OPERATION BARREN GREEN

2ND BATTALION, 5TH MARINES

1st Marine Division | Republic of Vietnam | 24–27 July 1970

FIELD	DETAIL
Operation Name	Operation Barren Green
Dates of Operation	24–27 July 1970. A preliminary harvest-security effort was made on 15–16 July. 2/5 companies took part 24–25 July.
Mission Purpose / Objective	Deny the North Vietnamese 38th Regiment the ripened corn in the VC-controlled My Hiep area. 5th Marines' first named operation of 1970.
Locations / Cities	My Hiep area, just south of the Song Vu Gia, northern Arizona Territory; Dai Loc District; Quang Nam Province
TAOR	Northern Arizona Territory south of the Song Vu Gia; Dai Loc District; Quang Nam Province
UTM Coordinates	Not recorded.
USMC Units Involved	5th Marines: companies of 2/5 and 3/5 with a platoon of Company C, 1st Tank Battalion. 2/5's jump command post controlled Company F, Company G and Company I (3/5) in the first phase; 3/5 controlled the second phase.
2/5 Companies Participated	Company F; Company G; H&S Company. 2/5's jump command post controlled Company F, Company G and Company I (3/5) in the first phase.
Mission Results	15–16 Jul (preliminary): a reinforced 3/5 platoon and Dai Loc Regional Forces protected civilians harvesting 30 tons of corn, until sniper fire and booby traps killed 3 PFs and wounded 8 RFs, 5 civilians and 12 Marines. 24–25 Jul: at first light Companies F, G and I were landed by helicopter in three zones around My Hiep for a cordon and search; the enemy appeared to have been forewarned. A reconnaissance team ambushed NVA carrying corn out of the area and killed 7. Second phase: 3/5 destroyed the standing corn, much of it crushed by tanks.
USMC KIA	Not recorded.
USMC Wounded	12 Marines wounded on 15–16 July (preliminary phase). Breakdown by 2/5 company: not recorded.
Enemy KIA	18 NVA and VC killed
Enemy Wounded	Unknown; 3 prisoners, 4 weapons, about 10,000 lb of corn destroyed

NOTES & SOURCE REFERENCES

UPDATED 16 SEPTEMBER 2026 FROM PRIMARY SOURCES. CORRECTION: H COMPANY DID NOT PARTICIPATE. 2/5 did take part. The 2/5 Command Chronology for July 1970 records that on 24–25 July "2nd Battalion, 5th Marines (-)(Rein) participated in operation Barren Green. Maneuver elements... consisting of Company Fox, Company Golf and Company India were controlled by the Battalion jump Command Post." Company H is not listed. In July 1970 Hotel Company (1stLt L.C. Villalobos) was on Liberty Road and An Hoa Basin security; a 250-lb bomb landed outside its perimeter on 13 July without casualties. Cosmas and Murray's official history gives the operation-level figures. 2/5 COMPANIES THAT DID NOT TAKE PART: Company H. The record does not say whether Company E took part.

Primary sources: 2/5 Command Chronology, July 1970 (TTU Vietnam Archive item 1201048129); Cosmas and Murray, Vietnamization and Redeployment, 1970-1971 (HQMC, 1986), pp. 82–83. Originals: NARA RG 127 (College Park MD 20740) and Marine Corps History Division (Quantico VA 22134).