OPERATION TULARE FALLS I

2ND BATTALION, 5TH MARINES

1st Marine Division | Republic of Vietnam | 2–15 October 1970

FIELD	DETAIL
Operation Name	Operation Tulare Falls I (previously spelled "Tolare I")
Dates of Operation	2–15 October 1970 (Task Force Saint CP opened 2 October; operations began 3 October)
Mission Purpose / Objective	U.S.–South Vietnamese–South Korean operation, coordinated by the Quang Nam Province Chief, to head off a predicted wave of enemy attacks in the populated area between Hill 55 and the Que Son Mountains.
Locations / Cities	North and east of LZ Baldy; the lowlands between Hill 55 and the Que Son Mountains; Quang Nam Province
TAOR	Lowlands north and east of LZ Baldy; Quang Nam Province
UTM Coordinates	Not recorded.
USMC Units Involved	The 5th Marines commanded all American troops, but because its battalions were fully committed, the maneuver force was Task Force Saint (LtCol C.E. Saint, USA) from the Americal Division's 196th Brigade: 2d Battalion 1st Infantry, 1st Squadron (-) 1st Armored Cavalry, an air cavalry troop, and a 105mm platoon of 3/82d Artillery. The only 2/5 element involved was the Company G combined unit pacification (CUPP) Marines who guided the Army units.
2/5 Companies Participated	Company G (part of the company only). The only 2/5 element was the Company G combined unit pacification (CUPP) Marines who guided the Army units.
Mission Results	The Army troops blanketed the countryside with small-unit patrols and ambushes, using the air cavalry troop as a quick reaction force. The operation succeeded in forestalling the expected attacks, and Task Force Saint returned to the Americal Division area on 15 October.
USMC KIA	Not stated (Army task force: 19 wounded). Breakdown by 2/5 company: not recorded.
USMC Wounded	Army task force: 19 wounded. Breakdown by 2/5 company: not recorded.
Enemy KIA	30 NVA and VC killed
Enemy Wounded	Unknown; 21 suspected VC detained

NOTES & SOURCE REFERENCES

UPDATED 16 SEPTEMBER 2026 FROM PRIMARY SOURCES. CORRECTION: H COMPANY DID NOT PARTICIPATE, AND THE CORRECT NAME IS "TULARE FALLS I." Cosmas and Murray's official history identifies this as Operation Tulare Falls I, an Army task force operation under 5th Marines control, guided by Company G, 2/5's CUPP Marines. Company H, 2/5 was then committed to Operation Imperial Lake in the Que Son Mountains; from 21 October its platoons served as quick reaction forces near FSB Rainbow. The file name is unchanged so existing links still work. 2/5 COMPANIES THAT DID NOT TAKE PART: Company E, Company F, Company H, H&S Company.

Primary sources: 2/5 Command Chronology, October 1970 (Texas Tech University Vietnam Archive item 1201049002); Graham A. Cosmas and Terrence P. Murray, U.S. Marines in Vietnam: Vietnamization and Redeployment, 1970-1971 (HQMC, 1986), pp. 116–118. Originals: National Archives, RG 127 (National Archives II, College Park MD 20740; Marine Corps History Division, Quantico VA 22134).