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

AUGUST 1968 — AN HOA COMBAT BASE

Compiled from the 2/5 Command Chronology for August 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 August 1968
Commander	1stLt A. A. Dornbach (1–31 August)
Higher HQ	2nd Battalion, 5th Marines (LtCol J. W. Stemple); 5th Marines; 1st Marine Division
Area of Operations	An Hoa Combat Base
Combat Posture	Security, movement and support (no combat entry recorded)
Base of Operations	An Hoa Combat Base
Corps Area	I Corps Tactical Zone, Republic of Vietnam

2. Commander's Summary

H&S Company’s entries for August 1968 place it most often at or near An Hoa Combat Base (2 of 2 entries with a named place or grid).

H&S Company was commanded by 1stLt A. A. Dornbach (1–31 August); the battalion by LtCol J. W. Stemple (1–31 August).

For August 1968 this report lists 8 entries (6 organization, 2 movement): 0 naming H&S or one of its sections (the battalion command post, the 106mm section, S-2, S-5), and 8 battalion-level entries recorded by the battalion headquarters.

On 3 August 1968: A command group Marine set off a 15-lb box mine at AT898488 — 1 USMC KIA, 2 USMC WIA.

On 6 August 1968: The battalion (-) at AT937518 fought an estimated reinforced enemy company with rifle grenades, 60mm and 75mm RR; air and artillery — 1 USMC KIA, 17 USMC WIA, 1 USN WIA, 4 not evac, 23 NVA KIA, an AK-47 and a 75mm RR captured.

On 14 August 1968: 14-16 August Golf and Hotel swept Phu Nhuan (5) and (3), uncovering over 60 booby traps while only 4 were set off.

3. Operations Overview

Operation / Activity	Dates	Description
Operation Sussex Bay	29 August – 9 September 1968 (H-hour 0900, 29 August)	Operation Sussex Bay began, moving northwest to Go Noi Island

4. Chronology of H&S Company Activities

Compiled from the checked transcriptions of the 2/5 command chronology for August 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
3 Aug 17:38	A command group Marine set off a 15-lb box mine at AT898488 — 1 USMC KIA, 2 USMC WIA [2/5 ComdC Aug 1968, PDF p. 11]
6 Aug 09:15	The battalion (-) at AT937518 fought an estimated reinforced enemy company with rifle grenades, 60mm and 75mm RR; air and artillery — 1 USMC KIA, 17 USMC WIA, 1 USN WIA, 4 not evac, 23 NVA KIA, an AK-47 and a 75mm RR captured [2/5 ComdC Aug 1968, PDF p. 11]
10 Aug	Battalion completed its move into the An Hoa Combat Base [2/5 ComdC Aug 1968, PDF p. 14]
14 Aug	14-16 August Golf and Hotel swept Phu Nhuan (5) and (3), uncovering over 60 booby traps while only 4 were set off [2/5 ComdC Aug 1968, PDF p. 12]
17 Aug	Regimental cordon and search near Chau Phong with 2/7 and 3/5; heavy resistance near Le Thap (1) [2/5 ComdC Aug 1968, PDF p. 12]
17 Aug	2/5 (-) moved from An Hoa basin to Regimental cordon near Chau Phong (means not stated). “From 17 August the Second Battalion, in conjunction with the 2nd Battalion, 7th Marines and the 3rd Battalion, 5th Marines, participated in a regimental-size cordon and search operation in the vicinity of Chau Phong … For this operation the company in garrison at An Hoa was released, and for the balance of the month the battalion continued to maneuver with three of its companies in the field” (PDF p. 4). Mode not stated. (From the August 1968 chronology, read 18 Nov 2026.) [2/5 ComdC Aug 1968, PDF p. 4]
29 Aug	Operation Sussex Bay began, moving northwest to Go Noi Island [2/5 ComdC Aug 1968, PDF p. 13]
29 Aug	2/5 (-) moved from Chau Phong area to Go Noi Island (Operation Sussex Bay) (BT 02 54) (means not stated). “The Battalion continued to maneuver northwest to Go Noi

Date	Activity / Events
	Island and on 29 August commenced Operation SUSSEX BAY" (PDF p. 4). Mode not stated. (From the August 1968 chronology, read 18 Nov 2026.) [2/5 ComdC Aug 1968, PDF p. 4]

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 Aug 1968 (Texas Tech University Vietnam Archive item 1201048106).

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 Aug 1968 (Texas Tech University Vietnam Archive item 1201048106)

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

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, August 1968