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

JANUARY 1971 — HILL 510

Compiled from the 2/5 Command Chronology for January 1971

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 January 1971
Commander	1stLt L. B. Hagel (1–28 January); 1stLt J. A. Messerschmidt (28–31 January)
Higher HQ	2nd Battalion, 5th Marines (LtCol T. M. Hamlin); 5th Marines; 1st Marine Division
Area of Operations	Hill 510, Baldy Combat Base (LZ Baldy)
Combat Posture	Security, movement and support (no combat entry recorded)
Base of Operations	Hill 510
Corps Area	I Corps Tactical Zone, Republic of Vietnam

2. Commander's Summary

H&S Company’s entries for January 1971 place it most often at or near Hill 510 (5 of 7 entries with a named place or grid), and also at Baldy Combat Base (LZ Baldy).

H&S Company was commanded by 1stLt L. B. Hagel (1–28 January); 1stLt J. A. Messerschmidt (28–31 January); the battalion by LtCol T. M. Hamlin (1–31 January).

For January 1971 this report lists 20 entries (17 organization, 2 logistics, 1 personnel): 0 naming H&S or one of its sections (the battalion command post, the 106mm section, S-2, S-5), and 20 battalion-level entries recorded by the battalion headquarters.

On 10 January 1971: The command helicopter carrying the battalion XO, the Echo CO and the Golf CO landed to evacuate the casualties; on the way to them the XO set off a booby trap — Battalion XO (Maj Cornelius H.

On 11 January 1971: The battalion 81mm mortars fired on 3 VC/NVA at BT 119467 for a Golf CUPP unit — 1 VC/NVA KIA.

On 21 January 1971: Company B 1/5 found nine AK-47s, AK magazines, a U.S.

3. Operations Overview

Operation / Activity	Dates	Description
Operation Imperial Lake	1 Sep 1970 – 7 May 1971	Battalion CP on Hill 510 (AT 945405) all month continuing Operation Imperial Lake; rear at Baldy Combat Base (BT 132453)

4. Chronology of H&S Company Activities

Compiled from the checked transcriptions of the 2/5 command chronology for January 1971 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 Jan 18:00	New Year truce observed without incident [2/5 ComdC Jan 1971, PDF p. 13]
1 Jan	Battalion CP on Hill 510 (AT 945405) all month continuing Operation Imperial Lake; rear at Baldy Combat Base (BT 132453) [2/5 ComdC Jan 1971, PDF p. 12]
January day unstated	Sergeant Major's quarters burned down. [2/5 ComdC Jan 1971, PDF p. 11]
January days unstated	Two memorial services. [2/5 ComdC Jan 1971, PDF p. 5]
January days unstated	Ten truckloads of equipment to the Da Nang staging area for embarkation. [2/5 ComdC Jan 1971, PDF p. 11]
8 Jan 12:00	Company D 1/5 OPCON to 2/5 [2/5 ComdC Jan 1971, PDF p. 17]
10 Jan 09:15	The command helicopter carrying the battalion XO, the Echo CO and the Golf CO landed to evacuate the casualties; on the way to them the XO set off a booby trap — Battalion XO (Maj Cornelius H. Ram) and Echo CO (Capt Douglas O. Ford) died of shrapnel wounds (journal PDF 32; Virtual Wall) [2/5 ComdC Jan 1971, PDF p. 17]
10 Jan 13:40	Company B 1/5 relieved Company D 1/5 in place under 2/5 [2/5 ComdC Jan 1971, PDF p. 17]
11 Jan	Company B 1/5's 1st Platoon found a LAAW and two bandoleers of M-79 rounds at AT 955417 [2/5 ComdC Jan 1971, PDF p. 18]
11 Jan	The battalion 81mm mortars fired on 3 VC/NVA at BT 119467 for a Golf CUPP unit — 1 VC/NVA KIA [2/5 ComdC Jan 1971, PDF p. 18]

Date	Activity / Events
14 Jan	Company B 1/5's 1st Platoon found an SKS, 9 RPG rounds, ordnance and medical equipment in a base camp at AT 958411 [2/5 ComdC Jan 1971, PDF p. 18]
16 Jan	Company B 1/5 found an SKS, ordnance, an AK-47 and a Singer sewing machine at AT 963412 and a large ordnance cache at BT 161400 [2/5 ComdC Jan 1971, PDF p. 19]
16 Jan	Company B 1/5's 2nd Platoon found a base camp with ordnance and documents at AT 968425 [2/5 ComdC Jan 1971, PDF p. 19]
17 Jan	Company B 1/5 at AT 963412-965413: 70 pairs of utilities, 10 bundles of uniform cloth, an AK-47, M-1 carbine, M-16, 115 lb rice, bottles of penicillin, a Russian rocket sight and a Mitsubishi sewing machine [2/5 ComdC Jan 1971, PDF p. 19]
21 Jan	Company B 1/5 found nine AK-47s, AK magazines, a U.S. antitank mine and 75 lb of rice [2/5 ComdC Jan 1971, PDF p. 20]
24 Jan	Company B 1/5 found a .45 pistol, ordnance, documents and food in a base camp at AT 962428 [2/5 ComdC Jan 1971, PDF p. 21]
26 Jan 18:00	Tet truce observed without incident to 1800 on 27 January [2/5 ComdC Jan 1971, PDF p. 21]
27 Jan	The 81mm mortars and 106 RR platoon fired for Golf CUPP 6 — 4 VC/NVA KIA [2/5 ComdC Jan 1971, PDF p. 21]
30 Jan	Companies F and H deployed in the lowlands around Baldy on intelligence of an enemy offensive; rear on advanced alert — No enemy action [2/5 ComdC Jan 1971, PDF p. 22]
31 Jan 10:00	Company A 1/5 relieved Company B 1/5 under 2/5 [2/5 ComdC Jan 1971, PDF p. 22]

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 Jan 1971 (Texas Tech University Vietnam Archive item 1201049005).

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 Jan 1971 (Texas Tech University Vietnam Archive item 1201049005)

— 2nd Battalion, 5th Marines Command Chronology for January 1971, as published on hotel25vv.com (Battalion Chronology page): https://hotel25vv.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/06/1971January-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

Document prepared for historical research purposes. For authoritative casualty figures, unit rosters, and engagement details, consult original 2/5 Command Chronology records at NARA RG 127. | H&S Company, 2/5 Marines, January 1971