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

MAY 1968 — PHU GIA PASS (BATTALION CP)

Compiled from the 2/5 Command Chronology for May 1968

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 1968
Commander	1stLt A. A. Dornbach (1–6 May); 1stLt T. D. Martin (6–31 May)
Higher HQ	2nd Battalion, 5th Marines (LtCol E. C. Cheatham Jr.); 5th Marines; 1st Marine Division
Area of Operations	Phu Gia Pass (battalion CP), Cao Doi tunnel (battalion CP), Phu Loc District headquarters
Combat Posture	Combat operations, patrols and security (1 combat entries)
Base of Operations	Phu Gia Pass (battalion CP)
Corps Area	I Corps Tactical Zone, Republic of Vietnam

2. Commander's Summary

H&S Company’s entries for May 1968 place it most often at or near Phu Gia Pass (battalion CP) (3 of 5 entries with a named place or grid), and also at Cao Doi tunnel (battalion CP), Phu Loc District headquarters.

H&S Company was commanded by 1stLt A. A. Dornbach (1–6 May); 1stLt T. D. Martin (6–31 May); the battalion by LtCol E. C. Cheatham Jr. (1–31 May).

For May 1968 this report lists 7 entries (4 organization, 1 logistics, 1 movement, 1 combat): 0 naming H&S or one of its sections (the battalion command post, the 106mm section, S-2, S-5), and 7 battalion-level entries recorded by the battalion headquarters.

On 1 May 1968: CP at Cao Doi tunnel (ZD054026); Echo at Phu Loc Fire Base, Foxtrot at Nuoc Ngot Bridge, Hotel at Cao Doi tunnel and the rock crusher; Golf under the 7th Marines for the first half of May.

On 12 May 1968: A CH-46 evacuating wounded crashed on take-off at the CP LZ (AT869907); all 12 wounded and 5 crewmen rescued.

On 28 May 1968: An H&S fire team truck on convoy security set off a 50-lb box mine at ZD076009 — 2 USMC WIA.

3. Operations Overview

Operation / Activity	Dates	Description
Phu Gia Pass (battalion CP) operations	May 1968	No named operation appears in this month's entries for the company; activities are listed in the chronology below.

4. Chronology of H&S Company Activities

Compiled from the checked transcriptions of the 2/5 command chronology for May 1968 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	CP at Cao Doi tunnel (ZD054026); Echo at Phu Loc Fire Base, Foxtrot at Nuoc Ngot Bridge, Hotel at Cao Doi tunnel and the rock crusher; Golf under the 7th Marines for the first half of May [2/5 ComdC May 1968, PDF p. 89]
May day unstated	Field kitchens on Hai Van Pass and at Phu Gia Pass. [2/5 ComdC May 1968, PDF p. 10]
9 May	Command group with Echo began a 7-day search and clear in the mountains west of Hai Van Pass, relieving Mike 3/5 (AT869907); Mike 3/5 and 3rd Platoon Delta 1/5 under 2/5 [2/5 ComdC May 1968, PDF p. 90]
12 May 16:45	A CH-46 evacuating wounded crashed on take-off at the CP LZ (AT869907); all 12 wounded and 5 crewmen rescued [2/5 ComdC May 1968, PDF p. 92]
17 May	2/5 took over 3/5's area: CP to Phu Gia Pass (AT833999); Hotel to the Thua Luu Bridge area, Echo to Lang Co Bridge, Golf back on 15 May to the Hai Van Pass area, Foxtrot in place [2/5 ComdC May 1968, PDF p. 89]
17 May	Command group, Echo, Hotel moved from Not stated to Phu Gia Pass (battalion CP) (AT 833 999) (means not stated). Until 17 May the command post was in the Cao Doi tunnel (ZD 054026); then 2/5 took over 3/5's area and moved to Phu Gia Pass (AT 833999), with Hotel at the Thua Luu Bridge and Echo at the Lang Co Bridge. [C-May PDF 3–4; (From the monthly "by Company" summary, written from the chronology page images.) [2/5 ComdC May 1968, PDF p. 4]
28 May 10:15	An H&S fire team truck on convoy security set off a 50-lb box mine at ZD076009 — 2 USMC WIA [2/5 ComdC May 1968, PDF p. 94]

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 1968 (Texas Tech University Vietnam Archive item 1201048103).

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

— 2/5 Command Chronology May 1968 (Texas Tech University Vietnam Archive item 1201048103)

— 2nd Battalion, 5th Marines Command Chronology for May 1968, as published on hotel25vv.com (Battalion Chronology page): https://hotel25vv.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/06/1968May-2-5CommandChronology.pdf

SECONDARY SOURCES

— Shulimson, Jack, Leonard A. Blasiol, Charles R. Smith and David A. Dawson. U.S. Marines in Vietnam: The Defining Year, 1968. History and Museums Division, HQMC, 1997.

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