OPERATION SWIFT (LAM SON 289-B)

2ND BATTALION, 5TH MARINES

1st Marine Division | Republic of Vietnam | 4–15 September 1967

FIELD	DETAIL
Operation Name	Operation Swift (Lam Son 289-B)
Dates of Operation	4–15 September 1967
Mission Purpose / Objective	Relieve Marine companies under heavy North Vietnamese attack near Dong Son and pursue and destroy North Vietnamese 2d Division units in the Que Son Valley.
Locations / Cities	Que Son Valley; Dong Son (2); Chau Lam (1); Hill 43; Que Son District; Quang Tin / Quang Nam Provinces
TAOR	Que Son Valley, Quang Tin / Quang Nam Provinces
UTM Coordinates	Not recorded.
USMC Units Involved	5th Marines: 1/5 and 3/5 were the main battalions. Company H, 2/5 (Capt Gene W. Bowers) was placed under 5th Marines operational control for Swift and served under 3/5; Company M, 3/5 reinforced it on 10 September.
2/5 Companies Participated	Company H (attached to another unit). Company H (Capt Gene W. Bowers) was placed under 5th Marines control and served under 3/5.
Mission Results	10 September: northeast of Hill 43, Company H found a village fortified with bunkers, trenches and wire, empty except for women and children, and moved on. While it was being resupplied, its 3d Platoon (2ndLt Allan J. Herman) walked back into the village. A reinforced North Vietnamese company had reoccupied it and opened fire with .50-caliber machine guns and 60mm mortars; Lt Herman was killed trying to rescue a wounded Marine. Capt Bowers sent the 2d Platoon to the left to cut off the enemy's escape and led the 1st Platoon forward. Artillery, gunships, air strikes and tear gas were brought in, and Company H and Company M, 3/5 assaulted and took the village. Forty NVA dead were counted above ground.
USMC KIA	Whole operation: 127 (previously recorded figure). Company H, 10 September: 9 Marines killed, 6 of them in the rice paddies in front of the enemy positions.
USMC Wounded	Whole operation: 362 (previously recorded figure). Breakdown by 2/5 company: not recorded.
Enemy KIA	Company H action, 10 September: 40 NVA dead counted. Whole operation: approximately 600 (previously recorded figure).
Enemy Wounded	Unknown

NOTES & SOURCE REFERENCES

UPDATED 16 SEPTEMBER 2026 FROM PRIMARY SOURCES. CONFIRMED H COMPANY ENGAGEMENT (not merely supporting). This file previously described Company H's role as supporting or follow-on. The 2/5 Command Chronology for September 1967 records: "Company H was chopped to OpCon of 5th Marines for participation in Operation Swift... On several occasions Company H engaged in close combat with crack NVA forces and inflicted maximum enemy casualties." Telfer's official history gives the 10 September fight northeast of Hill 43 in detail. Capt Gene W. Bowers commanded Hotel Company for the whole of September 1967 (September

roster: Capt G.W. Bowers 1–30 September; he had taken the company on 21 July 1967). The Dyer entries on that roster are against Company G (corrected 21 September 2026). The record does not say whether Company E, Company F, Company G, H&S Company took part.

Primary sources: 2/5 Command Chronology, September 1967 (Texas Tech University Vietnam Archive item 1201048092); Gary L. Telfer, Lane Rogers and V. Keith Fleming Jr., U.S. Marines in Vietnam: Fighting the North Vietnamese, 1967 (HQMC, 1984), pp. 117–118. Originals: National Archives, RG 127 (National Archives II, College Park MD 20740; Marine Corps History Division, Quantico VA 22134).