# H COMPANY, 2ND BATTALION, 5TH MARINES

## APRIL 1967 — NONG SON

*Compiled from the 2/5 Command Chronology for April 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** | 1–30 April 1967 |
| **Commander** | Captain R. W. Layer Jr., commanding Company H for the whole period 1–30 April 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; from mid-April the Nong Son combat base and coal-mine area |
| **Combat Posture** | Offensive — Nong Son outpost security, cave and village searches, a County Fair |
| **Base of Operations** | Nong Son Combat Base; An Hoa Combat Base (battalion CP) |
| **Corps Area** | I Corps Tactical Zone, Republic of Vietnam |

## 2. Commander's Summary

In April 1967 Hotel Company went south to Nong Son, the combat base guarding the coal mine at the southern end of the battalion's TAOR. Captain R. W. Layer Jr. commanded the whole month. The battalion's named operation, Dixie (7–10 April), was fought by Companies F and G with an H&S detachment and an Echo Sparrow Hawk platoon; Hotel Company was not part of it. On 6 April the company carried out Golden Fleece rice-harvest protection, and on 19 April a County Fair at Ninh Binh (3) (AT 824375).

From Nong Son the company searched the river banks and hills. It found a cave hidden along a river bank and cleared it with CS grenades; later it found two large caves, one 30 metres and one 100 metres long, holding an M-60 machine gun among other equipment; and on 29 April a combat patrol found a cave with 20 gas masks and 10 VC packs. “Company H remained at Nong Son” through a period, 11–20 April, when the battalion saw “many indications of increased enemy activity about the TAOR.”

On 21–22 April the company made a two-day search and destroy operation through a known fortified VC village at AT 792352. Snipers with telescopic sights fired on the Marines and were silenced by supporting arms and close air support; the sweep through the enemy positions netted three VC killed by body count, two K-44 rifles and one wounded VC captured.

## 3. Operations Overview

| Operation / Activity | Dates | Description |
|---|---|---|
| **Golden Fleece (rice protection)** | 6 April 1967 | Company H conducted a Golden Fleece harvest-protection operation. |
| **Operation Dixie** | 071000H – 101600H April 1967 | H COMPANY DID NOT PARTICIPATE. Companies F and G with an H&S detachment and a Company E Sparrow Hawk platoon attacked through fortified, mined hamlets. See Operation_Dixie.docx. |
| **County Fair, Ninh Binh (3)** | 19 April 1967 | Company H conducted County Fair 5-15 at Ninh Binh (3) (AT 824375). |
| **Search and destroy, fortified village AT 792352** | 21–22 April 1967 | A two-day company operation through a known fortified VC village: 3 VC KIA by body count, 2 K-44 rifles captured and one wounded VC taken. |

## 4. Chronology of Company H Activities

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

| Date | Activity / Events |
|---|---|
| **6 Apr** | Company H conducted Golden Fleece rice-protection operation 5-7. |
| **7–10 Apr** | Operation Dixie by Companies F and G; Hotel Company not committed. |
| **11–20 Apr** | Company H at the Nong Son combat base amid many indications of increased enemy activity. Operating in the Nong Son area it found a cave concealed along a river bank and cleared it with CS grenades. |
| **19 Apr** | County Fair 5-15 at Ninh Binh (3) (AT 824375). |
| **21 Apr** | At 211100H a Hotel Company combat patrol at AT 855355 saw about 30 VC in khaki uniforms moving north along a river bank near AT 855371 and called artillery. |
| **21–22 Apr** | Company H's two-day search and destroy operation through the fortified VC village at AT 792352. At 221009H, moving through the hamlet, it took about 40 rounds; snipers with telescopic sights were silenced by supporting arms and close air support. Result: 3 VC KIA (body count), 2 K-44 rifles and 1 VC WIA captured. |

| Date | Activity / Events |
|---|---|
| **Late Apr** | Back in the Nong Son area, Company H found two large caves, one 30 metres and the other 100 metres long, containing an M-60 machine gun and other equipment. |
| **29 Apr** | A Hotel Company combat patrol near Nong Son found a VC cave holding 20 gas masks, 10 VC packs and a package of documents. |

## 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 April 1967 (Texas Tech item 1201048083).

**2.** OPERATION UNION REMOVED. The earlier version had Hotel Company on standby for Operation Union from 21 April. Union was a 5th Marines operation with 1/5 and 3/5; the only 2/5 unit detached to it was Company E in May. Hotel Company was at Nong Son. See Operation_Union_I.docx.

**3.** COMMANDER NAMED. The old file said the April commander was “not confirmed in available sources.” The April organisational data names Captain R. W. Layer for 1–30 April 1967.

**4.** 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.

**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 April 1967 (Texas Tech University Vietnam Archive item 1201048083).

### 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_Dixie.docx, Operation_Union_I.docx.