



# River Cities News

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

Volume 15, Issue 9

September 2018

## Commandant's Corner

**Bob Reutter, Commandant**

Another month has passed much to quickly and fall is approaching. Along with fall come two things as sure as the weather – Toys for Tots and a busy few months for members of the Detachment. We have begun work on Toys for Tots with a shopping trip to the westside Walmart to purchase some toys they had on clearance. Since we operate on donations from the public, I try to be as frugal with their funds as possible. We purchased almost 2,500 toys at an average cost of only \$4 per toy. Added to the toys we purchased at Rural King in January at 50% off, we have a great start to this year. If you have not had the opportunity to help with our campaign, you are missing a very personally rewarding time. Volunteers (both Marine and otherwise) are always welcome.

Work continues on the 2018 Birthday Ball. It is shaping up to be a grand time with a guest list approaching 500. We are holding a joint Ball with the Marines from the Reserve Unit in Terre Haute, Indiana. Tickets are available now. I have extended an invitation to the League detachments in Terre Haute, Vincennes, Tell City and Jasper. The Ball will be held at the Atrium (formerly the entrance to the casino boat) in downtown Evansville. It will feature a plated meal with beef, chicken and vegetarian entrée choices. We will have a DJ providing dinner music followed by dance music. We will have several kegs of beer provided (while they last) as well as a cash bar for those who prefer wine or mixed drinks. We will have a photographer there and each couple attending will be provided with a disk of all the pictures in the weeks after the ball.

At our Detachment monthly meeting in August, we were provided prices on all weather overcoat/raincoats with a detachable liner to be used during inclement weather by our Honor Guard. This is something we have discussed for some time and it is getting closer to actually happening. We had a Color Guard at the annual Honor Flight fly in at the Evansville Remote Control Club's field on the far east side of Evansville in August. The number and variety of flying models that were on display in the air and on the ground was amazing. Rolling Thunder also gave their "Missing Man" table presentation. If you have not seen the presentation, it is very moving and an excellent reminder of the many service men and women who are still missing from all the military engagements in our country's history.

July 29th we had our annual Marine Family Picnic. It was held at the FOP camp on the west side of Evansville. The attendees had a great time, the kids present had a variety of entertainments (as did the adults) with good food and good fellowship. Plans have already started for the 2019 picnic. We hope to have enough people to have some competitions like corn hole, ladder golf, clabber and perhaps others if the response is there. If we have the competitions we will provide small trophies for the winners.

Semper Fi and Gung Ho!

### Detachment Officers

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Bob Reutter (270) 314-9484

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

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Sgt At Arms  
Jack Kincaide

Newsletter Editor  
Paula Landers

Web Sergeant  
Paula Landers

## Marines in the News

Bob Reutter

### Battle for Guadalcanal

*(This is the second installment in a 4 part story of the battle for Guadalcanal.)*

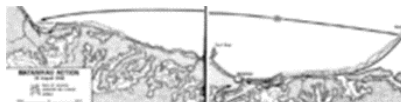
#### Initial ground operations



Initial U.S. Marine defenses around the airstrip at Lunga Point, Guadalcanal, 12 August.

The 11,000 Marines on Guadalcanal initially concentrated on forming a loose defensive perimeter around Lunga Point and the airfield, moving the landed supplies within the perimeter and finishing the airfield. In four days of intense effort, the supplies were moved into dispersed dumps

within the perimeter. Work began on the airfield immediately, mainly using captured Japanese equipment. On 12 August the airfield was named Henderson Field after Lofton R. Henderson, a Marine aviator who was killed during the Battle of Midway. By 18 August the airfield was ready for operation. Five days' worth of food had been landed from the transports, which, along with captured Japanese provisions, gave the Marines a total of 14 days' worth of food. To conserve supplies, the troops were limited to two meals per day.



Map showing the U.S. Marine attacks west of the Matanikau River on 19 August

Allied troops encountered a severe strain of dysentery soon after the landings, with one in five Marines afflicted by mid-August. Tropical diseases would affect the fighting strengths of both sides throughout the campaign.

Although some of the Korean construction workers surrendered to the Marines, most of the remaining Japanese and Korean personnel gathered just west of the Lunga perimeter on the west bank of the Matanikau River and subsisted mainly on coconuts. A Japanese naval outpost was also located at Taivu Point, about

35 kilometers (22 mi) east of the Lunga perimeter. On 8 August, a Japanese destroyer from Rabaul delivered 113 naval reinforcement troops to the Matanikau position.

**Goettge Patrol** On the evening of 12 August, a 25-man U.S. Marine patrol, led by Division D-2 Lieutenant Colonel Frank Goettge and primarily consisting of intelligence personnel, landed by boat west of the US Marine Lunga perimeter, east of Point Cruz and west of the Japanese perimeter at Matanikau River, on a reconnaissance mission with a secondary objective of contacting a group of Japanese troops that U.S. forces believed might be willing to surrender. Soon after the patrol landed, a nearby platoon of Japanese naval troops attacked and almost completely wiped out the Marine patrol.

In response, on 19 August, Vandegrift sent three companies of the U.S. 5th Marine Regiment to attack the Japanese troop concentration west of the Matanikau. One company attacked across the sandbar at the mouth of the Matanikau River while another crossed the river 1,000 meters (1,100 yd) inland and attacked the Japanese forces located in Matanikau village. The third landed by boat further west and attacked Kokumbuna village. After briefly occupying the two villages, the three Marine companies returned to the Lunga perimeter, having killed about 65 Japanese soldiers while losing four marines. This action, sometimes referred to as the "First Battle of the Matanikau", was the first of several major actions around the Matanikau River during the campaign.

On 20 August, the escort carrier USS *Long Island* delivered two squadrons of Marine aircraft to Henderson Field, one a squadron of 19 Grumman F4F Wildcats and the other a squadron of 12 Douglas SBD Dauntlesses. The aircraft at Henderson became known as the "Cactus Air Force" (CAF) after the Allied code-name for Guadalcanal. The Marine fighters went into action the next day on the first of the almost-daily Japanese bomber air raids. On 22 August five U.S. Army Bell P-400 Airacobras

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)

Generals Mike Myatt and Bill Keys initiated a series of lightning-fast combined-arms raids to gain the psychological edge over the Iraqi gunners. Myatt struck first.

Escorted by a rifle company riding in six-wheel-drive LAVs (light assault vehicles), an artillery battery of self-propelled 155mm guns would take off at night across the desert, stopping just shy of the Kuwaiti border. The battery would rain holy hell on an Iraqi artillery position. Once the startled enemy gunners returned the fire, an airborne FastFAC would mark the muzzle flashes for a loitering Wolfpack to thunder in with Rockeyes. The old double whammy.

"Our aim was to defeat the minds of the Iraqi artillerymen," said Myatt. "We convinced 'em it wasn't smart to man their artillery pieces because every time they did Marine air would come rolling in on them."

The LAVs grabbed a piece of the action as well, conducting highly mobile "drive-by-shootings" across the border with their 25mm Chain Guns as further distraction during the artillery "shoot and scoots."

The more General Bill Keys studied the ground assault plan for breaching the Iraqi defenses, the less he liked it.

Any passage of lines is a complex military maneuver. To do so on a division level, with both units vulnerably exposed to Iraqi firepower, would court disaster. Plus, it would take forever. The trail of vehicles from both divisions trying to get past each other could stretch back thirty miles in the desert. There were better ways to skin the cat.

Keys asked Boomer to change his plans at the last minute to enable a simultaneous two-division-abreast breaching farther west. The Marines should approach this breaching just like an amphibious assault, argued Keys. Land on multiple

fronts, keep units in assembly area until cleared to cross the line of departure, avoid stacking up 40,000 Marines at a single landing point. Substitute "breachhead" for "beachhead."

Boomer saw the plan had merits, but worried about timing. Logistics support looked like the long pole in the tent.

Boomer asked Brigadier General Charles Krulak, commanding the Direct Support Command, whether he would support Key's plan. Krulak thought hard. His troops had just completed the main logistics base at Kibrit on the coast. Moving the second Marine Division eighty miles west would render Kibrit useless. "Yes we can!" he replied, not looking forward to breaking this news to his staff.

Krulak's logisticians, long-inured to the vagaries of the "broad-arrow strategists," shook their heads and went to work. An advance site, Gravel Plains, within sight of the border, seemed right for supporting two parallel divisions. Krulak named the place *Al Kanjar*, Arabic for "The Dagger."

The story of the Gulf War is often told in terms of the grand movements, savage battles, hi-tech weapons. In truth, logistics dominated the campaign. Among many startling American achievements in this unheralded field was Krulak's construction of the Al Kanjar logistics base.

Two weeks after getting the green light from Boomer, Krulak's logisticians had completed a marvelous facility, 11,280 acres in breadth, almost entirely underground, which housed in carefully compartmented sectors, a million tons of ammo, five million gallons of fuel, a million gallons of water, the third-largest Navel hospital in the world, plus two C-130 airstrips, and a helicopter support facility named "Lonesome Dove." Mind-boggling," said Boomer.

*(to be continued)*

## Marines in the News continued from pg 2

and their pilots arrived at Henderson Field.

### **Battle of the Tenaru**



Dead Japanese soldiers on the sandbar at the mouth of Alligator Creek, Guadalcanal after the Battle of the Tenaru

In response to the Allied landings on Guadalcanal, the Japanese Imperial General Headquarters assigned the Imperial Japanese Army's (IJA) 17th Army, a corps-sized command based at Rabaul and under the command of Lieutenant General Ha-

rukichi Hyakutake, the task of retaking Guadalcanal. The army was to be supported by Japanese naval units, including the Combined Fleet under the command of Isoroku Yamamoto, which was headquartered at Truk. The 17th Army, at that time heavily involved in the Japanese campaign in New Guinea, had only a few units available. Of these, the 35th Infantry Brigade under Major General Kiyotake Kawaguchi was at Palau, the 4th (Aoba) Infantry Regiment was in the Philippines and the 28th (Ichiki) Infantry Regiment, under the command of Colonel Kiyonao Ichiki, was on board transport ships near Guam. The different units began to move towards Guadalcanal via Truk and Rabaul immediately, but Ichiki's regi-

ment, being the closest, arrived in the area first. A "First Element" of Ichiki's unit, consisting of about 917 soldiers, landed from destroyers at Taivu Point, east of the Lunga perimeter, after midnight on 19 August, then made a 9-mile (14 km) night march west toward the Marine perimeter.

Underestimating the strength of Allied forces on Guadalcanal, Ichiki's unit conducted a nighttime frontal assault on Marine positions at Alligator Creek (often called the "Ilu River" on U.S. Marine maps) on the east side of the Lunga perimeter in the early morning hours of 21 August. Ichiki's assault was defeated with heavy Japanese losses in what became known as the Battle of the Tenaru. After daybreak, the Marine units counterattacked Ichiki's surviving troops, killing many more of them. The dead included Ichiki, though it has been claimed that he committed seppuku after realizing the magnitude of his defeat, rather than dying in combat.<sup>[56]</sup> In total, 789 of the original 917 members of the Ichiki Regiment's First Element were killed in the battle. About 30 survived the battle and joined Ichiki's rear guard of about 100, and these 128 Japanese returned to Taivu Point, notified 17th Army headquarters of their defeat and awaited further reinforcements and orders from Rabaul. ***(Next Month: Air battles over Henderson Field and strengthening of the Lunga defenses)***

## **Southern Belles Unit 441**

**Paula landers, Treasurer**

We are currently in the planning stages for a cash raffle with a grand prize of \$1000, and additional prizes of \$500 and \$250. Tickets will be \$10 each and only 500 tickets will be sold. We are waiting on our charity gaming license so we can get busy selling raffle tickets. The drawing will be on November 26th, what an awesome Christmas present for someone.

The detachment is going to be hosting the Spring Conference in March. It is always nice to have

these events in our area. The Fall Conference is being held in Portage. So both ends of the state will be covered this time.

I'd like to remind everyone that our annual membership dues are currently due.

Your involvement is vital to the success of our Unit, Department, Division and our Organization.

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## River Cities Detachment #1090, Marine of the Year Nominations

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### 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 October 1, 2018. 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 October.

### 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.)

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# *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 OCTOBER 1, 2018**



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# Marine Corps League



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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*

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**Southern Belles Unit 441**

12/2018

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

**MICHAEL SIDES**  
 SOUTHWEST DISTRICT TRUSTEE

E-mail: [msides@fop.net](mailto:msides@fop.net)

07/2019

River Cities Detachment 1090  
 Marine Corps League Inc.  
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 Evansville, IN 47719-0581

www.mclrivercities.org  
 mclrivercities@gmail.com

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**IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT**

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

«AddressBlock»

**Semper Fi**

**August 2018**

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Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p align="center"><b>Newsletter Articles, Ads, and Pictures for            October 2018 are due            NO LATER THAN September 22, 2018</b></p>						<p>1            Pick up Ribs and Butts            JD Byrider            2 p.m. to 4 p.m.</p>
2	3	<p>4            Det. 1090            Breakfast Libby's and Mom's Cafe            0800</p>	5	<p>6            MCLA Southern Belles            VA Clinic            8 a.m. - 11 a.m.</p>	7	8
9	<p>10            No            MODD Growl</p>	<p>11            Det. 1090            Breakfast Libby's and Mom's Cafe            0800</p>	12	13	14	<p>15            Color Guard Honor Flight Fundraiser            First Christian Church in Newburgh            1900</p>
16	17	<p>18            Det. 1090            Breakfast Libby's and Mom's Cafe            0800</p>	19	20	<p>21            Color Guard POW/MIA Day at AmVets Post 84</p>	22
<p>23            30</p>	<p>24            MCLA Southern Belles Unit #441            AmVets 84            6:30 p.m.</p>	<p>25            Det. 1090            Breakfast Libby's and Mom's Cafe            0800</p>	<p>26            MCL River Cities Det. #1090            VFW 1114</p>	27	28	29