OPERATION UNION II

2ND BATTALION, 5TH MARINES

1st Marine Division | Republic of Vietnam | 26 May – 5 June 1967

FIELD	DETAIL
Operation Name	Operation Union II
Dates of Operation	26 May – 5 June 1967 (whole operation). 2/5 participation: Company F from 27 May; battalion command group and Company E, 2–4 June.
Mission Purpose / Objective	Destroy the 3d and 21st NVA Regiments, which were moving back into the Que Son Basin, with the 6th ARVN Regiment and 1st ARVN Ranger Group (ARVN Lien Ket 106).
Locations / Cities	Nui Loc Son Basin; Que Son Valley; Vinh Huy village complex (Objective Foxtrot); Quang Tin / Quang Nam Provinces
TAOR	Southern Que Son Valley / Nui Loc Son Basin
UTM Coordinates	Not recorded.
USMC Units Involved	5th Marines (Col Kenneth J. Houghton): 1/5 (LtCol Peter L. Hilgartner) and 3/5 (LtCol Esslinger, later LtCol Charles B. Webster). On 2 June the division reserve was committed: 2/5 (LtCol Mallett C. Jackson Jr.) with its own Company E, Company D 1/7 and Company E 2/7, inserted northeast of the enemy to drive into the NVA left flank. Company F, 2/5 (Capt James A. Graham) was attached to 1/5 from 27 May.
2/5 Companies Participated	Company E; Company F (attached to another unit); H&S Company. 2/5 was committed on 2 June with its own Company E; Company F was attached to 1/5 from 27 May.
Mission Results	26 May: 3/5 landed at LZ Eagle under heavy fire; 118 NVA dead; 3/5 lost 38 killed and 82 wounded. 2 June: at Vinh Huy, Company F, 2/5 was pinned in an open paddy. Capt Graham led an assault on one machine gun, then stayed behind with a wounded Marine and was killed (Medal of Honor). 2/5's commitment on 2 June relieved the pressure; Col Hilgartner said it "saved the day."
USMC KIA	Whole operation: 110 (previously recorded figure). Breakdown by 2/5 company: not recorded.
USMC Wounded	Whole operation: 241 (previously recorded figure). Breakdown by 2/5 company: not recorded.
Enemy KIA	701 (previously recorded figure). 2/5's share: 18 KIA confirmed (2/5 June 1967 statistics).
Enemy Wounded	Unknown

NOTES & SOURCE REFERENCES

UPDATED 16 SEPTEMBER 2026 FROM PRIMARY SOURCES. CORRECTION: H COMPANY DID NOT PARTICIPATE. This file previously said Companies E and H, 2/5 were inserted to hit the NVA left flank. Telfer's official history names the three companies with 2/5 on 2 June 1967 as "his own Company E; Company D from the 1st Battalion, 7th Marines; and Company E, 2d Battalion, 7th Marines." The 2/5 Command Chronology for May 1967 records that on 27 May "Company F chopped OPCON to 1/5 in conjunction with Operation Union (2). Company H remained at the Nong Son Combat Base." The June chronology says Company E, Company F and

the command group took part on 3–4 June. Capt James A. Graham had commanded Hotel Company in February 1967 but was commanding Company F when he was killed on 2 June. 2/5 COMPANIES THAT DID NOT TAKE PART: Company H. The record does not say whether Company G took part. Company H remained at Nong Son.

Primary sources: 2/5 Command Chronologies, May and June 1967 (Texas Tech University Vietnam Archive items 1201048086 and 1201048089); Gary L. Telfer, Lane Rogers and V. Keith Fleming Jr., U.S. Marines in Vietnam: Fighting the North Vietnamese, 1967 (HQMC, 1984), ch. 5, pp. 68–72. Originals: National Archives, RG 127 (National Archives II, College Park MD 20740; Marine Corps History Division, Quantico VA 22134).