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

SEPTEMBER 1968 — AN HOA COMBAT BASE

Compiled from the 2/5 Command Chronology for September 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	1–30 September 1968
Commander	1stLt A. A. Dornbach (1–30 September)
Higher HQ	2nd Battalion, 5th Marines (LtCol J. W. Stemple); 5th Marines; 1st Marine Division
Area of Operations	Battalion area: An Hoa Combat Base
Combat Posture	Combat operations, patrols and security (1 combat entries)
Base of Operations	With the battalion: An Hoa Combat Base
Corps Area	I Corps Tactical Zone, Republic of Vietnam

2. Commander's Summary

The battalion’s entries for September 1968 place the battalion most often at or near An Hoa Combat Base (1 of 1 entries with a named place or grid). None of H&S Company’s own entries names a place.

H&S Company was commanded by 1stLt A. A. Dornbach (1–30 September); the battalion by LtCol J. W. Stemple (1–30 September).

For September 1968 this report lists 8 entries (5 organization, 2 movement, 1 combat): 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 8 September 1968: Two H&S trucks returning from day OPs ambushed at AT909482 by an enemy platoon from AT916482; a Golf reaction platoon swept — 1 USMC KIA, 2 USMC WIA, 3 not evac.

On 16 September 1968: Booby traps on 16-18 September wounded Echo, Foxtrot and Golf Marines at AT887513, AT911529, AT904516, AT881511, AT930530.

On 29 September 1968: A command group Marine set off a booby-trapped 60mm round at AT887504 — 1 USMC WIA.

3. Operations Overview

Operation / Activity	Dates	Description
Operation Mameluke Thrust	19 May – 23 Oct 1968	2/5 resumed Operation Mameluke Thrust II
Operation Sussex Bay	29 August – 9 September 1968 (H-hour 0900, 29 August)	Battalion (-) in Operation Sussex Bay with ARVN and ROK Marines, 29 Aug — 9 Sep

4. Chronology of H&S Company Activities

Compiled from the checked transcriptions of the 2/5 command chronology for September 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 Sep	Battalion (-) in Operation Sussex Bay with ARVN and ROK Marines, 29 Aug — 9 Sep [2/5 ComdC Sep 1968, PDF p. 7]
6 Sep	Typhoon Bess struck on 5 September with 2/5 at the east end of Go Noi Island; LtCol Stemple moved the battalion to the railroad berm, knowing “there would be no way we would be able to walk off the island.” “The next day Marine Corps helicopters lifted the 2d Battalion out of the Go Noi except for Company H”; Hotel was lifted out afterwards, after one of its Marines drowned trying to walk out (date not given). (From the official history; the 2/5 chronology has no separate entry for this move.) [U.S. Marines in Vietnam · The Defining Year, 1968, PDF p. 399]
6 Sep	2/5 (less Hotel) moved from Railroad berm, Go Noi Island to Not stated by helicopter. Typhoon Bess struck on 5 September with 2/5 at the east end of Go Noi Island; LtCol Stemple moved the battalion to the railroad berm, knowing “there would be no way we would be able to walk off the island.” “The next day Marine Corps helicopters lifted the 2d Battalion out of the Go Noi except for Company H”; Hotel was lifted out afterwards, after one of its Marines drowned trying to walk out (date not given). (From the official history; the 2/5 chronology has no separate entry for this move.) [U.S. Marines in Vietnam · The Defining Year, 1968, PDF p. 399]
8 Sep 18:30	Two H&S trucks returning from day OPs ambushed at AT909482 by an enemy platoon from AT916482; a Golf reaction platoon swept — 1 USMC KIA, 2 USMC WIA, 3 not evac [2/5 ComdC Sep 1968, PDF p. 8]
11 Sep	2/5 resumed Operation Mameluke Thrust II [2/5 ComdC Sep 1968, PDF p. 9]
16 Sep	Booby traps on 16-18 September wounded Echo, Foxtrot and Golf Marines at AT887513, AT911529, AT904516, AT881511, AT930530 [2/5 ComdC Sep 1968, PDF p. 10]

Date	Activity / Events
29 Sep 12:05	A command group Marine set off a booby-trapped 60mm round at AT887504 — 1 USMC WIA [2/5 ComdC Sep 1968, PDF p. 11]
30 Sep 07:02	The battalion chaplain set off a booby-trapped 60mm round with a bamboo trip stick at AT887504 — 1 USN WIA [2/5 ComdC Sep 1968, PDF p. 11]

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 Sep 1968 (Texas Tech University Vietnam Archive item 1201048107); U.S. Marines in Vietnam · The Defining Year, 1968.

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 Sep 1968 (Texas Tech University Vietnam Archive item 1201048107)

— U.S. Marines in Vietnam · The Defining Year, 1968

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