H COMPANY, 2ND BATTALION, 5TH MARINES

MARCH 1967 — RAIDS AND OPERATION NEW CASTLE

Compiled from the 2/5 Command Chronology for March 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	1–31 March 1967
Commander	Captain R. W. Layer Jr., commanding Company H for the whole period 1–31 March 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
Combat Posture	Offensive — company raids with tanks and amphibian tractors; Phu Loc (6) outpost; Operation New Castle support
Base of Operations	An Hoa Combat Base (battalion CP); company outposts at Phu Loc (6) and Nong Son
Corps Area	I Corps Tactical Zone, Republic of Vietnam

2. Commander's Summary

March 1967 was a month of company raids. Hotel Company, under Captain R. W. Layer Jr. for the whole month, went out from An Hoa with tanks, Ontos and amphibian tractors against the fortified hamlets of the basin. On 4 March it moved north from the combat base with tanks and LVTP-5s in an amphibious raid on Giang Hoa (2) (AT 890520); on 11 March it raided La Thap (1) (AT 945517) with tanks, Ontos, LVTP-5s and LVTE-1 line-charge vehicles, with the mission of destroying the enemy's fortifications.

On 16 March Hotel Company relieved Company E at the Phu Loc (6) outpost, freeing Echo to become the battalion's manoeuvre company. From there its platoons patrolled the approaches: at 1500 on 17 March a Hotel Company platoon combat patrol at AT 933507 took fire from an enemy squad, and that day another patrol found a booby-trapped punji pit. “Vigorous patrolling by squad and platoon sized units continued to produce a good kill ratio,” the battalion wrote.

The battalion's operation that month was New Castle, 22–25 March, a crossing of the Song Thu Bon by LVT against NVA and VC troops who were fought at close quarters from 23 to 25 March; 79 enemy

were counted killed. The chronology's narrative names Companies E, F and H, but its daily list shows Hotel Company patrolling around Phu Loc (6) while “E and F continue with Operation Newcastle.” The likeliest reading is that Hotel supported the operation from its outpost rather than crossing with the assault companies.

3. Operations Overview

Operation / Activity	Dates	Description
Amphibious raid on Giang Hoa (2)	4 March 1967	Company H moved north from An Hoa Combat Base with tanks and LVTP-5s in an amphibious raid against Giang Hoa (2) (AT 890520).
Raid on La Thap (1)	11 March 1967	Company H raided La Thap (1) (AT 945517) with tanks, Ontos, LVTP-5s and LVTE-1s, to destroy enemy fortifications.
Phu Loc (6) outpost	16–31 March 1967	Company H relieved Company E at Phu Loc (6) on 16 March and held the outpost for the rest of the month, patrolling and ambushing the approaches.
Operation New Castle	220630H – 25 March 1967	H COMPANY ROLE UNCERTAIN. Companies E and F crossed the Song Thu Bon by LVT and fought at close quarters from 23 to 25 March; 79 enemy KIA confirmed. The narrative names Company H, but the daily entries place it at Phu Loc (6).

4. Chronology of Company H Activities

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

Date	Activity / Events
4 Mar	At 040900H Company H moved north from An Hoa Combat Base with tanks and LVTP-5s in an amphibious raid against Giang Hoa (2) (AT 890520). At the extraction from the banks of the Song Thu Bon the company took fire.
11 Mar	Company H raided the hamlet of La Thap (1) (AT 945517), supported by tanks, Ontos, LVTP-5s and LVTE-1s, to destroy fortifications.
16 Mar	Company H relieved Company E at Phu Loc (6); Company E moved to An Hoa as the battalion manoeuvre company.
17 Mar	At 1500 a Hotel Company platoon combat patrol at AT 933507 took fire from an enemy squad; a flanking movement found no sign of the enemy. At 170810H a platoon patrol at AT 940527 found a punji pit booby-trapped with an M-26 grenade and blew it in place; at 171000H a squad patrol at AT 907512 took an M-79 round from VC

Date	Activity / Events
	entering a tree line and returned 60 rounds. About 30 VC were later hit by artillery near La Thap (2).
22–25 Mar	Operation New Castle. Companies E and F crossed the Song Thu Bon and fought NVA and VC at close quarters on 23–25 March; the daily entries show Hotel Company patrolling around Phu Loc (6).
26–31 Mar	Hotel Company held Phu Loc (6), patrolling and ambushing. Operation Lanoke's road-security work continued along Liberty Road.

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 March 1967 (Texas Tech item 1201048081).

2. 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.

3. NEW CASTLE. The chronology is internally inconsistent on Hotel Company's part in New Castle; see Operation_New_Castle.docx for the full discussion. This file follows the day-by-day entries.

4. COMMANDER. The March organisational data lists Captain R. W. Layer as commanding officer of Company H for 1–31 March 1967. The old file named Captain Doherty.

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 March 1967 (Texas Tech University Vietnam Archive item 1201048081).

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_New_Castle.docx, Operation_Lanoke.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, March 1967