H COMPANY, 2ND BATTALION, 5TH MARINES

JANUARY 1970 — LIBERTY ROAD

Compiled from the 2/5 Command Chronology for January 1970

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 January 1970
Commander	1st Lieutenant W. L. Taylor, commanding Company H for the whole period 1–31 January 1970
Higher HQ	2nd Battalion, 5th Marines — LtCol J. T. Bowen 1–14 January, then LtCol F. D. Leder; 5th Marines; 1st Marine Division
Area of Operations	Liberty Bridge, Liberty Road and the Phu Loc (6) area, eastern 5th Marines area of operations
Combat Posture	Security — Liberty Road and bridge security, patrols and ambushes
Base of Operations	Liberty Bridge combat outpost; Phu Loc (6)
Corps Area	I Corps Tactical Zone, Republic of Vietnam

2. Commander's Summary

Hotel Company began 1970 where it had ended 1969, on Liberty Road. 1st Lieutenant W. L. Taylor commanded the company for the whole month, and on 15 January LtCol F. D. Leder relieved LtCol J. T. Bowen in command of the battalion.

The daily journal shows the texture of road security: booby traps rigged from mortar rounds with trip wires along the trails near AT 925520, a Hotel platoon in its night position hit by Chicom grenades from three or four enemy, Hotel Company and a Popular Forces platoon on the Phu Loc cantonment taking 60mm mortar rounds, and ARVN troops with the company hearing enemy with bullhorns calling out in Vietnamese.

Vietnamese children kept bringing unexploded ordnance to the company for the Voluntary Informant Program reward — a dud mortar round, a Chicom grenade, an M-79 round — and were paid in cans of food; the ordnance was blown in place.

3. Operations Overview

Operation / Activity	Dates	Description
Liberty Road and bridge security	January 1970	Patrols, ambushes and bridge security on Liberty Road; Company H with a PF platoon at the Phu Loc cantonment.

4. Chronology of Company H Activities

Compiled from the narrative summary and the chronological sequence of events in the 2/5 command chronology for January 1970. Only entries naming Company H, or bearing directly on it, are listed. Grid references and times are as recorded.

Date	Activity / Events
Jan	Children brought a dud mortar round to the Company H CP; they were paid with two cans of food and the round was blown in place.
Jan	A Hotel platoon in its night position received Chicom grenades from three or four VC/NVA — 1 USMC WIA; the unit returned fire.
Jan	On patrol near AT 925520 a Hotel squad detonated a booby trap made from a mortar round with a trip wire along a well-used trail; a medical evacuation was called and completed. A second squad returning from an LZ near the same spot set off another.
Jan	On bridge security near AT 924528, Company H had six Vietnamese children bring in a Chicom grenade, a claymore and an M-79 round.
Jan	Company H with the PF platoon on the Phu Loc cantonment received two 60mm mortar rounds and called artillery and 81mm.
Jan	On patrol near AT 925525 a Hotel squad tripped an M-26 booby trap; a medical evacuation was completed.
15 Jan	LtCol F. D. Leder relieved LtCol J. T. Bowen as commanding officer of 2/5.

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 January 1970 (Texas Tech item 1201048123).
2. ARIZONA TERRITORY CORRECTED. The earlier version placed the company in the Arizona Territory and at An Hoa Combat Base for the month. The battalion had moved to Liberty Bridge on 24 December 1969 and was on Liberty Road security.

3. COMMANDER NAMED. The earlier version said the commander was “unknown (not confirmed in available sources).” The battalion's organisational data names him, as given above.

4. DATES. The journal scan is degraded and many entries cannot be dated to the day; they are marked “Jan.”

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 January 1970 (Texas Tech University Vietnam Archive item 1201048123).

SECONDARY SOURCES

— Cosmas, Graham A. and Terrence P. Murray. U.S. Marines in Vietnam: Vietnamization and Redeployment, 1970–1971. History and Museums Division, HQMC, 1986.

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

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, January 1970