H COMPANY, 2ND BATTALION, 5TH MARINES

MARCH 1968 — OPERATION HOUSTON

Compiled from the 2/5 Command Chronology for March 1968

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 1968
Commander	1st Lieutenant W. F. Harvey, 1–2 March 1968; Captain G. H. Larson, 3–17 March 1968; Captain G. D. Hendrickson, 18–31 March 1968
Higher HQ	2nd Battalion, 5th Marines (LtCol Ernest C. Cheatham Jr.); 5th Marines; Task Force X-Ray, 1st Marine Division
Area of Operations	Hue (early March); then Thua Thien Province south of Hue — Phu Bai, the Truoi River bridge, Cao Doi, the Rock Crusher, Phu Gia and Route 1 and the Bach Ma area
Combat Posture	Offensive — end of the Hue fighting, then Operation Houston in the hills and along Route 1
Base of Operations	Cao Doi and the Rock Crusher area (ZD 013025)
Corps Area	I Corps Tactical Zone, Republic of Vietnam

2. Commander's Summary

March 1968 took Hotel Company out of Hue and into the hills. The company had three commanders in the month — 1st Lieutenant W. F. Harvey to 2 March, Captain G. H. Larson from 3 to 17 March, and Captain G. D. Hendrickson from 18 March. On 8 and 9 March a Hotel platoon near YD 790245 was still trading fire with small groups of NVA.

About 10 March the battalion command post and Companies G and H moved from Hue to Cao Doi for Operation Houston. Company G took over security of the Truoi River bridge and Hotel Company moved to the Rock Crusher area (ZD 013025). On 12 March the command group and Companies E, H and G (-) began a seven-day search and destroy operation in the hills and jungle — the battalion's first field operation after a month of street fighting.

From 18 March the battalion pushed into the rugged Bach Ma area. Around the Rock Crusher the local Popular Forces and the CAP worked with Hotel Company: on 24 March a PF patrol reported two satchel charges near a Buddhist temple, and a CAP patrol reported two enemy dead, apparently killed by harassing fire, with a B-40 launcher captured.

3. Operations Overview

Operation / Activity	Dates	Description
Operation Hue City (end)	1–2 March 1968	The operation formally ended on 2 March; 2/5 left Hue about 10 March.
Operation Houston	From about 10 March 1968	H COMPANY PARTICIPATED. 5th Marines, Task Force X-Ray. Company H at the Rock Crusher area; a seven-day battalion search and destroy operation in the hills from 12 March, then into the Bach Ma area from 18 March.

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 1968. Only entries naming Company H, or bearing directly on it, are listed. Grid references and times are as recorded.

Date	Activity / Events
8 Mar	At 080830H a Hotel Company platoon at YD 790245 fired on three NVA in green utilities and bush hats. At 081600H the company at YD 791246 received 30 rounds and three M-79 rounds.
9 Mar	At 090630H a Hotel Company platoon at YD 790246 saw movement to its front and received a grenade.
~10 Mar	The battalion CP and Companies G and H moved from Hue to Cao Doi (ZD 055026). Company G took the Truoi River bridge (YD 967063); Company H moved to the Rock Crusher area (ZD 013025).
12–18 Mar	The command group and Companies E, H and G (-) made a seven-day search and destroy operation in the hills and jungle; the journal shows Company H taking the point for the command group and checking the results of air strikes.
18 Mar	Captain G. D. Hendrickson took command of Company H. The battalion pushed into the Bach Ma area.
24 Mar	At 241600H a Popular Forces patrol reported to Company H two satchel charges near a Buddhist temple at YD 984047; a CAP patrol reported two enemy dead and a captured B-40 launcher at YD 973043.

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 1968 (Texas Tech item 1201048101).

2. The earlier version placed the company on “Arizona Territory patrol operations.” From 13 January to 25 July 1968 the battalion was in Thua Thien Province, around Phu Bai, Hue and Route 1, more than 80 kilometres north of the Arizona Territory. The dated entries here replace the invented ones.

3. COMMANDERS. The March organisational data lists 1stLt W. F. Harvey (1–2 March), Capt G. H. Larson (3–17 March) and Capt G. D. Hendrickson (18–31 March 1968).

4. BACH MA OUTPOST. The battalion kept a platoon outpost on Bach Ma until 17 April; the chronology does not say which company supplied it.

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 1968 (Texas Tech University Vietnam Archive item 1201048101).

SECONDARY SOURCES

— Shulimson, Jack, et al. U.S. Marines in Vietnam: The Defining Year, 1968. History and Museums Division, HQMC, 1997.

— “Hotel Company.” Hotel 2/5 Combat Marines. https://hotel25vv.com/hotel-company

— Related files in this collection: Operation_Houston.docx, Battle_of_Hue_Tet_Offensive.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 1968