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

NOVEMBER 1968 — AN HOA COMBAT BASE

Compiled from the 2/5 Command Chronology for November 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 November 1968
Commander	Capt P. A. Vandenberg (1–30 November)
Higher HQ	2nd Battalion, 5th Marines (LtCol J. W. Stemple); 5th Marines; 1st Marine Division
Area of Operations	An Hoa Combat Base, Hill 55
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 November 1968 place it most often at or near An Hoa Combat Base (1 of 2 entries with a named place or grid), and also at Hill 55.

H&S Company was commanded by Capt P. A. Vandenberg (1–30 November); the battalion by LtCol J. W. Stemple (1–30 November).

For November 1968 this report lists 7 entries (5 organization, 2 movement): 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 20 November 1968: 2/5 (battalion), under the 1st Marines moved from Regimental reserve to Operation Meade River cordon (means not stated).

On 28 November 1968: With BLT 2/26 the battalion reached the Suoi Co Ca and held the east bank of the cordon, ambushing enemy trying to escape across the river at night (S3 p.

3. Operations Overview

Operation / Activity	Dates	Description
Operation Henderson Hill	23 Oct – 6 Dec 1968	Battalion in Operation Henderson Hill, 1-13 November: blocking for ARVN and Korean Marine sweeps, seizing pockets of resistance, finding large rice caches and 11 prisoners
Operation Meade River	20 Nov – 9 Dec 1968	Battalion under the 1st Marines for Operation Meade River (cordon south of Da Nang); resupply through Hill 55

4. Chronology of H&S Company Activities

Compiled from the checked transcriptions of the 2/5 command chronology for November 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 Nov	Battalion in Operation Henderson Hill, 1-13 November: blocking for ARVN and Korean Marine sweeps, seizing pockets of resistance, finding large rice caches and 11 prisoners [2/5 ComdC Nov 1968, PDF p. 10]
November day unstated	Materials to rebuild 56 homes in Phu Da (1). [2/5 ComdC Nov 1968, PDF p. 9]
14 Nov	Regimental reserve 14-19 November; four memorial services held [2/5 ComdC Nov 1968, PDF p. 4]
14 Nov	2/5 (battalion) moved from Henderson Hill area to Regimental reserve (place not stated) (means not stated). The November chronology: memorial services “were held while the Battalion was in Regimental Reserve from 14 through 19 November 1968”; a Protestant service was held at An Hoa that month (PDF p. 4). The page does not say where the reserve was or how the battalion moved; Operation Henderson Hill continued to 13 November. (From the November 1968 chronology, read 18 Nov 2026.) [2/5 ComdC Nov 1968, PDF p. 4]
20 Nov	Battalion under the 1st Marines for Operation Meade River (cordon south of Da Nang); resupply through Hill 55 [2/5 ComdC Nov 1968, PDF p. 4]
20 Nov	2/5 (battalion), under the 1st Marines moved from Regimental reserve to Operation Meade River cordon (means not stated). “On 20 November the Battalion under operational control of the First Marines began participation in Operation MEADE RIVER” (PDF p. 4). The official history has 2/5 attacking from the eastern edge of the cordon toward the Suoi Co Ca (Defining Year, p. 430). Mode not stated. (From the November 1968 chronology, read 18 Nov 2026.) [2/5 ComdC Nov 1968, PDF p. 4; U.S. Marines in Vietnam · The Defining Year, 1968, PDF p. 446]

Date	Activity / Events
28 Nov	With BLT 2/26 the battalion reached the Suoi Co Ca and held the east bank of the cordon, ambushing enemy trying to escape across the river at night (S3 p. 431-432) [2/5 ComdC Nov 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 Nov 1968 (Texas Tech University Vietnam Archive item 1201048109); 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 Nov 1968 (Texas Tech University Vietnam Archive item 1201048109)

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

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