H COMPANY, 2ND BATTALION, 5TH MARINES

MAY 1970 — CORDON AND SEARCH

Compiled from the 2/5 Command Chronology for May 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 May 1970
Commander	1st Lieutenant L. C. Villalobos, commanding Company H for the whole period 1–31 May 1970
Higher HQ	2nd Battalion, 5th Marines (LtCol F. D. Leder); 5th Marines; 1st Marine Division
Area of Operations	The An Hoa basin, Quang Nam Province — from Go Noi Island in the east to the Arizona in the west, with Liberty Bridge and Liberty Road
Combat Posture	Offensive — cordon and search operations; regimental reserve at An Hoa
Base of Operations	An Hoa; Liberty Bridge
Corps Area	I Corps Tactical Zone, Republic of Vietnam

2. Commander's Summary

“Activities for May 1970 showed a considerable increase over the previous month.” The battalion continued to secure Liberty Road and the Liberty Bridge combat outpost and ran company-size reconnaissance in force in the Arizona, the Nam Khuans and Go Noi Island. 1st Lieutenant L. C. Villalobos commanded Hotel Company throughout.

Hotel Company took part in a series of cordon and search operations: with Foxtrot, a Duc Duc RF reconnaissance platoon and four tanks around the villages south of Le Bac Island; with Echo and a Popular Forces platoon at Le Nam (2) on 17 May; with Echo and a PF platoon in the Thon Bon area south of Le Bac, where no enemy were found but an AK-47 and an SKS were captured; and with Echo and the Dai Loc National Police Field Force against My Hiep (1), reported to be an enemy staging area.

On 14 May the company returned to An Hoa as regimental reserve until the 17th, with a squad reinforcing Hill 119, and it was reserve again from 19 May. On 21 May a Hotel platoon with four tanks was led into the La Thap area east of Liberty Road by a Chieu Hoi, who took the Marines to enemy spider holes. On 31 May the company, operating east of Liberty Road, saw 18 enemy moving south, set up a blocking force and called in the Pacifier reaction company from 1/5.

3. Operations Overview

Operation / Activity	Dates	Description
Cordon and search operations	May 1970	Villages south of Le Bac; Le Nam (2), 17 May; Thon Bon; My Hiep (1) — with Companies E and F, Popular and Regional Forces, National Police Field Force and tanks.
Regimental reserve at An Hoa	14–17 and from 19 May 1970	With a squad reinforcing Hill 119 to 18 May.
Blocking action east of Liberty Road	31 May 1970	18 enemy seen moving south; the 1/5 Pacifier company called in.

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 1970. Only entries naming Company H, or bearing directly on it, are listed. Grid references and times are as recorded.

Date	Activity / Events
Early May	Cordon and search of the villages south of Le Bac Island with the battalion CP, Companies H and F, a Duc Duc RF reconnaissance platoon and four tanks.
14 May	Company H returned to An Hoa as regimental reserve until 17 May, one squad reinforcing Hill 119 until 18 May.
17 May	The battalion (-) — CP, Companies H and E and a Duc Duc PF platoon — cordoned and searched Le Nam (2).
19 May	Company H became regimental reserve at An Hoa.
21 May	A Hotel platoon with four tanks was led into the La Thap area east of Liberty Road by a Chieu Hoi, who showed the Marines enemy spider holes.
Late May	Cordon and search of the Thon Bon area south of Le Bac Island (CP, Companies E and H, a PF platoon): one AK-47 and one SKS captured. Cordon of My Hiep (1) with Companies E and H and the Dai Loc National Police Field Force.
31 May	Company H east of Liberty Road saw 18 enemy moving south, set up a blocking force and called in the Pacifier company from 1/5, supported by gunships.

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 1970 (Texas Tech item 1201048127).

2. 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.

3. GO NOI. The old file listed month-long Go Noi operations for the company; the chronology shows the company in cordon and search operations around Le Bac, Le Nam, Thon Bon, La Thap and My Hiep.

4. THE PACIFIER. “Pacifier” was 1/5's heliborne reaction force.

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 1970 (Texas Tech University Vietnam Archive item 1201048127).

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, May 1970