OPERATION UNION I

2ND BATTALION, 5TH MARINES

1st Marine Division | Republic of Vietnam | 21 April – mid-May 1967

FIELD	DETAIL
Operation Name	Operation Union I
Dates of Operation	Began 21 April 1967 (Telfer); SLF phase (Beaver Cage) 28 April – 12 May; previously listed as 1–16 May 1967
Mission Purpose / Objective	Search and destroy operation against North Vietnamese 2d Division units (3d and 21st NVA Regiments, 3d VC Regiment) that had returned to the Que Son Basin.
Locations / Cities	Que Son Basin; Nui Loc Son; Hill 110; Quang Tin / Quang Nam Provinces
TAOR	Que Son Basin; Quang Tin / Quang Nam Provinces
UTM Coordinates	Not recorded.
USMC Units Involved	5th Marines (Col Kenneth J. Houghton): 1/5 (LtCol Peter L. Hilgartner) and 3/5, with 1/3 (SLF Alpha, as Beaver Cage). The only 2/5 unit detached was Company E, under 1/1 operational control 15–17 May 1967.
2/5 Companies Participated	Company E (attached to another unit). The only 2/5 unit detached was Company E, under 1/1 operational control 15–17 May 1967.
Mission Results	Heavy fighting, including the battle of Hill 110 on 10 May 1967 (1/5 and 1/3). Company H held Nong Son throughout: on 21–22 April it swept a fortified VC village at AT 792352, and later in April it found and sealed large caves in the Nong Son area.
USMC KIA	Whole Union I and II: 110 (previously recorded combined figure). Breakdown by 2/5 company: not recorded.
USMC Wounded	Whole Union I and II: 473 (previously recorded combined figure). Breakdown by 2/5 company: not recorded.
Enemy KIA	Approximately 865, Union I and II combined (previously recorded figure)
Enemy Wounded	Unknown

NOTES & SOURCE REFERENCES

UPDATED 16 SEPTEMBER 2026 FROM PRIMARY SOURCES. CORRECTION: H COMPANY DID NOT PARTICIPATE. This file previously said H/2/5 took part as part of 5th Marines operations in the valley. Telfer's official history states that during Operation Union "the 2d Battalion guarded the industrial complex at An Hoa in the Da Nang TAOR under the operational control of the Commanding General, 1st Marine Division." The 2/5 Command Chronologies place Hotel Company at the Nong Son outpost for all of April and May 1967. Corrected dates: Union began 21 April 1967. 2/5 COMPANIES THAT DID NOT TAKE PART: Company F, Company G, Company H, H&S Company.

Primary sources: 2/5 Command Chronologies, April and May 1967 (Texas Tech University Vietnam Archive items 1201048083 and 1201048086); Gary L. Telfer, Lane Rogers and V. Keith Fleming Jr., U.S. Marines in Vietnam: Fighting the North Vietnamese, 1967 (HQMC, 1984), ch. 5. Originals: National Archives, RG 127 (National Archives II, College Park MD 20740; Marine Corps History Division, Quantico VA 22134).