OPERATION SHELBYVILLE

2ND BATTALION, 5TH MARINES

1st Marine Division | Republic of Vietnam | 26–29 September 1967

FIELD	DETAIL
Operation Name	Operation Shelbyville
Dates of Operation	26–29 September 1967 (the dates Company H, 2/5 was committed; the 2/5 Command Chronology records only the battalion's part, not the start and end of the operation as a whole).
Mission Purpose / Objective	Company H, 2/5 was ordered by the Commanding Officer, 2/5 to move into blocking positions in support of Operation Shelbyville. The chronology does not name the unit conducting the sweep or the headquarters controlling the operation.
Locations / Cities	Grid squares AT9653 and AT9652, east of the An Hoa Combat Base and north of the Phu Loc (6) position, Duc Duc District, Quang Nam Province, I Corps.
TAOR	Quang Nam Province, I Corps; the An Hoa – Phu Loc (6) area of the 2/5 TAOR.
UTM Coordinates	Blocking positions: AT 9653 and AT 9652. Contact while moving into position: AT 953525, with enemy fire from AT 957525 and AT 957526.
USMC Units Involved	2nd Battalion, 5th Marines (LtCol G.C. McNaughton); Company H (Capt G.W. Bowers). The chronology names no other 2/5 company in this operation.
2/5 Companies Participated	Company H. Company H was the blocking force; the chronology names no other 2/5 company.
Mission Results	On 26 September Company H was ordered to move to the vicinity of grid squares AT9653 and AT9652 to act as a blocking force. While moving into position at AT 953525 the company came under an estimated 20 rounds of automatic fire from an unknown number of Viet Cong at AT 957525 and AT 957526. While manoeuvring toward the enemy the company tripped two booby traps of an estimated 105mm size. Forced to curtail its movement, the company pursued the enemy by fire while medical evacuations were called in, and the enemy broke contact while the evacuation was being completed. Company H remained in blocking positions until 29 September.
USMC KIA	2 killed (Company H, 26 September 1967).
USMC Wounded	7 wounded and evacuated (Company H, 26 September 1967).
Enemy KIA	2 Viet Cong killed, probable.
Enemy Wounded	Not recorded.

NOTES & SOURCE REFERENCES

COMPILED 18 OCTOBER 2026 FROM PRIMARY SOURCES. This operation had no file in this series until now. It is a genuine Hotel Company action: the September 1967 chronology records twice that Company H took part in Operation Shelbyville as a blocking force, and it cost the company 2 killed and 7 wounded on 26 September. CAUTION ON SCOPE: the 2/5 chronology documents only 2/5's own part. It does not say which headquarters ran Shelbyville, which unit it supported, how long the operation lasted outside 26–29 September, or what the

overall results were. Those answers are in the 5th Marines or 1st Marine Division records for September 1967, which have not been consulted for this file. Company H's other work that month, recorded separately from Shelbyville, included a one-day search and destroy operation in the valley system of Base Area 116 on 6 September, a two-day operation south of the Song Thu Bon and west of Liberty Road on 22–23 September, and a two-day operation with Company G, the 2/5 Command Group and the H&S Company Security Platoon around La Thap (1) and the Cu Bans (AT9552) on 24–25 September. The record does not say whether Company E, Company F, Company G, H&S Company took part.

Primary source: 2/5 Command Chronology, September 1967, Part II narrative paragraph 12 and the significant events entry for 26 September (S:\Hotel25\Hotel25\Combat Operations\Battalion Chronologies\1967\1967September-2-5CommandChronology.pdf). Originals: National Archives, RG 127 (National Archives II, College Park MD 20740; Marine Corps History Division, Quantico VA 22134).