

CHIT CHAT NEWS



Farewell, General Smith . . .

On this day in 1951, Gen. Oliver P. Smith, the Commanding General of 1st Marine Division, turned over command of his beloved Marines to Gen. Gerald C. Thomas.

Smith's service in Korea was over.

During his nine months with 1st MarDiv, the 58-year-old WWII veteran led his men through the Inchon Landing, liberation of Seoul, Battle of Chosin, and numerous combat operations from January to April 1951.

He would best be remembered, however, for his courageous leadership at Chosin. His famous words, "Retreat, hell! We're not retreating, we're just advancing in a different direction," became one of the most quoted phrases of the Korean War and would later symbolize the heroic actions of all those who fought and died during the epic breakout to Hungnam in December 1950.

Smith's professionalism, efficiency, cool-headedness, and tenacity earned him the respect and admiration of his men and secured his place in the pantheon of legendary Marine generals.

His nearly 40-year career came to a close in 1955 and on Christmas Day, 1977, he passed away at the age of 84.

Today we pay tribute to Oliver "O.P." Smith and all the men who fought with him during World War II and Korea.

We will always remember you!

" Those we love don't go away,
they walk
beside us everyday.
Unseen, unheard, but
always near, so loved,
so missed, so very dear"