# H COMPANY, 2ND BATTALION, 5TH MARINES

## OCTOBER 1967 — PHU NHUAN AND THE LIBERTY ROAD

*Compiled from the 2/5 Command Chronology for October 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 October 1967 |
| **Commander** | Captain G. W. Bowers, commanding Company H for the whole period 1–31 October 1967 |
| **Higher HQ** | 2nd Battalion, 5th Marines (LtCol George C. McNaughton); 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 Phu Nhuan hamlets and western Antenna Valley |
| **Combat Posture** | Offensive — battalion cordon and search operations, patrolling and road security; planning for Essex |
| **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

October 1967 was spent inside the TAOR and on its edges, under Captain G. W. Bowers. The battalion ran a three-day battalion (-) search and destroy operation in western Antenna Valley early in the month, and a battalion (-) cordon and search of Phu Nhuan (8) with Companies E, F and H, the scheme of manoeuvre throwing a cordon around the objective before the sweep.

Mines and booby traps along Liberty Road and the Phu Nhuan hamlets were the constant hazard. On 20 October a Hotel Company patrol had its second man trip a booby trap, probably an M-26 grenade; on 26 October engineers with a Hotel Company security element found and destroyed punji pits, and on 28 October a Hotel Company squad security patrol at AT 927521 found a 20-pound box mine, which was blown in place.

At the end of the month the battalion was planning Operation Essex, the heliborne assault into Antenna Valley that would open on 6 November with Hotel Company landing first at LZ Raven.

## 3. Operations Overview

| Operation / Activity | Dates | Description |
|---|---|---|
| **Western Antenna Valley search and destroy** | Early October 1967 | Three-day battalion (-) operation. |
| **Cordon and search, Phu Nhuan (8)** | October 1967 | Battalion (-) operation with Companies E, F and H and the battalion CP around Phu Nhuan (8). |
| **Liberty Road security and patrolling** | October 1967 | Security patrols with engineer mine-clearing teams along the road and around Phu Loc (6). |
| **Operation Essex planning** | Late October 1967 | Company H (Rein) to make the initial heliborne landing at LZ Raven and secure it for the battalion. |

## 4. Chronology of Company H Activities

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

| Date | Activity / Events |
|---|---|
| **Early Oct** | Three-day battalion (-) search and destroy operation in western Antenna Valley. |
| **Oct** | Battalion (-) cordon and search of Phu Nhuan (8) with Companies E, F and H. |
| **20 Oct** | At 200930H a Hotel Company combat patrol had its second man trip a booby trap, possibly an M-26 grenade; security was set and an LZ secured for the medical evacuation. |
| **26 Oct** | At 260845H a Hotel Company platoon security element with an engineer team found a Marine caught in a punji pit at AT 907494; engineers destroyed the pit. Other mines were found and destroyed along the route. |
| **28 Oct** | At 281250H a Hotel Company squad security patrol at AT 927521 with engineers found a 20-pound box mine, blown in place. |
| **Late Oct** | Planning for Operation Essex: Company H (Rein) to land at L-Hour in LZ Raven and secure it, with Company D, 1/5 landing in trace. |

## 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 October 1967 (Texas Tech items 1201048093 and 1201048094).

**2.** OPERATION MAUI PEAK REMOVED. The earlier version had Hotel Company supporting Operation Maui Peak on 1–19 October 1967. Maui Peak was fought in October 1968, not 1967, and even then without Hotel Company. See Operation_Maui_Peak.docx.

**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.** COMMANDER NAMED. Captain G. W. Bowers is listed for 1–31 October 1967.

**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 October 1967 (Texas Tech University Vietnam Archive item 1201048093).

— Second part of the October 1967 file (Texas Tech item 1201048094).

### 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_Essex.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, October 1967*