# H COMPANY, 2ND BATTALION, 5TH MARINES

## FEBRUARY 1971 — IMPERIAL LAKE

*Compiled from the 2/5 Command Chronology for February 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** | 1–28 February 1971 |
| **Commander** | Captain John W. Moffett, commanding Company H for the whole period 1–28 February 1971 |
| **Higher HQ** | 2nd Battalion, 5th Marines (LtCol T. M. Hamlin); 5th Marines; 1st Marine Division; the battalion was controlling headquarters of Operation Imperial Lake from 13 February |
| **Area of Operations** | The Que Son Mountains; Hill 381; LZ Baldy |
| **Combat Posture** | Offensive — Operation Imperial Lake |
| **Base of Operations** | Battalion CP on Hill 510 to 9 February, then Baldy; the battalion relieved 3/5 on Hill 381 |
| **Corps Area** | I Corps Tactical Zone, Republic of Vietnam |

## 2. Commander's Summary

In February 1971 2/5 took over Operation Imperial Lake. Its CP was on Hill 510 until 9 February, when it returned to Baldy Combat Base to prepare to relieve 3/5 on Hill 381; the battalion assumed control of Imperial Lake on 13 February and spent the rest of the month in the field with its own companies, Companies A and C of 1/5 and Companies K and L of 3/5. Captain John W. Moffett commanded Hotel Company throughout.

On 2 February Hotel Company relieved another company in the operation, which returned to Baldy for rehabilitation, and the same day its 1st Platoon spotted three enemy at AT 030417, fired, and found blood trails and a bloodstained cover. Its platoons searched the mountains for the enemy's food: 800 pounds of rice on 8 February, 200 pounds on 14 February, 100 pounds on 17 February near AT 053403.

On 15 February the 2nd Platoon made contact near AT 041410, and when it returned there on the 17th it found one more enemy dead and miscellaneous equipment.

## 3. Operations Overview

| Operation / Activity | Dates | Description |
|---|---|---|
| **Operation Imperial Lake** | February 1971 | H COMPANY PARTICIPATED. 2/5 was controlling headquarters from 13 February. Rice caches and small contacts in the Que Sons. |

## 4. Chronology of Company H Activities

Compiled from the narrative summary and the chronological sequence of events in the 2/5 command chronology for February 1971. Only entries naming Company H, or bearing directly on it, are listed. Grid references and times are as recorded.

| Date | Activity / Events |
|---|---|
| **2 Feb** | Company H relieved another company in Operation Imperial Lake. The 1st Platoon observed three VC/NVA at AT 030417, fired and swept the area — blood trails and a bloodstained cover found. |
| **8 Feb** | The 1st Platoon found 800 lb of rice. |
| **9 Feb** | The battalion CP returned from Hill 510 to Baldy Combat Base. |
| **13 Feb** | 2/5 assumed control of Operation Imperial Lake. |
| **14 Feb** | The 2nd Platoon found about 200 lb of rice. |
| **15 Feb** | The 2nd Platoon made contact near AT 041410. |
| **17 Feb** | A Hotel patrol found 100 lb of rice at AT 053403. The 2nd Platoon returned to AT 041410 and found one additional VC/NVA killed and miscellaneous equipment. |

## 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 February 1971 portion of the 2/5 command chronology filed as Texas Tech item 1201049006.

**2.** LAM SON 719 REMOVED. The old file listed Lam Son 719, the ARVN incursion into Laos, as background context under Operations. It was not a Hotel Company operation.

**3.** COMMANDER. Capt John W. Moffett for 1–28 February 1971.

**4.** COMMAND OF IMPERIAL LAKE. The old file's 13 February date for 2/5 assuming control is confirmed by the chronology.

**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 Chronologies for February–December 1971, filed together (Texas Tech University Vietnam Archive item 1201049006): February 1971; 1–22 March 1971; 25 March – 13 April 1971 (at sea); 13 April – 30 June 1971 (Camp Pendleton).

### 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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