H COMPANY, 2ND BATTALION, 5TH MARINES

JULY 1966 — THE CHU LAI TAOR

Compiled from the 2/5 Command Chronology for 1–31 July 1966

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

1. Unit Overview

Unit Designation	Hotel Company (H Co), 2nd Battalion, 5th Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division
Reporting Period	1–31 July 1966
Commander	Captain R. D. Hughes, commanding Company H
Higher HQ	2nd Battalion, 5th Marines (LtCol Walter Moore); 5th Marines; 1st Marine Division
Area of Operations	Chu Lai TAOR, Quang Tin Province — the Hill 35 sector, the ground between Hills 69 and 35, Hill 22 and the observation posts on Hills 270, 227 and 41
Combat Posture	Offensive — patrolling, ambushing, observation posts, cordon and search, and route and resupply security inside the TAOR
Base of Operations	Company command post at BT 435079, later BT 435076 and BT 433076 (Hill 35 sector); battalion CP on Hill 69 (BT 464072)
Corps Area	I Corps Tactical Zone, Republic of Vietnam

2. Commander's Summary

“During the month of July the battalion was involved in a variety of activities within the TAOR as well as outside the TAOR,” the chronology begins. An observation post was inserted on Hill 270 for 360 hours and produced eight sightings; further OPs went in on Hills 227 and 41 with negative results. A half-day cordon of the Ky Khuong complex, in the ground between Hills 69, 35 and 76, brought in 76 VC suspects for screening.

Hotel Company, now under Captain R. D. Hughes, worked the Hill 35 sector. Its resupply had to be run into Thanh Tru (1) by amphibian tractor rather than by helicopter, which eased the helicopter load and, the battalion noted, “provided a show of force in the area between Hill 69 and 76.” On Hill 22 the company used LVTs firing line charges to clear fields of fire and blow mines and booby traps — the same technique its platoons used on suspected areas at BT 422072 and BT 423070 on 8 July, which set off three secondary explosions.

The month's sharpest Hotel Company action came early: on 6 July a platoon on a search-and-destroy sweep caught two VC in an ambush site at BT 407102, opened fire and killed both, taking an M-1 rifle,

a French submachine gun, hand grenades and other equipment. The same day another platoon screened 27 villagers and turned four suspects over to the interrogation team. Work with the Combined Action Squad at Ly Tin continued, with weapons and marksmanship instruction and the training of two Popular Forces corpsmen.

3. Operations Overview

Operation / Activity	Dates	Description
TAOR observation posts	July 1966	An OP was inserted on Hill 270 for 360 hours, producing eight sightings; additional OPs on Hills 227 and 41 produced none. Hotel Company provided fire team security for the Hill 270 post.
Cordon of the Ky Khuong complex	July 1966	A half-day cordon and search of the Ky Khuong complex in the ground between Hills 69, 35 and 76; 76 VC suspects were apprehended and forwarded to the interrogation-translation team.
LVT operations and route security	July 1966	Resupply of Hotel Company at Thanh Tru (1) was run by amphibian tractor to ease the helicopter resupply load and to show force between Hills 69 and 76. On Hill 22 the company used LVT line charges to clear fields of fire and detonate mines and booby traps.
Helicopter-borne sweep, 10 July	10 July 1966	Platoons of Hotel Company with a command group were helilifted to BT 375050 to check suspected VC locations reported by a reconnaissance team; the sweep of the valley at BT 377053 found caves, huts and a grenade rigged with a pressure-type firing device.

4. Chronology of Company H Activities

Compiled from the commander's narrative summary and the chronological sequence of events in the 2/5 command chronology for 1–31 July 1966. Only entries naming Company H, or bearing directly on it, are listed.

Date	Activity / Events
1–5 Jul	Patrolling, ambushing and security in the Hill 35 sector; the company command post is recorded at BT 435079. Observation posts were inserted on Hills 270, 227 and 41.
6 Jul	At 060814H a Hotel Company platoon on a search-and-destroy sweep observed two VC in an ambush site at BT 407102, opened fire and killed both, capturing an M-1 rifle, a French submachine gun, hand grenades and other articles. At 061630H a platoon patrol on a sweep in the area of BT 421102 and BT 409097 apprehended 27

Date	Activity / Events
	Vietnamese for screening; four suspects were detained and forwarded to the interrogation-translation team.
8 Jul	At 081200H the 2nd Platoon on a search-and-destroy sweep fired four line charges from LVTs at BT 422072 and BT 423070 to clear suspected areas; three secondary explosions followed.
10 Jul	Platoons of Hotel Company with a command group were helilifted to BT 375050 to check suspected VC locations reported by a reconnaissance team. At 101445H a Hotel Company platoon sweeping the suspect valley at BT 377053 found several caves and huts and an M-26 grenade rigged with a pressure-type triggering device.
Mid-Jul	Cordon and search of the Ky Khuong complex — half a day, 76 VC suspects apprehended. Resupply of the company at Thanh Tru (1) by LVT. Continued work with the Combined Action Squad at Ly Tin, including weapons and marksmanship instruction and the training of two Popular Forces corpsmen.
21 Jul	A tank patrol from Hotel Company moving through underbrush at BT 441043 detonated a booby-trapped M-26 hand grenade rigged with a trip wire — one Marine wounded, non-evacuated, from the security patrol with the tanks. A Marine from the fire team providing security on Hill 270 was evacuated for illness.
31 Jul	At 310710H a Hotel Company patrol apprehended a female VC suspect at BT 425096; she had been picked up, screened and released earlier in the month. The company command post is recorded at BT 433076 at the close of the period.

5. Notes and Caveats

This file was rewritten on 19 September 2026 directly from the 2nd Battalion, 5th Marines command chronologies. The notes below record what changed and where the record is thin.

1. SOURCE. The 2/5 command chronology for 1–31 July 1966 (Texas Tech item 1201048071). Its cover letter gives the period as 1–11 July, but the enclosure and the narrative cover the whole month.

2. OPERATION MACON REMOVED. The earlier version of this file had Hotel Company committed to Operation Macon in the An Hoa area from 4 July, patrolling south of the Thu Bon River. Macon was a 1st Battalion, 9th Marines operation around An Hoa in Quang Nam Province. Throughout July 1966 the 2/5 chronology places this battalion, and Hotel Company, in the Chu Lai TAOR in Quang Tin Province, some 60 kilometres to the south-east. Hotel Company did not reach An Hoa until 23 November 1966. All the Macon entries have been removed.

3. COMMANDER. Captain R. D. Hughes commanded Hotel Company throughout July, having relieved 1stLt J. J. Doherty on 26 June 1966.

4. GRID REFERENCES. The company command post appears at BT 435079, BT 435076 and BT 433076 during the month — the Hill 35 sector. Contact grids run north and west of it. Readings are taken from a poor carbon copy and a few are uncertain.

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

— 2nd Battalion, 5th Marines Command Chronology for the period 1–31 July 1966 (Texas Tech University Vietnam Archive item 1201048071).

— Daily CP location reports filed with the same chronology, which give the Company H command post grids for the month.

SECONDARY SOURCES

— Shulimson, Jack and Charles M. Johnson. U.S. Marines in Vietnam: An Expanding War, 1966. History and Museums Division, HQMC, 1982.

— “Hotel Company.” Hotel 2/5 Combat Marines. https://hotel25vv.com/hotel-company

— Related files in this collection: H_Co_2-5_Marines_1966-08_August.docx.

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. | Hotel Company, 2/5 Marines, July 1966