

**OFFICE OF
THE COMMANDANT OF THE MARINE CORPS**

MARINE CORPS BIRTHDAY RUN

**REMARKS BY
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GEN. JAMES F. AMOS: (In progress) – they captured the city of Seoul. The same time, the 5th Marine Regiment, later renamed the “Fire Brigade”, was cobbled together on the West Coast of our great nation. You know, it was pretty anemic coming out of World War II. We brought Marines from all over the United States – reserves, active-duty – and we put Marines five days later, many of which had never even been to boot camp – we put them aboard ships at San Diego and they sailed for Korea.

And they made that infamous landing, the Marine landing that people talked about in the press today: the landing at Incheon, one of the most successful maneuver warfare tactics ever in the history of our great nation. They came in behind the eight divisions. And roof by roof, building by building, room by room, they cleared Seoul and returned it back to its people.

They boarded ships, went all the way around the Korean peninsula up to Wonsan and made a landing. And their mission was to kill and destroy the remainder of the eight divisions who were chasing them all the way to the Yalu River. The Chinese had something else in mind: On the 27th of November, nine Chinese divisions – 90,000 – attacked across the border and came face to face with 15,000 Marines at the Chosin Reservoir.

Before that battle took place en route to Chosin, there was a Marine major who later went on to be a brigadier general and the head of our historical – or history division in the Marine Corps. Then he was Major Simmons, and he was a weapons company commander. And he was just outside of Chosin heading towards that famous battle.

And he wrote this, penned this on the 9th of November. And I quote: “On the 9th of November, I remember my company chief cook said, Major, we’ve got to do something for this birthday. The least we can do is have a cake. Among the items that had been kicked out of the doors of the helicopter, along with C rations, with barbed wire and ammunition was some white cake mix. When that sergeant fired up one of his field ranges and baked the cake in flat sheets and iced it with strawberry jam, we called our Marines out of the line just one at a time and fed them a three-inch square cake and read Gen. Sherman’s (ph) birthday message.

“I can still see that white cake in those dirty hands. It was more like a sacrament than a celebration: the sacrament of brotherhood. Three days later, we turned over the perimeter to the Army, and climbed aboard the trucks. Before November was over, we would be in a much tougher fight than – (inaudible). We would be at the Chosin Reservoir. For many of my Marines, this had been their last Marine Corps birthday ever.”

God bless the United States Marine Corps, and semper fidelis, Marines. Happy birthday.

(Chorus of, “Ooh-rah.”)

(END)