H COMPANY, 2ND BATTALION, 5TH MARINES

NOVEMBER 1970 — HILL 381

Compiled from the 2/5 Command Chronology for November 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	1–30 November 1970
Commander	Captain John W. Moffett, commanding Company H for the whole period 1–30 November 1970
Higher HQ	2nd Battalion, 5th Marines (LtCol T. M. Hamlin); 5th Marines; 1st Marine Division
Area of Operations	LZ Baldy and the Que Son Mountains; battalion CP on Hill 381 (AT 994591) from 6 November
Combat Posture	Offensive — Operation Imperial Lake: search operations in the Que Sons
Base of Operations	Hill 381; LZ Baldy (rear)
Corps Area	I Corps Tactical Zone, Republic of Vietnam

2. Commander's Summary

“From 1–5 November the Battalion was located at Baldy Combat Base (BT 132453). On 6 November the Battalion Command Post was relocated to Hill 381 (AT 994591). The Battalion rear remained at Baldy Combat Base.” Captain John W. Moffett commanded Hotel Company throughout.

The battalion's companies searched the Que Son Mountains for caves and bunkers, destroying what they found with C-4 as a matter of policy to deny it to the enemy. “The most significant returns from these search operations were achieved by Company Hotel in the period from 25 to 30 November.”

In those six days Hotel Company uncovered three enemy cave and bunker complexes, in which it found several weapons and pieces of communications equipment.

3. Operations Overview

Operation / Activity	Dates	Description
Operation Imperial Lake	November 1970	H COMPANY PARTICIPATED. Search and destroy in the Que Son Mountains from Hill 381.
Cave and bunker complexes	25–30 November 1970	Company H uncovered three enemy cave/bunker complexes holding weapons and communications equipment.

4. Chronology of Company H Activities

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

Date	Activity / Events
1–5 Nov	The battalion at Baldy Combat Base.
6 Nov	The battalion CP relocated to Hill 381 (AT 994591).
25–30 Nov	Company H uncovered three enemy cave/bunker complexes containing several weapons and pieces of communications equipment — the battalion's most significant search results of the month.

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 November 1970 (Texas Tech item 1201049003).
2. HILL 381. The old file's Hill 381 forward CP entry is confirmed by the chronology.
3. COMMANDER. Capt John W. Moffett for 1–30 November 1970.
4. TULARE FALLS II. The Army's Task Force Burnett operated under 5th Marines control from 27 October to 30 November; Hotel Company was not part of 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 November 1970 (Texas Tech University Vietnam Archive item 1201049003).

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_Imperial_Lake.docx, Operation_Tolare_II.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, November 1970