OPERATION AUBURN

2ND BATTALION, 5TH MARINES

1st Marine Division | Republic of Vietnam | 28 December 1967 – 3 January 1968

FIELD	DETAIL
Operation Name	Operation Auburn
Dates of Operation	28 December 1967 – 3 January 1968 (whole operation). 2/5 companies took part 29–30 December 1967.
Mission Purpose / Objective	5th Marines spoiling attack on Go Noi Island against the R-20th and V-25th local force battalions, in coordination with ARVN battalions sweeping Route 537 and 1st Cavalry Division units to the south.
Locations / Cities	Go Noi Island; LZ Hawk; Bao An Dong; Quang Nam Province, about 25 km south of Da Nang
TAOR	Go Noi Island; Quang Nam Province
UTM Coordinates	Company G, 2/5 defensive perimeter took a rifle grenade from AT 987537 (30 Dec). Regimental Objective 2: AT 993534.
USMC Units Involved	5th Marines (Col Robert D. Bohn); field command LtCol William K. Rockey (3/5). Initial force of four companies: Company E 2/3 (Capt Ian J. Cahill, Australian Army), Company I 3/5, and Companies E and G of 2/5, which were placed under 3/5 control. The 2/5 command group went to LZ Hawk. Supported by 2/11 and MAG-16.
2/5 Companies Participated	Company E; Company G; H&S Company. Companies E and G were placed under 3/5 control; the 2/5 command group went to LZ Hawk.
Mission Results	28 Dec: Company E, 2/3 landed at LZ Hawk at 0904 under fire and ran into a fortified hamlet in Bao An Dong. 29–30 Dec: Companies E and G of 2/5 took their objective and secured the regimental CP near LZ Hawk. At 1500 on 30 December the 2/5 CP returned to An Hoa and secured from Auburn, leaving E and G under 3/5.
USMC KIA	Whole operation: 23 (previously recorded figure). 2/5 portion: 3 WIA evacuated, 1 minor; no KIA stated. Breakdown by 2/5 company: not recorded.
USMC Wounded	Whole operation: 60 (previously recorded figure). Breakdown by 2/5 company: not recorded.
Enemy KIA	Whole operation: 37 (previously recorded figure). 2/5 portion: 6 VC KIA probable, 2 detainees.
Enemy Wounded	Unknown

NOTES & SOURCE REFERENCES

UPDATED 16 SEPTEMBER 2026 FROM PRIMARY SOURCES. CORRECTION: H COMPANY DID NOT PARTICIPATE. 2/5 did take part, but with Companies E and G only. The 2/5 Command Chronology for December 1967 records Companies E and G placed under 5th Marines and 3/5 control for Auburn on 29–30 December, while the command group went out and returned. The January 1968 chronology records the command group moving from LZ Hawk back to An Hoa at 301500H. Hotel Company was at An Hoa: on 28 December an Company H Marine set off a booby trap near the base, wounding two. 2/5 COMPANIES THAT DID NOT TAKE PART: Company H. The record does not say whether Company F took part.

Primary sources: 2/5 Command Chronologies, December 1967 and January 1968 (Part 2) (TTU Vietnam Archive items 1201048096 and 1201048098); Shulimson et al., The Defining Year, 1968 (HQMC, 1997), ch. 6, pp. 91–97. Originals: NARA RG 127 (College Park MD 20740) and Marine Corps History Division (Quantico VA 22134).