H COMPANY, 2ND BATTALION, 5TH MARINES

DECEMBER 1970 — HILL 381 TO HILL 510

Compiled from the 2/5 Command Chronology for December 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 December 1970
Commander	Captain John W. Moffett, commanding Company H for the whole period 1–31 December 1970
Higher HQ	2nd Battalion, 5th Marines (LtCol T. M. Hamlin); 5th Marines; 1st Marine Division
Area of Operations	The Que Son Mountains; LZ Baldy; Hill 510 (AT 945405)
Combat Posture	Offensive — Operation Imperial Lake
Base of Operations	LZ Baldy; battalion CP on Hill 510 from 20 December
Corps Area	I Corps Tactical Zone, Republic of Vietnam

2. Commander's Summary

“On 1 December 1970, the Battalion CP was located at Hill 381. On 2 December 1970, the Battalion CP returned to Baldy Combat Base where it remained until it was relocated to Hill 510 (AT 945405) on 20 December 1970. The Battalion CP remained at Hill 510 for the remainder of the month.”

Captain John W. Moffett commanded Hotel Company throughout, on Operation Imperial Lake in the Que Son Mountains.

The December chronology has no legible dated Hotel Company entries.

3. Operations Overview

Operation / Activity	Dates	Description
Operation Imperial Lake	December 1970	H COMPANY PARTICIPATED.
Battalion CP moves	2 and 20 December 1970	Hill 381 to Baldy on 2 December; Baldy to Hill 510 on 20 December.

4. Chronology of Company H Activities

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

Date	Activity / Events
1 Dec	Battalion CP on Hill 381.
2 Dec	The CP returned to Baldy Combat Base.
20 Dec	The CP relocated to Hill 510 (AT 945405).

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 December 1970 (Texas Tech item 1201049004).

2. 3/5 RELIEF. The old file said 3/5 relieved 2/5 on Hill 381 on 2 December; the chronology records the 2/5 CP returning to Baldy that day.

3. COMMANDER. Capt John W. Moffett for 1–31 December 1970.

4. NO COMPANY ENTRIES. Nothing has been invented.

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 December 1970 (Texas Tech University Vietnam Archive item 1201049004).

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.

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, December 1970