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

OCTOBER 1968 — AN HOA COMBAT BASE

Compiled from the 2/5 Command Chronology for October 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 October 1968
Commander	1stLt A. A. Dornbach (1–10 October); 1stLt J. J. Unger (11–29 October); Capt F. A. Vandenberg (30–31 October)
Higher HQ	2nd Battalion, 5th Marines (LtCol J. W. Stemple); 5th Marines; 1st Marine Division
Area of Operations	An Hoa Combat Base, Maui Peak hill, Route 4, Hill 52
Combat Posture	Combat operations, patrols and security (2 combat entries)
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 October 1968 place it most often at or near An Hoa Combat Base (5 of 8 entries with a named place or grid), and also at Maui Peak hill, Route 4, Hill 52.

H&S Company was commanded by 1stLt A. A. Dornbach (1–10 October); 1stLt J. J. Unger (11–29 October); Capt F. A. Vandenberg (30–31 October); the battalion by LtCol J. W. Stemple (1–31 October).

For October 1968 this report lists 12 entries (5 organization, 4 movement, 2 combat, 1 logistics): 0 naming H&S or one of its sections (the battalion command post, the 106mm section, S-2, S-5), and 12 battalion-level entries recorded by the battalion headquarters.

On 6 October 1968: Operation Maui Peak began: attack west along Route 4 toward the Thuong Duc Special Forces Camp from Fire Support Base Hill 52.

On 6 October 1968: 2/5 (-) (reinforced), under the 7th Marines moved from An Hoa sector to West along Route 4 toward the Thuong Duc Special Forces Camp on foot.

On 8 October 1968: Company A 1/5 (under 2/5) attacked a hill at ZC190560 held by two reinforced NVA platoons; Golf supporting from ZC195561 — 12 USMC WIA, 27 NVA KIA by air, 15 NVA KIA.

3. Operations Overview

Operation / Activity	Dates	Description
Operation Arizona	140800H – 181915H June 1967 (2/5 participation; the S-2 lists the operation as 15–19 June); previously listed as 13–26 June	23 Oct October: The battalion returned to An Hoa and began Operation Henderson Hill.
Operation Mameluke Thrust	19 May – 23 Oct 1968	Battalion (-)(Rein) under the 7th Marines, 1-19 October; Mameluke Thrust II ended for 2/5
Operation Maui Peak	060600H – 191800H October 1968 (2/5 after action report). 2/5 (-) was under 7th Marines control 1–19 October.	Operation Maui Peak began: attack west along Route 4 toward the Thuong Duc Special Forces Camp from Fire Support Base Hill 52
Operation Henderson Hill	23 Oct – 6 Dec 1968	2/5 began Operation Henderson Hill

4. Chronology of H&S Company Activities

Compiled from the checked transcriptions of the 2/5 command chronology for October 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 Oct	Battalion (-)(Rein) under the 7th Marines, 1-19 October; Mameluke Thrust II ended for 2/5 [2/5 ComdC Oct 1968, PDF p. 4]
First half of October	Record rainfall floods the An Hoa area; mail delayed. [2/5 ComdC Oct 1968, PDF p. 4]

Date	Activity / Events
6 Oct	Operation Maui Peak began: attack west along Route 4 toward the Thuong Duc Special Forces Camp from Fire Support Base Hill 52 [2/5 ComdC Oct 1968, PDF p. 44]
6 Oct	2/5 (-) (reinforced), under the 7th Marines moved from An Hoa sector to West along Route 4 toward the Thuong Duc Special Forces Camp on foot. Operation Maui Peak: "The primary mission of the Battalion was to conduct a diversionary attack by maneuvering west along Route #4 toward the Thuong Duc Special Forces Camp. On 6 October the Battalion made heavy contact with the enemy while Company G was sweeping the high ground North of Route #4" (PDF p. 4). The official history describes the battalion fighting along the road and capturing a hill (Defining Year, pp. 419–421). Mode inferred as on foot. (From the October 1968 chronology, read 18 Nov 2026.) [2/5 ComdC Oct 1968, PDF p. 4; U.S. Marines in Vietnam · The Defining Year, 1968, PDF p. 436]
8 Oct	Company A 1/5 (under 2/5) attacked a hill at ZC190560 held by two reinforced NVA platoons; Golf supporting from ZC195561 — 12 USMC WIA, 27 NVA KIA by air, 15 NVA KIA [2/5 ComdC Oct 1968, PDF p. 45]
9 Oct 04:00	Company A 1/5 hit by a coordinated probe — 2 USMC KIA, 3 USMC WIA, 1 NVA KIA [2/5 ComdC Oct 1968, PDF p. 45]
9 Oct 12:50	An aerial observer directed a napalm strike on NVA at ZC188568 — 10 NVA KIA [2/5 ComdC Oct 1968, PDF p. 44]
19 Oct	Maui Peak ended: 134 NVA and 1 VC killed, 54 NVA killed by air; 20 Marines killed, 67 wounded, 2 missing [2/5 ComdC Oct 1968, PDF p. 4]
23 Oct	2/5 began Operation Henderson Hill [2/5 ComdC Oct 1968, PDF p. 4]
23 Oct	23 Oct October: The battalion returned to An Hoa and began Operation Henderson Hill. (From the monthly "by Company" summary, written from the chronology page images.) Official history: the command group and two companies were patrolling east of Liberty Road when told to disengage; "The Marines boarded trucks and returned to An Hoa." After the truck move back to An Hoa, LtCol Stemple and "the MAG-16 helicopter coordinator selected a primary and secondary landing zone." Enemy fire kept them out of the primary zone, but the battalion "reached its assigned objectives in the Arizona before nightfall." Same day as the truck move as the history tells it; no grid given. (From the official history; the 2/5 chronology has no separate entry for this move.) [2/5 ComdC Oct 1968, PDF p. 4; U.S. Marines in Vietnam · The Defining Year, 1968, PDF p. 439]
23 Oct	Command group and two companies moved from East of Liberty Road to An Hoa Combat Base (AT 873 473) by truck. 23 Oct October: The battalion returned to An Hoa and began Operation Henderson Hill. (From the monthly "by Company" summary, written from the chronology page images.) Official history: the command group and two companies were patrolling east of Liberty Road when told to disengage; "The Marines boarded trucks and returned to An Hoa." [2/5 ComdC Oct 1968, PDF p. 4; U.S. Marines in Vietnam · The Defining Year, 1968, PDF p. 439]
23 Oct	Battalion (Operation Henderson Hill) moved from An Hoa Combat Base (AT 874 474) to The Arizona Territory (alternate landing zone) by helicopter. After the truck move back to An Hoa, LtCol Stemple and "the MAG-16 helicopter coordinator selected a primary and secondary landing zone." Enemy fire kept them out of the primary zone, but the battalion "reached its assigned objectives in the Arizona before nightfall." Same day as the truck move as the history tells it; no grid 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. 439]

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 Oct 1968 (Texas Tech University Vietnam Archive item 1201048108); 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 Oct 1968 (Texas Tech University Vietnam Archive item 1201048108)

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

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