G COMPANY, 2ND BATTALION, 5TH MARINES

MAY 1969 — 2/5 FIELD COMMAND POST IN THE ARIZONA

Compiled from the 2/5 Command Chronology for May 1969

1st Marine Division · III Marine Amphibious Force · I Corps, Republic of Vietnam

1. Unit Overview

Unit Designation	Golf Company (G Co), 2nd Battalion, 5th Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division
Reporting Period	1–31 May 1969
Commander	Capt R. W. Poolaw (1–13 May); 1stLt A. R. Finlayson (14–31 May)
Higher HQ	2nd Battalion, 5th Marines (LtCol J. H. Higgins); 5th Marines; 1st Marine Division
Area of Operations	2/5 field command post in the Arizona, Phu Da (1) and (2), Duc Duc District headquarters
Combat Posture	Combat operations, patrols and security (21 combat entries)
Base of Operations	2/5 field command post in the Arizona
Corps Area	I Corps Tactical Zone, Republic of Vietnam

2. Commander's Summary

Company G’s entries for May 1969 place it most often at or near 2/5 field command post in the Arizona (13 of 19 entries with a named place or grid), and also at Phu Da (1) and (2), Duc Duc District headquarters.

Company G was commanded by Capt R. W. Poolaw (1–13 May); 1stLt A. R. Finlayson (14–31 May); the battalion by LtCol J. H. Higgins (1–31 May).

The battalion’s command chronology names Company G in 21 entries this month (21 combat).

On 10 May 1969: at AT 833503 saw 35-40 VC/NVA moving west to east; fired 106mm, 81mm and artillery — 14 VC/NVA KIA.

On 10 May 1969: Marine detonated an unknown-type booby trap with trip wire in a treeline at AT 854508 — 1 WIA evac.

On 11 May 1969: squad at AT 854504 saw 2 VC moving SW at AT 849506; opened fire — 1 NVA KIA, 900 dong captured.

3. Operations Overview

Operation / Activity	Dates	Description
2/5 field command post in the Arizona operations	May 1969	No named operation appears in this month's entries for the company; activities are listed in the chronology below.

4. Chronology of Company G Activities

Compiled from the checked transcriptions of the 2/5 command chronology for May 1969 in the hotel25vv research database. Only entries naming Company G are listed. Times and grid references are as recorded; each entry ends with its source page.

Date	Activity / Events
3 May 14:30	a Marine searching a spider hole at AT 867503 apprehended a 30-year-old man in khaki uniform carrying two extra uniforms — 1 NVA POW. [2/5 ComdC May 1969, PDF p. 17]
10 May 11:40	at AT 833503 saw 35-40 VC/NVA moving west to east; fired 106mm, 81mm and artillery — 14 VC/NVA KIA [2/5 ComdC May 1969, PDF p. 27]
10 May 15:00	Marine detonated an unknown-type booby trap with trip wire in a treeline at AT 854508 — 1 WIA evac [2/5 ComdC May 1969, PDF p. 27]
11 May 09:30	squad at AT 854504 saw 2 VC moving SW at AT 849506; opened fire — 1 NVA KIA, 900 dong captured [2/5 ComdC May 1969, PDF p. 29]
11 May 10:50	patrol at AT 860497 saw 2 NVA with weapons moving north; opened fire — 2 NVA KIA, AK-47, 7.62mm pistol [2/5 ComdC May 1969, PDF p. 29]
11 May 11:30	at AT 865505 saw four NVA; opened fire with small arms and automatics — 3 NVA KIA, 1 POW, 2 SKS, AK-47 [2/5 ComdC May 1969, PDF p. 29]
12 May 17:00	searching at AT 854495 found one NVA body killed by artillery about three hours earlier — 1 NVA KIA [2/5 ComdC May 1969, PDF p. 32]
12 May 17:30	platoon at AT 848493 saw 2 NVA with packs running north at AT 853495; opened fire — 2 NVA KIA, 2 packs, documents [2/5 ComdC May 1969, PDF p. 32]
12 May 18:30	returning from patrol a Marine detonated a C-4 type explosive device with trip wire set along a trail in a treeline at AT 835495 — 4 WIA evac [2/5 ComdC May 1969, PDF p. 32]
13 May 07:45	at AT 834484 saw 4-5 NVA running SE at AT 843487; opened fire with small arms and 60mm and captured two — 2 NVA POW [2/5 ComdC May 1969, PDF p. 35]
13 May 11:45	at AT 846494 saw 2 VC/NVA in civilian clothes run into a bunker; captured them — 2 VC/NVA POW [2/5 ComdC May 1969, PDF p. 35]

Date	Activity / Events
13 May 16:00	on combat patrol at AT 852479 found a partly buried 75mm recoilless rifle; while digging it up, received small arms and automatic fire from well-entrenched enemy 20 m away; assaulted, receiving fire from south of the river and 60mm from the NNW — 1 USMC KIA, 6 WIA evac, 1 Kit Carson Scout WIA evac, 7 WIA non-evac, 1 NVA KIA; 75mm recoilless rifle, AK-47, 2 grenades, six 75mm rounds, 2 mags captured [2/5 ComdC May 1969, PDF p. 35]
13 May 20:00	platoons from G and H at AT 846484 received six rounds of 82mm from an unknown position — 2 WIA evac. [2/5 ComdC May 1969, PDF p. 37]
14 May 07:00	2d Platoon searched the area at AT 847477 from which Golf had been fired on during the night — 2 NVA KIA, AK-50, food, documents [2/5 ComdC May 1969, PDF p. 38]
15 May 00:15	at AT 830475 received small arms, B-40, 60mm and automatic fire; returned fire with small arms, grenades, M-79, 60mm, 81mm and artillery — 5 WIA evac, 4 non-evac [2/5 ComdC May 1969, PDF p. 39]
15 May 06:15	at AT 830475 received small arms, B-40 and mortar fire; returned fire, searched — 3 NVA KIA; RPG-2, AK-47, six B-40 rockets, 8 grenades, 2 packs, medical gear, food captured [2/5 ComdC May 1969, PDF p. 39]
15 May 09:30	squad moving 100 m south of Golf's CP at AT 830476 received small arms, B-40 and automatic fire; returned fire and assaulted the treeline — 2 NVA KIA; RPG-2, RPD machine gun, 11 B-40 rockets, 6 grenades captured [2/5 ComdC May 1969, PDF p. 39]
15 May 16:00	swept the area at AT 835475 finding NVA bodies and equipment — 4 NVA KIA; NVA map case, eight 82mm rounds, 20 grenades, 6 mags captured [2/5 ComdC May 1969, PDF p. 40]
15 May 16:30	continuing an aggressive sweep at AT 826473, Golf received small arms and automatic fire from the NE. Contact soon became intense and spread to the NE, NW and SW. Golf returned fire and assaulted, but was soon pinned down by an estimated 80 well-entrenched NVA firing small arms and automatic weapons. Golf held contact until casualties forced it to pull back for medevacs. Although gunships and OV-10s fired suppressive fire, medevac helicopters could not come in until after dark because of intense small arms and B-40 fire. At 2300 eight NVA tried to infiltrate Golf's perimeter but were driven back. Air and artillery used through the night; contact broken at 2330 — 8 USMC KIA, 12 WIA evac, 5 WIA non-evac, 3 NVA KIA; 10 grenades, 3 packs, medical gear captured [2/5 ComdC May 1969, PDF p. 39]
16 May 10:00	searching the area of the previous day's contact found two NVA bodies, many blood trails and gear — 2 NVA KIA [2/5 ComdC May 1969, PDF p. 42]
23 May 10:00	2d and 3d Platoons moving through the area at AT 848477 discovered 11 NVA bodies fully dressed in green khaki uniforms, believed killed by Golf's 2d Platoon on 13 May at 1600 — 11 NVA KIA. [2/5 ComdC May 1969, PDF p. 49]

5. Notes and Caveats

This file was built on 22 November 2026 in the same format as the Company H reports, directly from the checked, page-cited transcriptions of the 2nd Battalion, 5th Marines command chronologies. The notes below record its sources and where the record is thin.

1. SOURCE. The entries come from 2/5 Command Chronology May 1969 (Texas Tech University Vietnam Archive item 1201048115).

2. HOW IT WAS COMPILED. Every entry in the research database whose units name Company G (Golf) for May 1969 is listed in date and time order, with the page of the chronology it was read from. Entries that name only another company are left out.

3. COMMANDER. Company and battalion commanders are taken from the monthly organisation data (Section I of each chronology) as recorded in the battalion leadership ledger.

4. CASUALTIES. Casualty figures are not totalled here. Individual losses appear in the entries as recorded; for authoritative totals see the casualty tables in the original chronology.

5. ORIGINALS. National Archives and Records Administration, Record Group 127, Records of the United States Marine Corps. For full records contact National Archives II, 8601 Adelphi Road, College Park MD 20740, or Marine Corps History Division, Quantico VA 22134.

6. Sources

This document was compiled from the following primary and secondary sources:

PRIMARY SOURCES

— 2/5 Command Chronology May 1969 (Texas Tech University Vietnam Archive item 1201048115)

SECONDARY SOURCES

— Smith, Charles R. U.S. Marines in Vietnam: High Mobility and Standdown, 1969. History and Museums Division, HQMC, 1988.

— “Golf Company.” Hotel 2/5 Combat Marines. https://hotel25vv.com

Document prepared for historical research purposes. For authoritative casualty figures, unit rosters, and engagement details, consult original 2/5 Command Chronology records at NARA RG 127. | Golf Company, 2/5 Marines, May 1969