H COMPANY, 2ND BATTALION, 5TH MARINES

SEPTEMBER 1967 — OPERATION SWIFT

Compiled from the 2/5 Command Chronology for September 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 September 1967
Commander	Captain G. W. Bowers, commanding Company H for the whole period 1–30 September 1967
Higher HQ	2nd Battalion, 5th Marines (LtCol George C. McNaughton); 5th Marines; 1st Marine Division; Company H under 5th Marines operational control (with 3/5) for Operation Swift
Area of Operations	2/5 An Hoa TAOR, Quang Nam Province — the An Hoa basin, Liberty Road, Phu Loc (6) and Nong Son; the Que Son Valley, Quang Tin Province (Operation Swift)
Combat Posture	Offensive — Operation Swift, attached to 3/5; company search and destroy operations in the TAOR
Base of Operations	An Hoa Combat Base; in the field with 3/5 during Swift
Corps Area	I Corps Tactical Zone, Republic of Vietnam

2. Commander's Summary

September 1967 was Hotel Company's hardest month since Tuscaloosa. The company was chopped to the operational control of the 5th Marines for Operation Swift in the Que Son Valley and fought under 3/5. “On several occasions Company H engaged in close combat with crack NVA forces and inflicted maximum enemy casualties,” the battalion recorded.

The worst day was 10 September. North-east of Hill 43 the company found a village fortified with bunkers, trenches and wire, empty but for women and children, and moved on. While it was being resupplied its 3rd Platoon walked back into the village, which a reinforced North Vietnamese company had reoccupied; .50-calibre machine guns and 60mm mortars opened up, and 2ndLt Allan J. Herman was killed trying to rescue a wounded Marine. Captain Bowers sent the 2nd Platoon left to cut off the enemy's escape and led the 1st Platoon forward; artillery, gunships, air strikes and tear gas were brought in, and Company H with Company M, 3/5 assaulted and took the village. Nine Hotel Company

Marines were killed, six of them in the paddies in front of the enemy positions; 40 NVA dead were counted above ground.

Back in the TAOR the company ran search and destroy operations: one day into the foothills of Base Area 116 on 6 September, two days south of the Song Thu Bon and west of Liberty Road on 22–23 September, and two more with Company G around La Thap (1) and the Cu Ban hamlets on 24–25 September. From 26 to 29 September it held blocking positions near grid square AT 9653 for Operation Shelbyville.

3. Operations Overview

Operation / Activity	Dates	Description
Operation Swift (Lam Son 289B)	4–15 September 1967	H COMPANY PARTICIPATED — attached. Company H (Capt G. W. Bowers) was chopped to 5th Marines control and served under 3/5; Company M, 3/5 reinforced it on 10 September. 10 September north-east of Hill 43: 9 Hotel Company Marines killed; 40 NVA dead counted.
Company search and destroy operations	6, 22–23 and 24–25 September 1967	A one-day sweep of the valleys in the foothills of Base Area 116; a two-day sweep south of the Song Thu Bon and west of Liberty Road; and a two-day operation with Company G around La Thap (1) and the Cu Bans.
Operation Shelbyville (blocking)	26–29 September 1967	Company H was ordered to grid squares AT 9653 and AT 9652 to hold blocking positions for Operation Shelbyville.

4. Chronology of Company H Activities

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

Date	Activity / Events
4 Sep	Operation Swift began. Company H was chopped to the operational control of the 5th Marines and served under 3/5.
6 Sep	Company H made a one-day company search and destroy operation into the valley system running through the foothills of Base Area 116, where it found about 40 head of unattended cattle near AT 920450 and a herd of 80 to 100 water buffalo.
10 Sep	North-east of Hill 43 Company H found a fortified village and moved on; during resupply its 3rd Platoon re-entered the village and was hit by a reinforced NVA company with .50-calibre machine guns and 60mm mortars. 2ndLt Allan J. Herman

Date	Activity / Events
	was killed. Company H and Company M, 3/5 assaulted and took the village with artillery, gunships, air strikes and CS. 9 Hotel Company Marines killed; 40 NVA dead counted.
15 Sep	Operation Swift ended. Battalion Supply had rushed 130 gas masks to Company H during the operation, and a two-man demolition team went with it.
22–23 Sep	Company H's two-day search and destroy operation south of the Song Thu Bon and west of Liberty Road.
24–25 Sep	Companies G and H with the 2/5 command group and the H&S security platoon swept around La Thap (1) and the Cu Bans (AT 9552). Company G blocked while Company H swept north-east from An Hoa; on the second day both swept west to Phu Loc (6).
26–29 Sep	Company H in blocking positions around grid square AT 9653 for Operation Shelbyville.

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 September 1967 (Texas Tech item 1201048092), with Telfer's official history for the 10 September fight.

2. SWIFT CONFIRMED. The old file listed Swift and the Hill 43 ambush correctly in outline. This version adds the chronology's own words, the casualty figures and the TAOR operations of the rest of the month.

3. COMMANDER NAMED. The September organisational data lists Captain G. W. Bowers for 1–30 September 1967. (Operation_Swift_Lam_Son_289B.docx reads the same list as naming Captain E. G. Dyer for 1–2 September; Captain Dyer's entry is against Company G, and that line has been corrected.)

4. OTHER HOTEL CASUALTIES. The chronology does not give a Hotel Company total for the month beyond the 10 September losses.

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 September 1967 (Texas Tech University Vietnam Archive item 1201048092).

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_Swift_Lam_Son_289B.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, September 1967