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

FEBRUARY 1971 — HILL 381

Compiled from the 2/5 Command Chronology for February 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	1–28 February 1971
Commander	1stLt J. A. Messerschmidt (1–28 February)
Higher HQ	2nd Battalion, 5th Marines (LtCol T. M. Hamlin); 5th Marines; 1st Marine Division
Area of Operations	Hill 381, Baldy Combat Base (LZ Baldy), Hill 34 (Da Nang), Ly Ly Bridge
Combat Posture	Security, movement and support (no combat entry recorded)
Base of Operations	Hill 381
Corps Area	I Corps Tactical Zone, Republic of Vietnam

2. Commander's Summary

H&S Company’s entries for February 1971 place it most often at or near Hill 381 (5 of 13 entries with a named place or grid), and also at Baldy Combat Base (LZ Baldy), Hill 34 (Da Nang), Ly Ly Bridge.

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

For February 1971 this report lists 21 entries (15 organization, 3 logistics, 2 movement, 1 personnel): 0 naming H&S or one of its sections (the battalion command post, the 106mm section, S-2, S-5), and 21 battalion-level entries recorded by the battalion headquarters.

3. Operations Overview

Operation / Activity	Dates	Description
Operation Imperial Lake	1 Sep 1970 – 7 May 1971	Command group, Echo moved from Western Que Son Mountains to Baldy Combat Base (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 February 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
February days unstated	Three memorial services. [2/5 ComdC Feb-Dec 1971, PDF p. 4]
February day unstated	Baldy cantonment repaired for its next owners. [2/5 ComdC Feb-Dec 1971, PDF p. 10]
4 Feb	Company A 1/5's 2nd Platoon found two AK-47s and 600 lb rice in a base camp at AT 961433 [2/5 ComdC Feb-Dec 1971, PDF p. 16]
5 Feb	Relieved of the bridge security mission at Ly Ly Bridge [2/5 ComdC Feb-Dec 1971, PDF p. 16]
5 Feb	Company A 1/5 found an 82mm mortar with bipod and base plate and 500 lb corn at AT 961432 [2/5 ComdC Feb-Dec 1971, PDF p. 16]
9 Feb 08:45	Company A 1/5 back to the 5th Marines [2/5 ComdC Feb-Dec 1971, PDF p. 12]
9 Feb 09:30	Battalion CP returned to Baldy Combat Base; Echo back under 2/5 [2/5 ComdC Feb-Dec 1971, PDF p. 12]
9 Feb	Command group, Echo moved from Western Que Son Mountains to Baldy Combat Base (BT 131 453) (means not stated). The command post stayed in the western Que Sons for the first week, went back to Baldy on 9 February, and on 13 February relieved 3/5 on Hill 381 (AT 994391), taking control of Operation Imperial Lake with Echo, Kilo 3/5 and Lima 3/5. (From the monthly “by Company” summary, written from the chronology page images.) Destination corrected: on 9 February the command post went back to Baldy; the move to Hill 381 was on 13 February and is a separate entry (February–June 1971 chronology, PDF p. 6). (Checked 18 Nov 2026.) [2/5 ComdC Feb-Dec 1971, PDF p. 6]
13 Feb 10:00	Battalion CP moved to Hill 381 (AT 994391) and took control of Imperial Lake with Echo 2/5, Kilo 3/5 and Lima 3/5 [2/5 ComdC Feb-Dec 1971, PDF p. 12]
13 Feb 10:00	Battalion moved from Not stated to Hill 381 (AT 994 391) (means not stated). Battalion CP moved to Hill 381 (AT 994391) and took control of Imperial Lake with Echo 2/5, Kilo 3/5 and Lima 3/5. [2/5 ComdC Feb-Dec 1971, PDF p. 12]

Date	Activity / Events
After 13 Feb days unstated	A mess on Hill 381 serves two hot meals a day. [2/5 ComdC Feb-Dec 1971, PDF p. 11]
14 Feb 09:20	Relieved of Hill 510; H&S security platoon to the 11th Marines [2/5 ComdC Feb-Dec 1971, PDF p. 17]
15 Feb 10:05	Kilo and Lima 3/5 back to 3/5 [2/5 ComdC Feb-Dec 1971, PDF p. 17]
15 Feb	Relieved of the Ba Ren Bridge security mission [2/5 ComdC Feb-Dec 1971, PDF p. 17]
18 Feb 09:00	Company C 1/5 OPCON to 2/5, inserted near Hill 290 (AT 017409) [2/5 ComdC Feb-Dec 1971, PDF p. 18]
22 Feb	Company C 1/5's 2nd Platoon found two SKS barrels and receivers and an M-1 carbine at AT 008408 [2/5 ComdC Feb-Dec 1971, PDF p. 18]
23 Feb	Company C 1/5 found a base camp at AT 002404 with a ChiCom grenade workshop, a dispensary, living quarters and a K-63 radio [2/5 ComdC Feb-Dec 1971, PDF p. 19]
24 Feb	Company C 1/5 found a body at AT 985408 [2/5 ComdC Feb-Dec 1971, PDF p. 19]
27 Feb	Advance parties of supply, motor transport, S-4 and S-1 moved to Hill 34 for the stand-down (27-28 Feb) [2/5 ComdC Feb-Dec 1971, PDF p. 10]
28 Feb	Company C 1/5's 1st Platoon, led by a Hoi Chanh, found three motorcycles, two bicycles and two bodies at AT 013403 [2/5 ComdC Feb-Dec 1971, PDF p. 19]
28 Feb	Mail room moved to Hill 34 [2/5 ComdC Feb-Dec 1971, PDF p. 19]

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 Feb-Dec 1971 (Texas Tech University Vietnam Archive item 1201049006).

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 Feb-Dec 1971 (Texas Tech University Vietnam Archive item 1201049006)

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