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

MAY 1969 — LZ LILY

Compiled from the 2/5 Command Chronology for May 1969

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 1969
Commander	1stLt M. R. Baggs (1–31 May)
Higher HQ	2nd Battalion, 5th Marines (LtCol J. H. Higgins); 5th Marines; 1st Marine Division
Area of Operations	LZ Lily, 2/5 field command post in the Arizona, Thanh My refugee hamlet, Phu Da (1) and (2)
Combat Posture	Combat operations, patrols and security (29 combat entries)
Base of Operations	LZ Lily
Corps Area	I Corps Tactical Zone, Republic of Vietnam

2. Commander's Summary

H&S Company's entries for May 1969 place it most often at or near LZ Lily (22 of 27 entries with a named place or grid), and also at 2/5 field command post in the Arizona, Thanh My refugee hamlet, Phu Da (1) and (2).

H&S Company was commanded by 1stLt M. R. Baggs (1–31 May); the battalion by LtCol J. H. Higgins (1–31 May).

For May 1969 this report lists 33 entries (29 combat, 2 movement, 1 organization, 1 medical): 6 naming H&S or one of its sections (the battalion command post, the 106mm section, S-2, S-5), and 27 battalion-level entries recorded by the battalion headquarters.

On 3 May 1969: an aerial observer working with Company G saw 2 VC/NVA with packs and weapons running from a treeline at AT 880520 to the NE; AO directed artillery and fired 7.62 machine guns — 2 VC/NVA killed by air.

On 9 May 1969: aerial observer saw 5-7 VC/NVA moving north at AT 855537 and AT 873526; directed two flights of fixed wing — 3 VC/NVA killed by air.

On 9 May 1969: a Marine from the battalion command group at AT 847527 saw one VC/NVA fleeing east at AT 869525 and fired two rounds of 106mm beehive — 1 VC/NVA KIA, M-1 rifle.

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	Fourteen villagers brought out of the Arizona to Duc Duc.

4. Chronology of H&S Company Activities

Compiled from the checked transcriptions of the 2/5 command chronology for May 1969 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
1–22 May days unstated	Fourteen villagers brought out of the Arizona to Duc Duc. [2/5 ComdC May 1969, PDF p. 11]
May day unstated	NVA map case with maps of the Arizona captured. [2/5 ComdC May 1969, PDF p. 12]
May days unstated	Sick call twice a week at the Thanh My dispensary. [2/5 ComdC May 1969, PDF p. 11]
3 May 11:35	an aerial observer working with Company G saw 2 VC/NVA with packs and weapons running from a treeline at AT 880520 to the NE; AO directed artillery and fired 7.62 machine guns — 2 VC/NVA killed by air [2/5 ComdC May 1969, PDF p. 17]
6 May 18:40	battalion command group at AT 839491 approached by a Vietnamese man with hands raised — 1 NVA rallier (Chieu Hoi). [2/5 ComdC May 1969, PDF p. 20]
9 May 07:30	aerial observer saw 5-7 VC/NVA moving north at AT 855537 and AT 873526; directed two flights of fixed wing — 3 VC/NVA killed by air [2/5 ComdC May 1969, PDF p. 23]
9 May 15:00	a Marine from the battalion command group at AT 847527 saw one VC/NVA fleeing east at AT 869525 and fired two rounds of 106mm beehive — 1 VC/NVA KIA, M-1 rifle [2/5 ComdC May 1969, PDF p. 25]

Date	Activity / Events
9 May 18:00	platoon moving to night positions found one VC body about 30 years old at AT 854532 — 1 VC KIA [2/5 ComdC May 1969, PDF p. 26]
9 May 20:10	in night positions at AT 854539 apprehended a VC moving through the perimeter, who then rallied — 1 VC Chieu Hoi [2/5 ComdC May 1969, PDF p. 25]
9 May 21:10	at AT 854539 saw enemy moving toward perimeter; opened fire — 2 VC KIA, 9mm pistol. [2/5 ComdC May 1969, PDF p. 25]
9 May	20-25 flights of fixed wing flown in support of 2/5 — 16 VC/NVA killed by air, one 57mm recoilless rifle destroyed [2/5 ComdC May 1969, PDF p. 23]
9 May	2/5 (battalion) moved from Not stated to Not stated on foot. By deception and a night move into attack positions, the battalion caught the enemy completely by surprise. (From the monthly “by Company” summary, written from the chronology page images.) [2/5 ComdC May 1969, PDF p. 6]
10 May 10:30	Marines from the command group at AT 847527 saw 6 VC/NVA with packs entering a treeline; 106mm teams fired six rounds HEPT — 4 VC/NVA KIA [2/5 ComdC May 1969, PDF p. 27]
10 May 13:40	Marine from the command group at AT 846525 saw 6 VC/NVA with packs at AT 852536; fired 106mm — 6 VC/NVA KIA [2/5 ComdC May 1969, PDF p. 28]
10 May 14:41	Marines from the command group saw 8-10 VC/NVA with weapons in civilian clothes moving NE at AT 866525; fired 106mm — 2 VC/NVA KIA [2/5 ComdC May 1969, PDF p. 27]
10 May 15:20	AO saw 15-30 VC/NVA with weapons at AT 876513; directed two flights of fixed wing — 2 VC/NVA killed by air [2/5 ComdC May 1969, PDF p. 27]
11 May 07:45	Marine on patrol detonated booby-trapped 105mm round with pressure detonation on a paddy dike at AT 873523 — 1 USMC KIA, 1 WIA evac [2/5 ComdC May 1969, PDF p. 29]
11 May 09:15	patrol at AT 870521 received heavy sniper fire from 3-4 enemy at AT 870518 — 2 WIA evac [2/5 ComdC May 1969, PDF p. 29]
11 May 10:25	aerial observer supporting Hotel saw one NVA fleeing east at AT 877543 and fired on him — 1 NVA killed by air [2/5 ComdC May 1969, PDF p. 29]
11 May 14:45	moving into a blocking position at AT 870513 came under heavy automatic and small arms fire; returned fire with organic weapons and supporting arms — 2 USMC KIA, 2 WIA evac, 2 non-evac [2/5 ComdC May 1969, PDF p. 29]
11 May 21:30	listening post at AT 875519 saw 2 enemy moving at AT 879535; opened fire — 1 NVA KIA. [2/5 ComdC May 1969, PDF p. 29]
12 May 06:00	in night positions at AT 873519 received heavy B-40 and mortar fire from SW at AT 872514; returned fire with small arms, 60mm, 81mm, artillery and two flights of fixed wing — 2 WIA evac [2/5 ComdC May 1969, PDF p. 32]
12 May 08:30	AO supporting L saw 7 NVA at AT 872511 and called fixed wing — 2 NVA killed by air [2/5 ComdC May 1969, PDF p. 32]
12 May 12:00	AO saw 8 VC/NVA with weapons in the open at AT 873512; one flight of fixed wing — 8 killed by air [2/5 ComdC May 1969, PDF p. 32]
12 May 12:00	2d Platoon sweeping at AT 869512, an area previously prepped by air, artillery, 81mm and 60mm, received heavy small arms, automatic, M-79 and B-40 fire from well-concealed bunkers and trench lines. The 3d Platoon enveloped the enemy but was soon pinned down by heavy fire. Supporting arms could not be used because friendly

Date	Activity / Events
	casualties were within 10 m of the complex — 10 USMC KIA, 12 WIA evac, 4 NVA KIA [2/5 ComdC May 1969, PDF p. 32]
12 May 12:01	AO saw 5 VC/NVA in the open at AT 873512 and fired — 5 killed by air [2/5 ComdC May 1969, PDF p. 32]
12 May 13:30	AO supporting L directed fixed wing on enemy positions at AT 825523 — 3 NVA killed by air [2/5 ComdC May 1969, PDF p. 33]
12 May 14:00	received heavy automatic fire from a treeline at AT 876523; returned fire — 3 USMC KIA, 7 WIA evac, 1 non-evac [2/5 ComdC May 1969, PDF p. 33]
12 May 20:30	in night defensive position at AT 870510 a Marine detonated an unknown-type booby trap — 1 USMC KIA, 4 WIA evac. [2/5 ComdC May 1969, PDF p. 32]
16 May 11:45	AO supporting Foxtrot saw 5 NVA at AT 825487 running about 1 km west of Foxtrot; AO fired and Foxtrot searched — 1 NVA KIA. [2/5 ComdC May 1969, PDF p. 42]
20 May 10:30	battalion air liaison officer directed one flight of fixed wing on enemy at AT 863537 — 1 NVA KIA. [2/5 ComdC May 1969, PDF p. 46]
21 May 17:30	squad from Company B moving into an observation post at AT 851730 (as typed) saw a wounded NVA moving into a field; ordered to halt, he rallied and gave the location of another wounded NVA — 2 NVA Chieu Hoi [2/5 ComdC May 1969, PDF p. 47]
22 May	2/5 (-) moved from The Arizona Territory to Phu Lac (6) (Liberty Bridge and the road to An Hoa) (AT 925 527) (means not stated). The narrative: “On 22 May 1969, the Battalion, minus, moved to Phu Lac (6) to provide security for Liberty Bridge and the Main Supply Route between Phu Lac (6) and An Hoa” (PDF p. 6). Logistics: resupply came “by helicopter from the LSA at An Hoa until 22 May when the Battalion moved to Phu Lac (6)”, and by convoy for the rest of the month (PDF p. 10). Earlier versions gave An Hoa Combat Base as the destination by mistake. The May journal records incidents only and does not say how the battalion moved. (Checked against the May 1969 chronology, 18 Nov 2026.) [2/5 ComdC May 1969, PDF p. 6; 2/5 ComdC May 1969, PDF p. 10]

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 1969 (Texas Tech University Vietnam Archive item 1201048115).

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 1969 (Texas Tech University Vietnam Archive item 1201048115)

— 2nd Battalion, 5th Marines Command Chronology for May 1969, as published on hotel25vv.com (Battalion Chronology page): https://hotel25vv.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/06/1969May-2-5CommandChronology.pdf

SECONDARY SOURCES

— Smith, Charles R. U.S. Marines in Vietnam: High Mobility and Standdown, 1969. History and Museums Division, HQMC, 1988.

— “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, May 1969