H&S COMPANY, 2ND BATTALION, 5TH MARINES

MAY 1966 — HILL 69 (BATTALION CP, CHU LAI)

Compiled from the 2/5 Command Chronology for May 1966

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

1. Unit Overview

Unit Designation	Headquarters and Service Company (H&S Co), 2nd Battalion, 5th Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division; including the battalion command post, the 106mm section and the S-2 and S-5 sections
Reporting Period	1–31 May 1966
Commander	Capt R. D. Hughes (from 1 May 1966)
Higher HQ	2nd Battalion, 5th Marines (LtCol R. H. Uskurait; LtCol Walter Moore); 5th Marines; 1st Marine Division
Area of Operations	Hill 69 (battalion CP, Chu Lai), Thanh My Trung (1) (Echo patrol base), Hill 22 (Hotel, Chu Lai)
Combat Posture	Combat operations, patrols and security (16 combat entries)
Base of Operations	Hill 69 (battalion CP, Chu Lai)
Corps Area	I Corps Tactical Zone, Republic of Vietnam

2. Commander's Summary

H&S Company’s entries for May 1966 place it most often at or near Hill 69 (battalion CP, Chu Lai) (5 of 6 entries with a named place or grid), and also at Thanh My Trung (1) (Echo patrol base), Hill 22 (Hotel, Chu Lai).

H&S Company was commanded by Capt R. D. Hughes (from 1 May 1966); the battalion by LtCol R. H. Uskurait (from 1 May 1966); LtCol Walter Moore (from 23 May 1966).

For May 1966 this report lists 63 entries (30 organization, 16 combat, 9 movement, 5 personnel, 1 medical, 1 logistics, 1 leadership): 0 naming H&S or one of its sections (the battalion command post, the 106mm section, S-2, S-5), and 63 battalion-level entries recorded by the battalion headquarters.

On 1 May 1966: Echo spent seventeen days on company and platoon sweeps north of the Song Trau, repeatedly making contact with opposing forces.

On 1 May 1966: From Hill 76, Hotel patrolled the western part of the battalion sector and conducted joint patrols and ambushes with local Popular Forces.

On 3 May 1966: The fire-support section records preparation fires for landing zones between May 3 and 15.

3. Operations Overview

Operation / Activity	Dates	Description
Operation Incinerator	1 June 1966; the 2/5 chronology records the operation ending at 1720 (011720H).	The battalion issued Fragmentary Order 6-66 for clearing concealment, entrenchments and mines on Hill 22 and supporting Regional Force sweeps through Khuong Nhon.

4. Chronology of H&S Company Activities

Compiled from the checked transcriptions of the 2/5 command chronology for May 1966 in the hotel25vv research database. Entries naming H&S or its sections and all battalion-level entries are listed; entries naming only a rifle company are left out. Times and grid references are as recorded; each entry ends with its source page.

Date	Activity / Events
1 May 14:15	A second platoon took over the position at Ky Phu from a first platoon. [Command chronology · May 1966, including Wyoming after-actio, PDF p. 8; Command chronology · May 1966, including Wyoming after-actio, PDF p. 50]
1 May 16:00	At the checkpoint, a child pulled the pin while a sentry took away the grenade. It did not activate; the child escaped. The situation report adds that the sentry kept hold of the grenade's safety lever and replaced the pin after the child pulled it and ran away. [Command chronology · May 1966, including Wyoming after-actio, PDF p. 8; Command chronology · May 1966, including Wyoming after-actio, PDF p. 50]
May	Echo spent seventeen days on company and platoon sweeps north of the Song Trau, repeatedly making contact with opposing forces. The monthly overview describes this extended effort without giving its first day. [Command chronology · May 1966, including Wyoming after-actio, PDF p. 2]
May	Available Marines practiced combat firing, equipment care and the use of supporting arms and new equipment. Vietnam orientation and lessons from recent operations were also part of the instruction. [Command chronology · May 1966, including Wyoming after-actio, PDF p. 8]
May	From Hill 76, Hotel patrolled the western part of the battalion sector and conducted joint patrols and ambushes with local Popular Forces. On May 3, Hotel found an enemy base camp near BT 435020. Marines destroyed a bunker large enough for thirty men and a hut for fifteen, and collected ammunition, uniforms and notebooks. On May 5, 2nd Platoon searched two caves containing beds, clothing, rations and radio

Date	Activity / Events
	batteries. A diary and other documents were forwarded to the interrogation and translation team. Patrols also cleared hazards: on May 8, Hotel found a bear trap and a 250-pound bomb, destroying the bomb in place. Hotel provided support beyond its own patrols. On May 9, its command post fired 60-mm mortar rounds in support of a Golf patrol under fire. On May 20, a Hotel squad escorting a division communications wire team came under fire. Another Hotel squad and two Ontos were sent from Hill 69 to reinforce it. A wounded woman and two wounded children were evacuated to the 1st Medical Battalion. Golf's patrols could develop into larger fights. On May 3, a patrol contact drew in additional Golf and Echo elements, with helicopters, artillery and air support. The fighting continued into the evening. On May 8, Golf searched a village after taking fire and found punji stakes and a trench line. The patrol came under fire again while destroying the stakes. Golf also protected supporting units. On May 15, it sent a squad to help a tank crew under fire after the tank threw a track, then provided a fire team for security. That evening, another Golf patrol held its fire despite incoming shots because women and children were in its line of fire. On May 30, Golf's 2nd Platoon discovered a cave on Hill 270 containing ammunition, explosives and documents. [Command chronology · May 1966, including Wyoming after-actio, PDF p. 2; Command chronology · May 1966, including Wyoming after-actio, PDF p. 9]
May roster	The May roster identifies the battalion staff and company commanders, with separate date ranges for officers who changed during the month. [Command chronology · May 1966, including Wyoming after-actio, PDF p. 4]
May	A battalion doctor and two corpsmen traveled with a rifle squad protecting their visits to outlying hamlets. [Command chronology · May 1966, including Wyoming after-actio, PDF p. 22]
May	Vietnamese nurses, Popular Forces personnel and, when available, a village official joined the battalion medical patrols. [Command chronology · May 1966, including Wyoming after-actio, PDF p. 23]
May	Medical civic-action patrols became a regular part of the battalion's work during May, bringing medical care to outlying hamlets. During the late-May reporting period, medical teams made nineteen visits and treated 2,033 medical patients and eighty-five dental patients. [Command chronology · May 1966, including Wyoming after-actio, PDF p. 23; Command chronology · May 1966, including Wyoming after-actio, PDF p. 91]
May	Six memorial services were held during May. Chaplain P. W. Pearson assisted at two of them. [Command chronology · May 1966, including Wyoming after-actio, PDF p. 6]
May	Work continued on the battalion perimeter, the An Tan Bridge defensive position and supply facilities. A field mess on Hill 76 provided a hot meal, while road access to Golf's Hill 35 position reduced reliance on helicopters. [Command chronology · May 1966, including Wyoming after-actio, PDF p. 3; Command chronology · May 1966, including Wyoming after-actio, PDF p. 19]
May	A twenty-hour course covered radio operation, procedures and maintenance. [Command chronology · May 1966, including Wyoming after-actio, PDF p. 20]
May	Battery stocks twice fell to only a few available units before urgent requisitions replenished them. Missing radio tubes kept some PRC-10 sets out of service. [Command chronology · May 1966, including Wyoming after-actio, PDF p. 20]
May	The battalion began taking surplus prepared meals to refugees. May's civil-affairs account records 1,800 pounds of food and more than 400 pounds of scrap wood distributed. [Command chronology · May 1966, including Wyoming after-actio, PDF p. 23]

Date	Activity / Events
May	Transfers reduced the share of men due to rotate in February 1967 from 80 percent to 48 percent. By the end of May, the battalion was short seven Marine officers and 175 enlisted Marines, including critical infantry leadership shortages. [Command chronology · May 1966, including Wyoming after-actio, PDF p. 5]
May	The medical section erected a general-purpose tent for patients. [Command chronology · May 1966, including Wyoming after-actio, PDF p. 19]
May	Villagers met the musicians at An Tan Bridge, carried them upriver by boat and helped move their instruments to the village headquarters for a concert. The report supplies no exact day. [Command chronology · May 1966, including Wyoming after-actio, PDF p. 23]
3–15 May	The fire-support section records preparation fires for landing zones between May 3 and 15. [Command chronology · May 1966, including Wyoming after-actio, PDF p. 21]
04 May 13:30	The company was completing the evacuation of 1,500 pounds of rice collected during the sweep. [Command chronology · May 1966, including Wyoming after-actio, PDF p. 55]
4 May 19:30	Three armed men moving through rice paddies fled when the defenders opened fire. [Command chronology · May 1966, including Wyoming after-actio, PDF p. 10]
7 May 19:50	A Marine could not identify where the grenade had come from and could not return fire. [Command chronology · May 1966, including Wyoming after-actio, PDF p. 11]
7 May	Major L. E. Wood is listed as S-3 from May 7, following Major R. A. Pape's May 1–6 period. [Command chronology · May 1966, including Wyoming after-actio, PDF p. 4]
11 May	Second Lieutenant D. W. Montana is listed as supply officer from May 11, following Captain R. L. Tidwell's May 1–10 period. [Command chronology · May 1966, including Wyoming after-actio, PDF p. 4]
12 May 07:32	The company returned fire near its position. The situation report's search found no evidence of enemy casualties. [Command chronology · May 1966, including Wyoming after-actio, PDF p. 63]
13 May 11:25	The party searched southeast of its position after two shots, but found no further evidence of the shooter. [Command chronology · May 1966, including Wyoming after-actio, PDF p. 14]
15 May 17:40	Two men on a Hotel patrol were injured by a booby trap and evacuated to the 1st Medical Battalion. This entry appears in the following day's situation report. [Command chronology · May 1966, including Wyoming after-actio, PDF p. 71]
15 May 19:00	The patrol took five rifle shots but did not shoot back because women and children were in the line of fire. [Command chronology · May 1966, including Wyoming after-actio, PDF p. 71]
15 May	Responsibility north of the Song Trau River passed to 1st Battalion, 5th Marines, changing the area assigned to 2/5. Echo was directed to help 1/5 become familiar with its area for about seventy-two hours, beginning at noon on May 15, or until released. [Command chronology · May 1966, including Wyoming after-actio, PDF p. 2; Command chronology · May 1966, including Wyoming after-actio, PDF p. 39]
16 May	The strike burned out a generator's internal wiring despite two grounding wires. It was sent to Force Logistic Support Group B the following day. [Command chronology · May 1966, including Wyoming after-actio, PDF p. 20]
16 May–31 May	In the latter half of May, 2/5 exchanged officers and enlisted men with units of the 1st and 7th Marines to spread rotation dates. The exchanges also brought additional

Date	Activity / Events
	combat experience into the battalion. [Command chronology · May 1966, including Wyoming after-actio, PDF p. 3]
17 May 08:00	The order called for patrols, offensive operations, a ready reserve and defense of the An Tan Bridge checkpoint. Its cover is dated May 17; the May 19 relocation entry refers to an issue date of May 19. The instructions set a civilian curfew from 20:00 to 05:00, called for Vietnamese liaison personnel, and directed operations to minimize civilian casualties and damage to property. [Command chronology · May 1966, including Wyoming after-actio, PDF p. 38; Command chronology · May 1966, including Wyoming after-actio, PDF p. 41]
17 May 20:50	Defenders fired back and illuminated the area. Three men were seen running into the woods but evaded pursuit. [Command chronology · May 1966, including Wyoming after-actio, PDF p. 16]
17 May	The new order assigned three companies to sectors and rotated the fourth through Hill 69 for training and reserve duty. It required the reserve to be ready for helicopter, vehicle or foot movement. [Command chronology · May 1966, including Wyoming after-actio, PDF p. 39]
17 May	After an extended series of sweeps in the northern sector, Echo returned to the battalion command-post area on Hill 69. The sector order had scheduled Echo's return for about 07:00 on May 18, or whenever 1/5 released it. [Command chronology · May 1966, including Wyoming after-actio, PDF p. 2; Command chronology · May 1966, including Wyoming after-actio, PDF p. 39]
17 May	The generator disabled by the previous day's lightning strike was evacuated to the logistics support group. [Command chronology · May 1966, including Wyoming after-actio, PDF p. 20]
18 May 09:40	The security squad returned fire but stayed with the medical party instead of searching for the shooters. [Command chronology · May 1966, including Wyoming after-actio, PDF p. 16]
18–20 May	Foxtrot exchanged its Chu Lai Defense Command assignment with Hotel and continued patrols and cooperation with Popular Forces in the western and southern sector. The commander's summary places this alongside the mid-May changes without giving a separate date. Foxtrot's instructions called for a return to the battalion command post around May 18, or when back under battalion control, to prepare for its new sector and coordinate the transfer with Golf. [Command chronology · May 1966, including Wyoming after-actio, PDF p. 2; Command chronology · May 1966, including Wyoming after-actio, PDF p. 40]
18 May–20 May	Golf moved from Hill 69 to the battalion's northern flank. Its task was to clear and secure the Khuong Nhon area toward the Song Trau River for regimental headquarters and artillery positions. The order scheduled Hotel to relieve Golf on May 19, or when directed, freeing Golf to occupy its new sector. [Command chronology · May 1966, including Wyoming after-actio, PDF p. 2; Command chronology · May 1966, including Wyoming after-actio, PDF p. 40]
19 May	The sector plan called for Hotel to leave its previous area when relieved by Foxtrot and provide a reinforced platoon at An Tan Bridge. This card describes the ordered assignment. [Command chronology · May 1966, including Wyoming after-actio, PDF p. 40]
20 May	Captain M. C. Pease is listed as S-4 from May 20, following Captain H. T. Winston's May 1–19 period. [Command chronology · May 1966, including Wyoming after-actio, PDF p. 4]

Date	Activity / Events
21 May 20:45	The post used rifle fire and illumination, then searched without making further contact. [Command chronology · May 1966, including Wyoming after-actio, PDF p. 17]
22 May 18:00	An interrogation produced allegations about training and informants in nearby hamlets. The battalion recorded an intelligence rating; the accusations were not established facts. [Command chronology · May 1966, including Wyoming after-actio, PDF p. 17]
23 May	Lieutenant Colonel Walter Moore relieved Lieutenant Colonel Robert H. Uskurait as commanding officer of 2/5. [Command chronology · May 1966, including Wyoming after-actio, PDF p. 3]
23–29 May	The weekly report lists scout instruction in the Winchester rifle, observation posts, map reading and terrain appreciation. [Command chronology · May 1966, including Wyoming after-actio, PDF p. 90]
24 May 06:30	Golf, less detached elements, passed to 1/5's operational control at 06:30 and returned to 2/5 at 17:30. [Command chronology · May 1966, including Wyoming after-actio, PDF p. 17]
25–29 May	The weekly report records farming pamphlets distributed around Ky Phu and handouts offering rewards for information about mines and booby traps. [Command chronology · May 1966, including Wyoming after-actio, PDF p. 91]
26 May 19:50	The battalion used a flame tank to clear vegetation from a known mined area. The transcribed grid is anomalous and is not plotted as a confirmed location. [Command chronology · May 1966, including Wyoming after-actio, PDF p. 18]
26 May 23:05	The first-light search found no further evidence. The two grids in the entry are widely separated and need checking before plotting. [Command chronology · May 1966, including Wyoming after-actio, PDF p. 18]
26 May	First Lieutenant L. Boone III is listed in command of Golf from May 26, following Captain J. M. O'Rourke's May 1–25 period. [Command chronology · May 1966, including Wyoming after-actio, PDF p. 4]
26 May	The psychological-warfare report records the flight but does not assess its results. [Command chronology · May 1966, including Wyoming after-actio, PDF p. 91]
26 May night	Tank searchlights lit the area southwest of Hill 69 through the hours of darkness. [Command chronology · May 1966, including Wyoming after-actio, PDF p. 86]
Night of 27–28 May	The battalion called for 192 artillery rounds against the reported valleys. Harassing and interdiction fire continued through the night while the battalion prepared to search the area. [Command chronology · May 1966, including Wyoming after-actio, PDF p. 18]
27 May	Colonel Charles F. Widdecke brought the regiment's headquarters from Okinawa to Chu Lai, joining its battalions already in Vietnam. [An Expanding War, PDF p. 144]
Reported 28 May	PFC David D. Drake, from the flames section attached to Foxtrot, accidentally wounded his left calf while cleaning his pistol. A helicopter evacuation was requested for first light. [Command chronology · May 1966, including Wyoming after-actio, PDF p. 89]
28 May	The fire-support section records a battalion time-on-target mission on May 28. [Command chronology · May 1966, including Wyoming after-actio, PDF p. 21]
30 May	Illness kept the instructor from starting the scheduled class. [Command chronology · May 1966, including Wyoming after-actio, PDF p. 23]

Date	Activity / Events
30 May	The battalion issued Fragmentary Order 6-66 for clearing concealment, entrenchments and mines on Hill 22 and supporting Regional Force sweeps through Khuong Nhon. This is the order date; the timetable on subsequent pages schedules movement on May 31 and action on June 1. [Command chronology · May 1966, including Wyoming after-actio, PDF p. 45; Command chronology · May 1966, including Wyoming after-actio, PDF p. 46]
30 May	The battalion sent its lessons-learned report to the 1st Marines on May 30. Heat and fatigue had left men less alert around bivouacs, where gathering together increased the danger from a single explosion. The review credited Popular Forces personnel with spotting mines and stressed the value of villagers' information. [Command chronology · May 1966, including Wyoming after-actio, PDF p. 97; Command chronology · May 1966, including Wyoming after-actio, PDF p. 98]
30 May	Chaplain Steven L. Brandt of 1st Marine Division Headquarters Battalion served as guest preacher. [Command chronology · May 1966, including Wyoming after-actio, PDF p. 6]
31 May	The I Corps Jewish chaplain led a service for Jewish personnel from 2/5 and neighboring commands. [Command chronology · May 1966, including Wyoming after-actio, PDF p. 6]
31 May	A first platoon was temporarily attached to the 1st Battalion, 5th Marines under its operational control. [Command chronology · May 1966, including Wyoming after-actio, PDF p. 95]
31 May	A first platoon was released from 1/5's operational control and returned to 2/5. [Command chronology · May 1966, including Wyoming after-actio, PDF p. 96]
31 May	Incinerator's orders called for the company to billet at Ly Tin on May 31 before the June 1 sweep. This is a scheduled movement; the order alone does not confirm its execution. [Command chronology · May 1966, including Wyoming after-actio, PDF p. 47]

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 Command chronology · May 1966, including Wyoming after-action report (Texas Tech University Vietnam Archive item 1201048069); U.S. Marines in Vietnam · An Expanding War, 1966.

2. HOW IT WAS COMPILED. H&S 2/5 is recorded in the chronology under several names: H&S, H&S (Bn CP), Bn CP, the 106mm section and the S-2 and S-5 sections. All are combined here. Because H&S was the battalion headquarters, every battalion-level entry not tied to a rifle company is included too. Entries are listed in date and time order, each with the page of the chronology it was read from; entries naming only Echo, Foxtrot, Golf or Hotel 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

— Command chronology · May 1966, including Wyoming after-action report (Texas Tech University Vietnam Archive item 1201048069)

— U.S. Marines in Vietnam · An Expanding War, 1966

— 2nd Battalion, 5th Marines Command Chronology for May 1966, as published on hotel25vv.com (Battalion Chronology page): https://hotel25vv.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/06/1966May-2-5CommandChronology.pdf

SECONDARY SOURCES

— Shulimson, Jack and Charles M. Johnson. U.S. Marines in Vietnam: An Expanding War, 1966. History and Museums Division, HQMC, 1982.

— “2/5 Battalion Chronology.” Hotel 2/5 Combat Marines. https://hotel25vv.com/vietnam-war-chronology/battalion-chronology

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. | H&S Company, 2/5 Marines, May 1966