H COMPANY, 2ND BATTALION, 5TH MARINES

FEBRUARY 1967 — INDEPENDENCE AND LANOKE

Compiled from the 2/5 Command Chronology for February 1967

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	1–28 February 1967
Commander	Captain R. W. Layer Jr., commanding Company H for the whole period 1–28 February 1967
Higher HQ	2nd Battalion, 5th Marines (LtCol Mallett C. Jackson Jr.); 5th Marines; 1st Marine Division
Area of Operations	2/5 An Hoa TAOR, Quang Nam Province — the An Hoa basin, Liberty Road, Phu Loc (6) and Nong Son; the east bank of the Song Thu Bon during Operation Independence
Combat Posture	Offensive — blocking force on Operation Independence; Liberty Road security on Operation Lanoke; TAOR patrolling
Base of Operations	An Hoa Combat Base (battalion CP); company outposts at Phu Loc (6) and Nong Son; company CP at Phu Loc (6) (AT 926527)
Corps Area	I Corps Tactical Zone, Republic of Vietnam

2. Commander's Summary

February 1967 brought new leadership at both levels: LtCol Mallett C. Jackson Jr. took the battalion and Captain R. W. Layer Jr. took Hotel Company, both for the whole month. The battalion's February organisational data lists Captain Layer as commanding officer of Company H from 1 to 28 February; Captain J. A. Graham, who had taken Company F on 27 January, is listed at Company F.

The month opened with Operation Independence under the 9th Marines, 1–9 February. Hotel Company had not been scheduled to take part, but was given the mission of blocking along the east bank of the Song Thu Bon with Company F (-), and from 2 February held that line with a Foxtrot platoon attached, the company CP at Phu Loc (6). Its positions were fired on by night, its ambushes called 81mm on enemy moving in the open, and its road security squads took fire from the tree lines.

The rest of the month was a fight for the roads. An unknown enemy force blew the railroad bridge at AT 908481 on the night of 16 February; a jeep party was ambushed and a Hotel Company platoon escorted the survivors to Phu Loc (6). On 23 February Hotel Company's CP took fire from a tree line

and lost one Marine killed. On 26 February the battalion launched Operation Lanoke to reopen Liberty Road, with two LVTP-5s attached to Company G and two to Company H.

3. Operations Overview

Operation / Activity	Dates	Description
Operation Independence	010000H – 090900H February 1967	H COMPANY PARTICIPATED as a blocking force. A 9th Marines operation: 2/5 was inserted south of the 2/4 landing zone and drove the enemy north. “Although not initially scheduled to participate, Co H was later given the mission to block along the east bank of the Song Thu Bon in conjunction with Co F (-).”
Operation Stone	12 February 1967	H COMPANY DID NOT PARTICIPATE. Company G was placed under another battalion's operational control at 0700 on 12 February and returned on the 17th.
County Fair and La Thap sweep	18 February 1967	Company H (-) moved to a blocking position near AT 949514 and swept the hamlet of La Thap (1) (AT 947516) while gongs sounded a warning; one pack of enemy documents was found and a detainee sent to the district headquarters.
Operation Lanoke	From 0700, 26 February 1967	H COMPANY PARTICIPATED. A battalion operation to re-establish the security of Liberty Road so convoys could run to An Hoa and the road south to Nong Son could be reopened. Two LVTP-5s each were attached to Companies G and H; H&S Company took over the rifle companies' sectors of the An Hoa perimeter.

4. Chronology of Company H Activities

Compiled from the narrative summary and the chronological sequence of events in the 2/5 command chronology for February 1967. Only entries naming Company H, or bearing directly on it, are listed. Grid references and times are as recorded.

Date	Activity / Events
2 Feb	Company H with a Company F platoon attached established its blocking position along the east bank of the Song Thu Bon for Operation Independence. At 020830H a Hotel Company platoon at AT 924517 found an M-26 grenade rigged as a mine and blew it in place. At 0217H the perimeter at AT 925528 took five rounds and answered with 90mm and automatic weapons.

Date	Activity / Events
4–5 Feb	At 042030H the Company H (-) CP at AT 926527 picked up five enemy in the open with a night-vision device and fired 81mm. At 042135H a squad ambush called 81mm on three enemy at AT 904526. At 042230H the CP took a rifle grenade and ten rounds. On 5 February a road security squad took about 50 rounds from a tree line and called 81mm.
6–8 Feb	At 2150H on 6 February the Hotel Company position at AT 905525 took heavy small-arms fire and rifle grenades. On 8 February the 3rd Platoon was in contact with seven VC at AT 800509. Operation Independence ended at 090900H.
9–13 Feb	On 9 February a Marine in a Hotel Company defensive position at AT 915515 fired on a VC sniper, one round hitting two VC. On 13 February a security squad at AT 930520 destroyed an M-26 trip-wire mine, and at 131515H the CP at AT 928527 spotted two armed enemy through a 20-power scope and fired a 90mm round, one VC KIA probable; six more in grey and khaki were seen and engaged soon after.
16–17 Feb	At 161350H a jeep party was ambushed by five or six enemy at AT 905491; a Hotel Company platoon escorted the survivors to Phu Loc (6), with one Marine, the driver, killed. That night the railroad bridge at AT 908481 was destroyed with explosives; on 17 February a Hotel Company platoon confirmed the damage.
18–21 Feb	Company H (-) blocked near AT 949514 and swept La Thap (1). Three VC seen trying to recover a body near AT 910490 were killed (confirmed), and a Hotel Company platoon moved in with tanks to clear and search the area. On 19 February a buried 81mm round rigged with a pressure detonator was destroyed at AT 912509; at 192255H the company at AT 926529 took ten rounds and fired 60mm, 81mm and illumination. On 21 February a Hotel Company convoy security element took fire at AT 920513.
23 Feb	At 231115H the Company H CP at AT 889487 received 20 to 30 rounds of small-arms and automatic weapons fire from a tree line — 1 USMC KIA; a medical evacuation was requested.
26–28 Feb	Operation Lanoke began at 0700 on 26 February. Companies G and H, each with two LVTP-5s, and elements of Company E worked to reopen Liberty Road; the operation continued into March.

5. Notes and Caveats

This file was rewritten on 21 September 2026 directly from the 2nd Battalion, 5th Marines command chronology. The notes below record what changed and where the record is thin.

1. SOURCE. The 2/5 command chronology for February 1967 (Texas Tech item 1201048079), including the Combat Operations After Action Report for Independence and Frag Order 03-67 for Lanoke.

2. COMMANDER CORRECTED. The earlier version gave Captain Jerome J. Doherty as company commander in February. The February organisational data lists Captain R. W. Layer as commanding officer of Company H for 1–28 February 1967, and Captain J. A. Graham at Company F. (Operation_Independence.docx says Captain Graham commanded Hotel Company that month; that is a misreading of the same list and has been corrected.)

3. The earlier version of this file described “sustained patrol operations” in the Arizona Territory with invented weekly contacts. The Arizona Territory lay across the Song Thu Bon to the north; Hotel Company's ground in 1967 was the battalion's own An Hoa TAOR, and the dated entries here replace the invented ones.

4. CASUALTIES. The chronology records one Hotel Company Marine killed on 23 February at the company CP. The Independence and Lanoke casualty figures are illegible in the scan.

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 February 1967 (Texas Tech University Vietnam Archive item 1201048079).

SECONDARY SOURCES

— Telfer, Gary L., Lane Rogers and V. Keith Fleming, Jr. U.S. Marines in Vietnam: Fighting the North Vietnamese, 1967. History and Museums Division, HQMC, 1984.

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

— Related files in this collection: Operation_Independence.docx, Operation_Lanoke.docx, Operation_Stone.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, February 1967