H&S COMPANY, 2ND BATTALION, 5TH MARINES

DECEMBER 1970 — BALDY COMBAT BASE (LZ BALDY)

Compiled from the 2/5 Command Chronology for December 1970

1st Marine Division · III Marine Amphibious Force · I Corps, Republic of Vietnam

1. Unit Overview

Unit Designation	Headquarters and Service Company (H&S Co), 2nd Battalion, 5th Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division; including the battalion command post, the 106mm section and the S-2 and S-5 sections
Reporting Period	1–31 December 1970
Commander	1stLt L. B. Hagel(?) (1–31 December)
Higher HQ	2nd Battalion, 5th Marines (LtCol T. M. Hamlin); 5th Marines; 1st Marine Division
Area of Operations	Baldy Combat Base (LZ Baldy), Hill 510, Hill 848, Thach Khe (CUPP 5)
Combat Posture	Combat operations, patrols and security (15 combat entries)
Base of Operations	Baldy Combat Base (LZ Baldy)
Corps Area	I Corps Tactical Zone, Republic of Vietnam

2. Commander's Summary

H&S Company’s entries for December 1970 place it most often at or near Baldy Combat Base (LZ Baldy) (7 of 14 entries with a named place or grid), and also at Hill 510, Hill 848, Thach Khe (CUPP 5).

H&S Company was commanded by 1stLt L. B. Hagel(?) (1–31 December); the battalion by LtCol T. M. Hamlin (1–31 December).

For December 1970 this report lists 69 entries (47 organization, 15 combat, 5 movement, 1 logistics, 1 personnel): 0 naming H&S or one of its sections (the battalion command post, the 106mm section, S-2, S-5), and 69 battalion-level entries recorded by the battalion headquarters.

On 1 December 1970: At grid 301515 (sic) while on patrol the India Company commanding officer was killed by small-arms fire.

On 2 December 1970: India CO called a fire mission at grid 983363 — 10 secondary explosions.

On 7 December 1970: Golf 2/1 took incoming small-arms fire on insertion at grid 107507; 4 Vietnamese males detained.

3. Operations Overview

Operation / Activity	Dates	Description
Operation Imperial Lake	1 Sep 1970 – 7 May 1971	Command group moved from Hill 381 (AT 994 391) to Baldy Combat Base (LZ Baldy) (BT 131 453) (means not stated).

4. Chronology of H&S Company Activities

Compiled from the checked transcriptions of the 2/5 command chronology for December 1970 in the hotel25vv research database. Entries naming H&S or its sections and all battalion-level entries are listed; entries naming only a rifle company are left out. Times and grid references are as recorded; each entry ends with its source page.

Date	Activity / Events
1 Dec 10:00	At grid 301515 (sic) while on patrol the India Company commanding officer was killed by small-arms fire [2/5 ComdC Dec 1970, PDF p. 20]
1 Dec 19:10	1st Plt Kilo QRF with Golf CUPP captured 2,500 lb of polished rice near BT 106455 [2/5 ComdC Dec 1970, PDF p. 20]
1 Dec 24:00	Summary: as above [2/5 ComdC Dec 1970, PDF p. 20]
December day unstated	Staging area opened in Da Nang for equipment not needed; retrograde begins. [2/5 ComdC Dec 1970, PDF p. 1]
2 Dec 10:00	India CO called a fire mission at grid 983363 — 10 secondary explosions [2/5 ComdC Dec 1970, PDF p. 20]
2 Dec 13:00	H&S Co purchased ordnance with 5,000 piasters [2/5 ComdC Dec 1970, PDF p. 20]
2 Dec 15:30	Command group moved from Hill 381 (AT 994 391) to Baldy Combat Base (LZ Baldy) (BT 131 453) (means not stated). 2 Dec December: The 3/5 command group relieved 2/5 on Hill 381 and took command of Imperial Lake and of Echo, Foxtrot, Hotel, India and Kilo; the 2/5 command group returned to Baldy. (From the monthly “by Company” summary, written from the chronology page images.) The December chronology: “On 2 December the Battalion CP was relieved on Hill 381 (AT994391) by the 3/5 Command Group. The 3/5 Command Group assumed command of Operation Imperial Lake and OPCON of Companies E, F, H, I, and K at 021530H December 1970. The 2/5 Command Group returned to Baldy Combat Base” (PDF p. 11). The companies stayed in the field under 3/5; only the command group moved. Mode not stated. (Checked 18 Nov 2026.) [2/5 ComdC Dec 1970, PDF p. 9; 2/5 ComdC Dec 1970, PDF p. 11]
2 Dec 16:10	The 2/5 command post returned to LZ Baldy; 3/5 resumed command of operations in the Que Son Mountains from atop Hill 381; COs of Kilo and India chop to 3/5; Echo, Foxtrot and Hotel passed OPCON to 3/5 [2/5 ComdC Dec 1970, PDF p. 20]

Date	Activity / Events
2 Dec 24:00	Summary: as above [2/5 ComdC Dec 1970, PDF p. 20]
3 Dec 10:00	At Hill 510 an M-26 exploded in trash, injuring 3 personnel [2/5 ComdC Dec 1970, PDF p. 21]
3 Dec 15:10	1st Plt Kilo QRF at AT 928428 on a sighting of twelve VC/NVA — Negative [2/5 ComdC Dec 1970, PDF p. 21]
3 Dec 24:00	Summary: as above; one USMC medevaced for fever [2/5 ComdC Dec 1970, PDF p. 21]
4 Dec 13:00	5th Marines passed OPCON of Golf 2/1 to 2/5 effective 0424 [2/5 ComdC Dec 1970, PDF p. 21]
4 Dec 14:40	Kilo's K1 lifted as Sparrowhawk near AT 961417: one AK-47 with two magazines, 12 ChiComs, 100 lb of rice, eating utensils for about 200 people [2/5 ComdC Dec 1970, PDF p. 21]
4 Dec 15:00	At grid 990407 located 5 caves — Negative [2/5 ComdC Dec 1970, PDF p. 21]
4 Dec 16:00	H&S personnel relieved from Hill 510 by K-3 and returned to Baldy [2/5 ComdC Dec 1970, PDF p. 21]
4 Dec 24:00	Summary: as above; nine pounds of CS crystal used [2/5 ComdC Dec 1970, PDF p. 21]
4 Dec	Battalion newsletter begins. [2/5 ComdC Dec 1970, PDF p. 1]
5 Dec 09:30	K-1 lifted as Sparrowhawk [2/5 ComdC Dec 1970, PDF p. 22]
5 Dec 10:00	Golf 2/1 inserted at grid 091471; search yielded about 1,700 lb of rice [2/5 ComdC Dec 1970, PDF p. 22]
5 Dec 11:00	K-1 at grid 966423 located a base camp with assorted 782 gear, ammo, demolitions, food and one AK-47 [2/5 ComdC Dec 1970, PDF p. 22]
5 Dec 15:00	Golf 2/1 detained 2 VC/NVA suspects [2/5 ComdC Dec 1970, PDF p. 22]
5 Dec 24:00	Summary: as above [2/5 ComdC Dec 1970, PDF p. 23]
6 Dec 11:00	G-1 at grid 102467 detained one VC/NVA female suspect [2/5 ComdC Dec 1970, PDF p. 22]
6 Dec 12:00	Golf spotted two VC/NVA males and one female suspect at grid 101470 [2/5 ComdC Dec 1970, PDF p. 22]
6 Dec 13:40	The QRF was inserted at grid 96340 (AT 964399) to assess CBU-55 damage [2/5 ComdC Dec 1970, PDF p. 22]
6 Dec 24:00	Summary: as above [2/5 ComdC Dec 1970, PDF p. 22]
7 Dec 10:00	K-1 became OPCON to 3/5 [2/5 ComdC Dec 1970, PDF p. 23]
7 Dec 11:00	Three VC/NVA KBA at grid 125504 (seen from the C&C aircraft) [2/5 ComdC Dec 1970, PDF p. 23]
7 Dec 14:00	Golf 2/1 took incoming small-arms fire on insertion at grid 107507; 4 Vietnamese males detained [2/5 ComdC Dec 1970, PDF p. 23]
7 Dec 24:00	Summary: as above [2/5 ComdC Dec 1970, PDF p. 23]
8 Dec 24:00	Summary: nothing significant happened this day [2/5 ComdC Dec 1970, PDF p. 23]

Date	Activity / Events
9 Dec 12:00	Located a base camp at grid 015406 with rice, uniforms and small amounts of demolitions [2/5 ComdC Dec 1970, PDF p. 24]
9 Dec 24:00	Summary: as above [2/5 ComdC Dec 1970, PDF p. 24]
10 Dec 13:00	The battalion employed the Black Hammer — Negative [2/5 ComdC Dec 1970, PDF p. 24]
10 Dec 24:00	Summary: as above; three USMC medevaced for possible malaria [2/5 ComdC Dec 1970, PDF p. 24]
11 Dec 24:00	Summary: as above [2/5 ComdC Dec 1970, PDF p. 25]
12 Dec 24:00	Summary: as above [2/5 ComdC Dec 1970, PDF p. 25]
13 Dec 16:00	G-1 detained one male VC/NVA at grid 119385 [2/5 ComdC Dec 1970, PDF p. 26]
13 Dec 24:00	Summary: as above [2/5 ComdC Dec 1970, PDF p. 26]
14 Dec 10:00	Golf 2/1 located 300 lb of rice at grid 111381 [2/5 ComdC Dec 1970, PDF p. 26]
14 Dec 24:00	Summary: as above (Echo's 14 December cache: 400 AK rounds, 3,000 pull-friction charges, 1,500 fuses, mortar rounds, 7 bangalore torpedoes, 100 ChiComs, 45 lb TNT, a Russian flag and an NVA flag, 3,200 ft of det cord) [2/5 ComdC Dec 1970, PDF p. 26]
15 Dec 10:00	Golf 2/1 received small-arms and M-79 fire from a treeline at grid 110384; returned fire — two VC/NVA detainees [2/5 ComdC Dec 1970, PDF p. 27]
15 Dec 24:00	Summary: as above [2/5 ComdC Dec 1970, PDF p. 27]
16 Dec 24:00	Summary: as above (Hotel returned to Baldy for rehabilitation; OPCON to 2/5) [2/5 ComdC Dec 1970, PDF p. 27]
16 Dec	Hotel moved from Not stated to Baldy Combat Base (LZ Baldy) (BT 131 453) (means not stated). Hotel returned to Baldy and to 2/5. (From the monthly “by Company” summary, written from the chronology page images.) [2/5 ComdC Dec 1970, PDF p. 8]
17 Dec 12:00	H&S detained 2 VC/NVA at grid 128447 [2/5 ComdC Dec 1970, PDF p. 28]
17 Dec 13:00	Returned to a base camp found earlier; it had practically been rebuilt, with animal pens, additional caves, cooking utensils and documents [2/5 ComdC Dec 1970, PDF p. 28]
17 Dec 24:00	Summary: as above (Golf 2/1 chopped back to 2/1) [2/5 ComdC Dec 1970, PDF p. 28]
18 Dec 24:00	Summary: as above (chronology: Hotel's 2nd Platoon reaction force near BT 112452 on a Golf CUPP sighting; Golf CUPP swept the treeline and found three VC/NVA KIA) [2/5 ComdC Dec 1970, PDF p. 28]
19 Dec 24:00	Summary: as above [2/5 ComdC Dec 1970, PDF p. 29]

Date	Activity / Events
20 Dec 24:00	Summary: as above (Hotel and the battalion CP inserted in the western Que Son Mountains near Hill 848 (AT 979409) and Hill 510 (AT 945405); Echo chopped back to 2/5) [2/5 ComdC Dec 1970, PDF p. 29]
20 Dec 24:00	Battalion moved from Last reported position (BT 112 452) to Hill 510 (AT 945 405) by helicopter. Summary: as above (Hotel and the battalion CP inserted in the western Que Son Mountains near Hill 848 (AT 979409) and Hill 510 (AT 945405); Echo chopped back to 2/5). Starting point is Battalion's last reported position (18 Dec 2400), not stated in this entry. [2/5 ComdC Dec 1970, PDF p. 29; U.S. Marines in Vietnam · Vietnamization and Redeployment, 1, PDF p. 461]
21 Dec 01:20	Report of incoming at LZ Baldy [2/5 ComdC Dec 1970, PDF p. 30]
21 Dec 13:00	At the perimeter of LZ Baldy bunker four observed seven figures; small arms and illumination — Negative [2/5 ComdC Dec 1970, PDF p. 30]
21 Dec 24:00	Summary: as above [2/5 ComdC Dec 1970, PDF p. 30]
22 Dec 24:00	Summary: as above [2/5 ComdC Dec 1970, PDF p. 31]
23 Dec 24:00	Summary: as above [2/5 ComdC Dec 1970, PDF p. 31]
24 Dec 18:00	Christmas truce from 241800H [2/5 ComdC Dec 1970, PDF p. 32]
24 Dec 24:00	Summary: as above [2/5 ComdC Dec 1970, PDF p. 32]
24–25 Dec	Hot Christmas meal for about 300 men in the field; Midnight Mass on Christmas Eve. [2/5 ComdC Dec 1970, PDF p. 1]
25 Dec 20:17	Summary: Christmas truce was observed during this period without incident [2/5 ComdC Dec 1970, PDF p. 32]
26 Dec 24:00	Summary: as above [2/5 ComdC Dec 1970, PDF p. 33]
27 Dec 24:00	Summary: as above [2/5 ComdC Dec 1970, PDF p. 33]
28 Dec 24:00	Summary: as above [2/5 ComdC Dec 1970, PDF p. 34]
29 Dec 24:00	Summary: as above [2/5 ComdC Dec 1970, PDF p. 35]
30 Dec 24:00	Summary: as above (with elements of Golf CUPP) [2/5 ComdC Dec 1970, PDF p. 35]
31 Dec 18:00	From 1800 to 2400 the New Year's truce was observed without incident [2/5 ComdC Dec 1970, PDF p. 36]
31 Dec 24:00	Summary: as above [2/5 ComdC Dec 1970, PDF p. 36]

5. Notes and Caveats

This file was built on 22 November 2026 in the same format as the Company H reports, directly from the checked, page-cited transcriptions of the 2nd Battalion, 5th Marines command chronologies. The notes below record its sources and where the record is thin.

1. SOURCE. The entries come from 2/5 Command Chronology Dec 1970 (Texas Tech University Vietnam Archive item 1201049004); U.S. Marines in Vietnam · Vietnamization and Redeployment, 1970–1971.

2. HOW IT WAS COMPILED. H&S 2/5 is recorded in the chronology under several names: H&S, H&S (Bn CP), Bn CP, the 106mm section and the S-2 and S-5 sections. All are combined here. Because H&S was the battalion headquarters, every battalion-level entry not tied to a rifle company is included too. Entries are listed in date and time order, each with the page of the chronology it was read from; entries naming only Echo, Foxtrot, Golf or Hotel are left out.

3. COMMANDER. Company and battalion commanders are taken from the monthly organisation data (Section I of each chronology) as recorded in the battalion leadership ledger.

4. CASUALTIES. Casualty figures are not totalled here. Individual losses appear in the entries as recorded; for authoritative totals see the casualty tables in the original chronology.

5. ORIGINALS. National Archives and Records Administration, Record Group 127, Records of the United States Marine Corps. For full records contact National Archives II, 8601 Adelphi Road, College Park MD 20740, or Marine Corps History Division, Quantico VA 22134.

6. Sources

This document was compiled from the following primary and secondary sources:

PRIMARY SOURCES

— 2/5 Command Chronology Dec 1970 (Texas Tech University Vietnam Archive item 1201049004)

— U.S. Marines in Vietnam · Vietnamization and Redeployment, 1970–1971

— 2nd Battalion, 5th Marines Command Chronology for December 1970, as published on hotel25vv.com (Battalion Chronology page): https://hotel25vv.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/06/1970December-2-5CommandChronology.pdf

SECONDARY SOURCES

— Cosmas, Graham A. and Terrence P. Murray. U.S. Marines in Vietnam: Vietnamization and Redeployment, 1970–1971. History and Museums Division, HQMC, 1986.

— “2/5 Battalion Chronology.” Hotel 2/5 Combat Marines. https://hotel25vv.com/vietnam-war-chronology/battalion-chronology