H COMPANY, 2ND BATTALION, 5TH MARINES

MAY 1967 — ANTENNA VALLEY

Compiled from the 2/5 Command Chronology for May 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 May 1967
Commander	Captain R. W. Layer Jr., commanding Company H for the whole period 1–31 May 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; Antenna Valley (patrol bases on the high ground south of the valley road)
Combat Posture	Offensive — battalion operation in Antenna Valley in support of Operation Union; company patrol bases
Base of Operations	Company patrol base at AT 887385 in Antenna Valley; Nong Son; An Hoa Combat Base
Corps Area	I Corps Tactical Zone, Republic of Vietnam

2. Commander's Summary

In early May 1967 the battalion mounted an unnamed operation in Antenna Valley in support of the 5th Marines' Operation Union, committing Companies E, G and H. Hotel Company, under Captain R. W. Layer Jr., held patrol bases on the high ground south of the valley road while Company G swept the northern edge of the valley.

From its patrol base at AT 887385 the company used the high ground as an observation post and artillery was its weapon. On 5 May it saw five VC at AT 867393 and called a 105mm mission, three VC killed probable; later it saw eight more at AT 866393 and called another, and the sweep found five VC killed. On 4 May Company H (-) called a 105 mission on eight VC from its position on the high ground. Company H (-) later moved off the high ground to Objective 8 (AT 862402) before the companies returned toward the Nong Son combat base.

On 13 May Hotel Company became the battalion's manoeuvre company while Company G took over the defence of Nong Son. On 27 May a Hotel Company platoon patrol “met with major success” on the

western edge of Antenna Valley (AT 869395) while moving to an ambush site. Operation Union II, which followed at the end of the month, was fought by the 5th Marines with 2/5's command group, Company E and Company F; Hotel Company was not committed.

3. Operations Overview

Operation / Activity	Dates	Description
Antenna Valley operation (in support of Union)	Early May 1967	H COMPANY PARTICIPATED. An unnamed battalion operation with Companies E, G and H in Antenna Valley. Hotel Company held a patrol base on the high ground south of the valley road (AT 887385) and directed artillery on enemy in the valley.
Manoeuvre company	From 13 May 1967	Company H assumed the mission of battalion manoeuvre company; Company G took over the defence of Nong Son Combat Base.
Operation Union II	26 May – 5 June 1967	H COMPANY DID NOT PARTICIPATE. 2/5's command group with Companies E and F was committed on 2 June. See Operation_Union_II.docx.

4. Chronology of Company H Activities

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

Date	Activity / Events
2–3 May	Battalion operation in Antenna Valley in support of Operation Union, with Companies E, G and H. Company H took its patrol base on the high ground south of the valley road.
4 May	Company G swept the northern edge of the valley from AT 893399 while Companies E and H held their positions; Company G's lead element was ambushed by 15 VC. Company H (-) observed eight VC from the high ground and called a 105mm mission.
5 May	All companies held their patrol bases — Company E at AT 889398, Company G at AT 916377, Company H at AT 887385. Company H saw five VC at AT 867393 and called a 105 mission, 3 VC KIA probable; it later saw eight VC at AT 866393 and called another, and a sweep of the area found 5 VC KIA. It also observed five VC at AT 910392, and a 105 mission produced further probable kills.
6–8 May	Companies E and G attacked east toward their objectives while Company H held its position; Company H (-) then moved off the high ground to Objective 8 (AT 862402).
13 May	Company H assumed the mission of manoeuvre company; Company G assumed defence of Nong Son Combat Base.

Date	Activity / Events
27 May	A Hotel Company platoon patrol met with major success on the western edge of Antenna Valley (AT 869395) while moving to an ambush site.
26–31 May	Operation Union II began on 26 May under the 5th Marines; Hotel Company was not committed.

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 May 1967 (Texas Tech item 1201048086).

2. OPERATION UNION CORRECTED. The earlier version put Hotel Company in the conclusion of Operation Union (1–16 May) and in Union II. The battalion's Antenna Valley operation was mounted in support of Union, but Hotel Company was not in the 5th Marines' Union operations, and Union II was fought by Companies E and F. See Operation_Union_I.docx and Operation_Union_II.docx.

3. COMMANDER NAMED. Captain R. W. Layer is listed as commanding officer of Company H for 1–31 May 1967.

4. THE 27 MAY PATROL. The chronology calls the western Antenna Valley patrol a “major success”; the detail that follows in the scan is only partly legible and is not reproduced here.

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 May 1967 (Texas Tech University Vietnam Archive item 1201048086).

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_Union_I.docx, Operation_Union_II.docx.