H COMPANY, 2ND BATTALION, 5TH MARINES

AUGUST 1970 — OPERATION LYON VALLEY

Compiled from the 2/5 Command Chronology for August 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 August 1970
Commander	1st Lieutenant L. C. Villalobos, 1–12 August 1970; Captain John W. Moffett, 13–31 August 1970
Higher HQ	2nd Battalion, 5th Marines (LtCol T. M. Hamlin); 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; the Southern Arizona mountains (Lyon Valley)
Combat Posture	Offensive — Operation Lyon Valley; regimental reserve
Base of Operations	An Hoa
Corps Area	I Corps Tactical Zone, Republic of Vietnam

2. Commander's Summary

August 1970 brought Captain John W. Moffett to Hotel Company on 13 August, and three days later the company went into the mountains. On 16 August Companies F and H with a battalion command group were landed by helicopter into mountain landing zones in the Southern Arizona for Operation Lyon Valley, pushing north-east along heavily used trails toward Company L, 3/5, which screened the northern face. They found bunkers, fighting holes, rocket-launching sites and antiaircraft positions, including a captured 12.7mm machine gun.

On 22 August the two companies reached the northern foot of the mountains and flew back to An Hoa. The next day, with minimal preparation fire, they landed in the south-western Arizona to catch enemy troops hiding there, capturing one NVA soldier and a large quantity of food. Lyon Valley ended on 24 August without Marine combat casualties.

Hotel Company had been regimental reserve on 14–15 August before the operation, and from 28 to 31 August one Hotel squad served with 1st Reconnaissance Battalion on Hill 119.

3. Operations Overview

Operation / Activity	Dates	Description
Operation Lyon Valley	16–24 August 1970	H COMPANY PARTICIPATED — assault company. Companies F and H and the battalion command group by helicopter into the Southern Arizona mountains; Company L, 3/5 screening. No Marine combat casualties.
Regimental reserve	14–15 August 1970	Company H.
Hill 119	28–31 August 1970	One Hotel squad under 1st Reconnaissance 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 August 1970. Only entries naming Company H, or bearing directly on it, are listed. Grid references and times are as recorded.

Date	Activity / Events
13 Aug	Captain John W. Moffett took command of Company H.
14–15 Aug	Company H was regimental reserve.
16 Aug	Companies F and H and the command group landed by helicopter in three zones in the south and west of the target area and pushed north-east.
16–21 Aug	Bunkers, fighting holes, rocket-launching sites and antiaircraft positions found, including a 12.7mm machine gun.
22 Aug	Companies F and H reached the northern foot of the mountains and flew back to An Hoa.
23 Aug	F and H landed in the south-western Arizona — one NVA captured and a large quantity of food taken.
24 Aug	Operation Lyon Valley ended.
28–31 Aug	One Hotel squad under 1st Reconnaissance Battalion on Hill 119.

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 August 1970 (Texas Tech item 1201048130), with Cosmas and Murray's official history for Lyon Valley.

2. PICKENS FOREST REPLACED BY LYON VALLEY. The old file had the company finishing Pickens Forest. Its operation that month was Lyon Valley. See Operation_Lyon_Valley.docx.

3. CHANGE OF COMMAND. 1stLt L. C. Villalobos (1–12 August) and Capt John W. Moffett (13–31 August 1970).

4. AN HOA HANDOVER. The old file listed “An Hoa Combat Base handover planning” as a company operation; the handover to the ARVN came in September–October.

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 August 1970 (Texas Tech University Vietnam Archive item 1201048130).

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

— Related files in this collection: Operation_Lyon_Valley.docx, Operation_Pickens_Forest.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, August 1970