal Ribbon Holder, 3 ribbon	1.25	Ceremonial Guard ribbon		2.00
Metal Ribbon Holder, 4 ribbon	2.50	EGA Belt Buckle, for leather belt		18.50
Metal Ribbon Holder, 8 ribbon	3.50	Trousers, dress blue, 44R		45.00
Metal Ribbon Holder, 9 ribbon	3.50	Trouser stripe, red, 1 1/8"		15.00
Metal Ribbon Holder, 12 ribbon	4.50	Belt, white, for dress blues		15.00
Tie Clasp	9.00	Patch, Devil Dog, 3" round for cover		4.00
Star Clusters for Ribbons, 2 stars, bronze	1.50	Rocker, Colorguard, for Devil Dog Vest		3.00
Star Clusters for Ribbons, 3 stars, bronze	1.50	Cap Strip, Dogrobber		3.50
Patch, Life Member	8.25	Neck Ribbon, PDD, gold with eyelet		5.00
Tie, black	6.00	Neck Ribbon, DD, black with eyelet		5.00
Pin, MCL	1.00			
Pin, MCL Life	1.00			
Pin, MCL Associate	1.00			

## 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.**

**Age 36 up to and including age 50 - \$400.**

**Age 51 up to and including age 64 - \$300.**

***Age 65 and over - \$200.***

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



## Marine Corps League Department of Indiana News

The following dates have been selected by the Conference/Convention Committee and approved by the members through Motions at the 2020 Fall Conference:

**October 16/17, 2021** Department of Indiana Fall Conference

All events will be held at the Embassy Suites by Hilton in Plainfield, IN. Specific information on each event will be sent appropriately beforehand, including hotel and event registration, agenda's and other pertinent information.

Questions can be directed to Conference/Convention Chair Glenn Newton at [sgtglenn@psci.net](mailto:sgtglenn@psci.net) or Department Paymaster Dave Englert at [englertd@psci.net](mailto:englertd@psci.net).

DAVID L. JONES

[djones@joneswallace.com](mailto:djones@joneswallace.com) 420 Main Street, Suite 1600  
Telephone (812) 402-1600 P.O. Box 1065  
Facsimile (812) 402-7977 Evansville, IN 47706-1065

**JONES•WALLACE**  
ELEVATING LAW



01/2022

**IMPORTANT**  
**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

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

**Dues for 2020 - 2021**  
**By July 31st - \$25**  
**August 1<sup>st</sup> or after - \$35**

**Initial Membership Dues are \$35**

Mail your annual membership fees to:

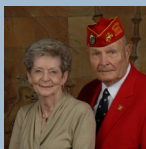
**River Cities Det. #1090**  
**Attn: Membership**  
**PO Box 6581**  
**Evansville IN 47719-0581**

*In fond memory of my life's love*

*Dorothy Lee "Dottie"*

*(McCord) Mills*

*1930-2020*



08/2022

**River Cities Detachment Officers**

**Commandant** Jim Johnson

(812) 431-2451

**Sr. Vice Commdt.** Gary Burk

**Jr. Vice Commdt.** Melissa West

**Jr. Past Commdt.** Bob Reutter

(270) 314-9484

**Adjutant** Tim Jones

(812)454-8717

**Paymaster** John Bryant

(775) 287-1876

**Judge Advocate** T.C. Shane

**Chaplain** Bob Reutter

**Sgt. at Arms** Tom Kremer

**Newsletter Editor** Bob Reutter

**Web Sergeant** Tim Jones



**We have space available in our ad pages.**

**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.

***Newsletter Booster Club***

<u>Booster Member</u>	<u>Expires</u>
MCLA Southern Belles.....	Oct-2021
Joe & Kathy Filipczak.....	Dec-2021
David Jones.....	Jan—2022
Casey Canfield.....	Feb-2022
Tom & Alice Kick.....	May-2022
Gary Burk.....	May-2022
Ned E & Rose Wellmeier.....	July-2022
Dannie & Debbie Russell.....	July-2022
<b>Roy &amp; Carolyn McWilliams.</b>	<b>Aug-2022</b>
Bob & Linda Reutter.....	Aug-2022
<b>Dorothy Odom.....</b>	<b>Sep-2022</b>
Chris Boyd.....	Oct-2021
Judy & John Bryant .....	Nov-2021
Gary & Cynthia Cullison .....	Aug 2022
Jim and Christie Johnson.....	Aug 2022

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**

**NAME:** \_\_\_\_\_

**DONATION:** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

*Please Mail to:*

River Cities Detachment

P.O. Box 6581

Evansville, IN 47719-0581



Thank you!!

A very heartfelt “thank you” to Dorothy

Odom and to Carolyn

and Roy McWilliams for renewing.

Your support helps keep our newsletter

coming each month.

**Wickham Anchorage** (from page

13) At daylight, the US commander, Brown, decided to move to Vura village. This was subsequently built up into a stronghold and from there, over the course of the next three days, the US troops harassed the Japanese, undertaking patrols supported by airstrikes and artillery. On 3 July, Brown led a force back to Kaeruka, fighting several minor actions that killed seven Japanese and destroyed several supply dumps.

After Wickham Anchorage was secured on 3 July; the Marines then moved by landing craft to Oleana Bay for rest before moving to Gatukai Island on 8 July in response to reports of a Japanese force there. The Marines spent two days searching for Japanese there before returning to Oleana Bay and from there to Guadalcanal; meanwhile, a US Army patrol eventually located the Japanese on Gatukai.

The area was subsequently used as a staging base for US landing craft taking part in further operations in the New Georgia campaign, supporting the movement of shipping from Guadalcanal or the Russel Islands. Ultimately, though, it was

never developed into a major base. Rendova was secured by US forces and by 2 July they began crossing from there to the western coast of New Georgia island, landing around Zanana. They began the advance westwards towards Munda Point several days later. On 5 July, a force of Marines landed in the Kula Gulf region, on the northern coast of New Georgia island, around Rice Anchorage, to secure the Enogai and Bairoko areas and to block Japanese reinforcements heading south towards Munda.



Literary Easter Eggs are hidden words/phrases or items that an author hides within a story for sharp- eyed readers to spot. I have hidden a **continuing series** of eggs in the first nine issues of this newsletter. The first person to spot them and email me at: **rapid1@evansville.net** will win a 1 year booster recognition to our newsletter and everyone who finds them by the end of December will receive a “Well Done” notice in January 2022.

No one has identified the string of items mentioned above by the end of August. I will extend the contest until the first of October to see if any of the readers are paying attention enough to spot them. **Here is a hint: While you are reading each edition, remember the issue number shown in the upper left of the left hand page. (Editor)**

### ***In Recognition of Family Members***

who have served, or are now serving in the United States  
Marine Corps.



#### **Now serving**

Nephew—Dakota Meade



#### **Served in the past**

Edward Mangold—(Dakota’s Great Grandfather)

William Joseph Maurer (my first cousin and brother to Michael)

Michael Maurer (my first cousin and brother to William)

Marion Thomas McWilliams (my brother)

Curtis McWilliams ( Marion’s Son)

Roy McWilliams (me)

***Semper Fi, Marines***

(09/2021)

## Tales of the 17th Rifle Company

By P. Michael Mitchell

### The Night Assault on Bn. 29 Palms

The culmination of Marine Reserve Summer Camp in 1970 was a night attack on the combined Battalion dug in atop a huge hill on the Marine Base at 29 Palms CA. All the small unit commanders were called to a meeting at Bn. HQ. The Bn. C.O. (a LtCol) laid out the plan of the operation which was to show how a Bn defense of a hill should be accomplished. He then asked if any of the rifle companies would 'volunteer' to be the aggressors in the upcoming operation. The C.O of the 17th (me) jumped up and immediately and enthusiastically yelled "The 17th Sir." My first thought was "now we can kick some butt." The LtCol made one bad judgement call just then. He said "The Bn. Colors are not to be disturbed." I immediately thought "**NOW** we have an objective."

My thoughts were on the personnel I thought would do the mission and create the most havoc with the dug in defend-

ers. In my Company, I had Marines who had served in Korea, Vietnam and other places while in the regular Marines. Steady, solid Marines, all.



17th Rifle Company C.O. Major P. Michael Mitchell (left) with XO Lt. Richard Wedel (right) plan the night assault on the Bn. Position.

In the end, five of our reservists were chosen to 'do the deed.' The hill that had been chosen for the Bn to defend was the highest point on the base. There was nothing around it but sand and scrub bushes. The following is from the mission report submitted by the patrol leader, Don Hester:

*"We decided to start our patrol at 2100 although it was not quite dark in the desert at that*



time. We traveled light with only our cartridge belts with several pouches of 20-round blank ammo for each of our M-14



From left: Kixmiller, Hester, Buck, Buchanan and radioman Reutter preparing for a night assault on a fortified position.

rifles. Reutter carried our PRC-25 radio to keep in contact with our CO, Major Mitchell. Although the objective was due north, we jumped off at 270 degrees and walked about a mile or so into the desert prior to turning 90 degrees north. We walked another mile and a half to ensure we were past the objective. We stopped frequently to request fire support from the 155mm cannon assigned to support our patrol. We requested a double illumination mission every 30 minutes to show any defensive line that should have been (but wasn't) placed around the perimeter of the ob-

jective. By 0200 on the morning of the final assault, we had reached a position at the base of the hill, behind the Bn, dug in on the hill. At the base of the hill we found a dozen 2-1/2 ton trucks. The Bn transportation! One of our members said he thought it would be a good idea to disable the transportation since there were no sentries placed. We quietly went about raising hoods of trucks and pulling wires. We were polite enough to leave notes saying that since there was no security, we had 'destroyed' the trucks.

We proceeded to move up the reverse slope of the hill as quietly as possible, encountering no sentries all the way to the top. By now it was nearing 0430 and the assault by the rest of our company was to jump off at 0500. There were several fox holes dug at the top of the hill and we systematically went from one to another informing the sleeping inhabitants that they were casualties and combining their blank ammo to our own. After 'taking' the Bn HQ position and securing the Bn Colors, we radioed Major Mitchell to inform him of our success. (continued on page 26)

*He immediately called one of the umpires to tell him the objective was secure. The umpire informed the CO that a 5 man patrol was not enough to secure the position and that we were to immediately move down the hill. Reluctantly Major Mitchell told us of the decision. Our 5 man patrol took the Bn Colors and spreading out, went screaming down the front of the hill, firing blank rounds as fast as we could reload sewing confusion and havoc among the 'defenders' of the hill. In the middle of this, the clock struck 0500 and the rest of the 17th began their assault **up** the hill."*

The 17th Rifle Company had volunteered to be the aggressors for this final training session of our summer camp. Given the poor planning on the part of the Bn, I believe we gave them some items to discuss at the debrief after the exercise. And we did capture the Bn. Colors!

**Sincerely, Colonel P. M. Mitchell, formerly Commanding Officer of the 17th Rifle Company, USMC Reserves in Evansville, IN.**

## Mark these dates on your calendars:

**When: September 21**

**What: Soft opening to test our food booth menu and operation**

**Where: Bob Walther's Golf and Fun on First Ave**

**When: October 4-9**

**What: Our food booth at the Nut Club Fall Festival.**

**Details to follow.**

**Volunteers needed.**

*The River Cities News is the place to get all the information about what is going on in the Detachment. We need you to be an active part in **your** MCL.*

**When: November 6, 2021**

**What: 246th Marine Birthday Celebration**

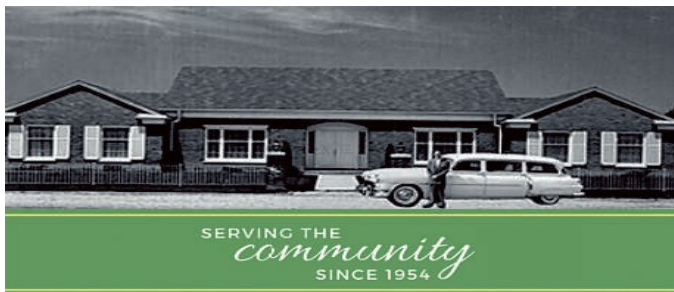
**Watch this space for further information.**



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