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

AUGUST 1969 — HILL 65

Compiled from the 2/5 Command Chronology for August 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 August 1969
Commander	1stLt J. F. Sheehan (1–31 August)
Higher HQ	2nd Battalion, 5th Marines (LtCol J. H. Higgins; Maj R. E. Loehe; LtCol J. T. Bowen); 5th Marines; 1st Marine Division
Area of Operations	Hill 65, An Hoa Combat Base, Hill 845 (the history's Hill 848), Hill 425
Combat Posture	Combat operations, patrols and security (20 combat entries)
Base of Operations	Hill 65
Corps Area	I Corps Tactical Zone, Republic of Vietnam

2. Commander's Summary

H&S Company's entries for August 1969 place it most often at or near Hill 65 (4 of 6 entries with a named place or grid), and also at An Hoa Combat Base, Hill 845 (the history's Hill 848), Hill 425.

H&S Company was commanded by 1stLt J. F. Sheehan (1–31 August); the battalion by LtCol J. H. Higgins (1–20 August); Maj R. E. Loehe (21–23 August); LtCol J. T. Bowen (24–31 August).

For August 1969 this report lists 29 entries (20 combat, 4 organization, 2 movement, 1 medical, 1 civic, 1 logistics): 0 naming H&S or one of its sections (the battalion command post, the 106mm section, S-2, S-5), and 29 battalion-level entries recorded by the battalion headquarters.

On 1 August 1969: an aerial observer directing air strikes saw green smoke from the target area; went down to look and was fired on; four more flights of fixed wing called — unknown.

On 2 August 1969: an AO supporting Golf fired rockets into Golf's own position at AT 000397 — 4 USMC non-battle evac, 1 non-battle non-evac.

On 4 August 1969: platoon from Company M, 3/5 on patrol at AT 973387 found a dead NVA killed by small arms the day before — 1 NVA KIA; grenades, AK mags, ammo, documents captured.

3. Operations Overview

Operation / Activity	Dates	Description
Operation Durham Peak	20 Jul – 13 Aug 1969	Malaria outbreak after Durham Peak.

4. Chronology of H&S Company Activities

Compiled from the checked transcriptions of the 2/5 command chronology for August 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 Aug 16:00	an aerial observer directing air strikes saw green smoke from the target area; went down to look and was fired on; four more flights of fixed wing called — unknown [2/5 ComdC Aug 1969, PDF p. 16]
August days unstated	Malaria outbreak after Durham Peak. [2/5 ComdC Aug 1969, PDF p. 11]
1–12 Aug day unstated	Radio relay moves from Hill 425 to Hill 845. [2/5 ComdC Aug 1969, PDF p. 12]
1–12 Aug days unstated	Villagers in My Son and Phu Da (1) rebuild homes with ammo boxes. [2/5 ComdC Aug 1969, PDF p. 12]
2 Aug 14:30	an AO supporting Golf fired rockets into Golf's own position at AT 000397 — 4 USMC non-battle evac, 1 non-battle non-evac [2/5 ComdC Aug 1969, PDF p. 17]
4 Aug 08:30	platoon from Company M, 3/5 on patrol at AT 973387 found a dead NVA killed by small arms the day before — 1 NVA KIA; grenades, AK mags, ammo, documents captured [2/5 ComdC Aug 1969, PDF p. 20]
4 Aug 08:50	a Company M platoon at AT 937387 surprised an NVA walking on the trail; the point man fired — 1 NVA KIA, AK-47, 2 grenades, 3 mags [2/5 ComdC Aug 1969, PDF p. 20]
5 Aug 06:15	a Company M unit returning from an ambush heard Vietnamese voices at AT 970389; a man stood up and said "Chieu Hoi"; questioned, he said he was an ARVN private captured by the VC in Antenna Valley and held in the mountains until he escaped — 1 detainee [2/5 ComdC Aug 1969, PDF p. 22]
5 Aug 10:45	a Company M platoon setting security at AT 971383 heard voices and found an abandoned OP site — NVA pack with medical equipment, clothes, a hammock, sugar,

Date	Activity / Events
	a sphygmomanometer, a complete U.S. Army medical kit with surgical equipment and 10 lb of cooked rice captured [2/5 ComdC Aug 1969, PDF p. 22]
5 Aug 12:15	clearing an LZ at AT 971384 Company M found a Bouncing Betty in the middle of a clearing — destroyed [2/5 ComdC Aug 1969, PDF p. 22]
5 Aug 18:45	an OP at AT 974384 saw enemy movement, fired and searched — 1 NVA POW, gear captured [2/5 ComdC Aug 1969, PDF p. 22]
6 Aug 08:45	a Company M patrol went out to find two NVA who wanted to rally at AT 968384 and brought them in — 2 NVA Chieu Hoi [2/5 ComdC Aug 1969, PDF p. 24]
6 Aug 10:20	the point man of a Company M patrol met an NVA and fired — 1 NVA KIA [2/5 ComdC Aug 1969, PDF p. 24]
6 Aug 11:45	preparing an LZ at AT 972384 a Company M Marine found a 25-lb pressure box mine [2/5 ComdC Aug 1969, PDF p. 24]
6 Aug 17:30	platoon found an enemy base camp under construction [2/5 ComdC Aug 1969, PDF p. 24]
7 Aug 16:30	the point man of a Company M patrol heard movement and saw two NVA in a clearing at AT 974373; the patrol fired and searched — a radio resembling a PRC-25, 28 grenades, 8 SKS, an AK-50, 3 AK-47s, a 9mm pistol, 20 NVA packs, 7 helmets, 12 canteen covers, 500 rds, a machete, two ChiCom 60mm rounds, TNT, mortar charges, a headset, documents and a mortar sight captured [2/5 ComdC Aug 1969, PDF p. 27]
8 Aug 08:00	as Company M moved into the area at AT 974373 it took sporadic small arms fire; returned fire killing two NVA and searched the enemy base camp — 2 NVA KIA, 1 NVA Chieu Hoi, 4 detainees; a 60mm mortar with base plate, two 60mm rounds, 2 AK-47s, 6 SKS, an M-1 carbine, an M-26, 8 mags, 75 rds, NVA utilities, 60mm increments and medical equipment captured [2/5 ComdC Aug 1969, PDF p. 30]
8 Aug 11:45	an AO supporting the command group at AT 994390 saw two NVA running from the air strikes and adjusted them — 2 NVA killed by air [2/5 ComdC Aug 1969, PDF p. 30]
9 Aug 11:15	further search of the base camp at AT 978373 by Company M found a small hospital complex complete with records, test tubes and bandages [2/5 ComdC Aug 1969, PDF p. 33]
10 Aug 11:50	platoon at AT 977376 saw an NVA at the bottom of a ravine; fired, wounding him in the head — 1 NVA POW [2/5 ComdC Aug 1969, PDF p. 35]
10 Aug 14:00	the point man of a Company M patrol walked up on an NVA at AT 979373 who tried to flee east; the Marine fired and the NVA stopped and surrendered — 1 NVA POW [2/5 ComdC Aug 1969, PDF p. 35]
10 Aug 15:30	a Company M Marine saw an NVA fleeing into a cave; the platoon fired and assaulted, finding two dead — 2 NVA KIA, 2 grenades and a U.S. canteen captured [2/5 ComdC Aug 1969, PDF p. 35]
12 Aug	2/5 (battalion) moved from Que Son Mountains (Operation Durham Peak) to An Hoa Combat Base (AT 874 474) by helicopter. First leg of the move out of Durham Peak. 2/5 August 1969 narrative: “On 12 August 1969, the Battalion was helilifted to An Hoa and went by truck convoy to Hill 65.” The official history agrees (withdrawal to An Hoa on the 12th) and adds that elements relieved 3/7 on Hill 65 on 14 August. Earlier versions showed one helicopter move straight to Hill 65; checked against the page image 18 Nov 2026. [2/5 ComdC Aug 1969, PDF p. 6; U.S. Marines in Vietnam · High Mobility and Standdown, 1969, PDF p. 211]

Date	Activity / Events
12 Aug	2/5 (battalion) moved from An Hoa Combat Base (AT 874 474) to Hill 65 (AT 878 576) by truck. Second leg: “On 12 August 1969, the Battalion was helilifted to An Hoa and went by truck convoy to Hill 65.” From 12 to 31 August 2/5 “occupied Hill 65 in central Dai Loc District” (organizational data, PDF p. 3). [2/5 ComdC Aug 1969, PDF p. 6; 2/5 ComdC Aug 1969, PDF p. 3]
After 13 Aug day unstated	MEDCAP program begins around Hill 65. MedCaps followed in the hamlets around Hill 65: Truong An, Song Binh and Tam Hoa in September; Truong An and Song Binh in October; Nghia Tay and Truong An in November. [2/5 ComdC Aug 1969, PDF p. 11; 2/5 ComdC Sep 1969, PDF p. 11]
After 14 Aug day unstated	1st Marine Division Band plays for the villagers. [2/5 ComdC Aug 1969, PDF p. 6]
After 14 Aug day unstated	Liaison team placed at Dai Loc District headquarters. [2/5 ComdC Aug 1969, PDF p. 9]
After 14 Aug day unstated	Second mess hall opens on Hill 65. [2/5 ComdC Aug 1969, PDF p. 10]
17 Aug 12:30	an AO at AT 893548 fired OV-10 rockets at 3 VC/NVA running from an artillery impact area — 2 NVA/VC killed by artillery [2/5 ComdC Aug 1969, PDF p. 44]

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 1969 (Texas Tech University Vietnam Archive item 1201048118); U.S. Marines in Vietnam · High Mobility and Standdown, 1969; 2/5 Command Chronology Sep 1969 (Texas Tech University Vietnam Archive item 1201048119); 2/5 Command Chronology Oct 1969 (Texas Tech University Vietnam Archive item 1201048120).

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 1969 (Texas Tech University Vietnam Archive item 1201048118)

— U.S. Marines in Vietnam · High Mobility and Standdown, 1969

— 2/5 Command Chronology Sep 1969 (Texas Tech University Vietnam Archive item 1201048119)

— 2/5 Command Chronology Oct 1969 (Texas Tech University Vietnam Archive item 1201048120)

— 2/5 Command Chronology Nov 1969 (Texas Tech University Vietnam Archive item 1201048121)

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