H COMPANY, 2ND BATTALION, 5TH MARINES

JANUARY 1971 — IMPERIAL LAKE AND THE BRIDGES

Compiled from the 2/5 Command Chronology for January 1971

1st Marine Division · III Marine Amphibious Force · I Corps, Republic of Vietnam / Camp Pendleton, CA

1. Unit Overview

Unit Designation	Hotel Company (H Co), 2nd Battalion, 5th Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division
Reporting Period	1–31 January 1971
Commander	Captain John W. Moffett, commanding Company H for the whole period 1–31 January 1971
Higher HQ	2nd Battalion, 5th Marines (LtCol T. M. Hamlin); 5th Marines; 1st Marine Division
Area of Operations	The Que Son Mountains; LZ Baldy; the Ba Ren and Ky Ly bridges
Combat Posture	Offensive and security — Operation Imperial Lake; quick reaction force; bridge security
Base of Operations	LZ Baldy; battalion CP on Hill 510 for the whole month
Corps Area	I Corps Tactical Zone, Republic of Vietnam

2. Commander's Summary

“The Battalion CP spent the entire month on Hill 510.” Captain John W. Moffett commanded Hotel Company throughout, and better weather than in the two months before allowed more air operations and better resupply.

Hotel's 2nd Platoon made two large finds early in the month. On 4 January near AT 959399 it found a dead enemy soldier and a cache of ordnance — sixteen B-41 rocket rounds, six B-40 rounds, three 82mm warheads, two B-40 boosters and thirty .50-calibre rounds — and on 5 January, in a series of caves at AT 959400, eleven more B-40 rounds and some 7,000 rounds of small-arms ammunition.

Later in the month the company's platoons were the battalion's quick reaction force, inserted by helicopter on reconnaissance sightings, to secure a downed helicopter, and to block for a Company G CUPP unit. On 30 January Hotel Company took over 24-hour security of the Ba Ren and Ky Ly bridges, and on the 31st its 1st Platoon, working as a “Green Anvil” force near BT 157504, reported enemy killed.

3. Operations Overview

Operation / Activity	Dates	Description
Operation Imperial Lake	January 1971	H COMPANY PARTICIPATED. Cache discoveries by the 2nd Platoon on 4–5 January.
Quick reaction force	21–28 January 1971	Hotel platoons inserted by helicopter as the battalion's QRF.
Ba Ren and Ky Ly bridge security	From 0730, 30 January 1971	Company H assumed 24-hour security of both bridges.

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 1971. Only entries naming Company H, or bearing directly on it, are listed. Grid references and times are as recorded.

Date	Activity / Events
4 Jan	Hotel's 2nd Platoon found a dead enemy soldier and ordnance at AT 959399: 16 B-41 rockets, 6 B-40 rounds, 3 82mm warheads, 2 B-40 boosters and 30 .50-calibre rounds.
5 Jan	The 2nd Platoon found ordnance in a series of caves at AT 959400: 11 B-40 rounds and about 7,000 small-arms rounds.
21 Jan	The 2nd Platoon was inserted as quick reaction force at 0913 near BT 104406 and extracted at 1500 after searching.
22 Jan	The 1st Platoon was employed as quick reaction force to secure a downed helicopter, inserted at 0920.
23–24 Jan	The 3rd Platoon was inserted at 1625 to block for a Company G CUPP unit and returned to Baldy on the 24th.
26 Jan	The 3rd Platoon was inserted as quick reaction force on a reconnaissance sighting of 30 VC/NVA.
28 Jan	The 1st Platoon was inserted at AT 989348 to sweep the area of the previous evening's fire mission.
30 Jan	At 0730 Company H assumed 24-hour security of the Ba Ren and Ky Ly (BT 145456) bridges.
31 Jan	The 1st Platoon, employed as Green Anvil near BT 157504, reported enemy killed.

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 1971 (Texas Tech item 1201049005).

2. KEYSTONE ROBIN CHARLIE. The old file listed “Operation Keystone Robin Charlie” as a Hotel Company operation from 13 January. Keystone Robin Charlie was the name of a redeployment increment, not a company operation.

3. COMMANDER. Capt John W. Moffett for 1–31 January 1971.

4. GREEN ANVIL RESULTS. The 31 January results are only partly legible and are not quantified here.

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 1971 (Texas Tech University Vietnam Archive item 1201049005).

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

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