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

OCTOBER 1969 — HILL 65

Compiled from the 2/5 Command Chronology for October 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 October 1969
Commander	1stLt J. F. Sheehan (1–14 October); 1stLt H. W. Brookshire Jr. (15–31 October)
Higher HQ	2nd Battalion, 5th Marines (LtCol J. T. Bowen); 5th Marines; 1st Marine Division
Area of Operations	Hill 65, LZ Lily, Hill 52, Truong An hamlet
Combat Posture	Combat operations, patrols and security (25 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 October 1969 place it most often at or near Hill 65 (17 of 28 entries with a named place or grid), and also at LZ Lily, Hill 52, Truong An hamlet.

H&S Company was commanded by 1stLt J. F. Sheehan (1–14 October); 1stLt H. W. Brookshire Jr. (15–31 October); the battalion by LtCol J. T. Bowen (1–31 October).

For October 1969 this report lists 31 entries (25 combat, 3 logistics, 1 civic, 1 organization, 1 movement): 15 naming H&S or one of its sections (the battalion command post, the 106mm section, S-2, S-5), and 16 battalion-level entries recorded by the battalion headquarters.

On 10 October 1969: Whiskey Battery, 11th Marines, at AT 879465: one rifle round fired at a Marine taking a shower, believed a sniper — None reported.

On 16 October 1969: Battalion day watch on Hill 65 at AT 878575 spotted 100 VC/NVA moving in an open rice paddy; artillery and 81mm called — 3 VC/NVA (word cut off; probably KIA).

On 18 October 1969: 106s on day watch at AT 877574 fired 1 HE and 2 beehive rounds at 2 VC/NVA with rifles at AT 869563 — Unknown.

3. Operations Overview

Operation / Activity	Dates	Description
Hill 65 operations	October 1969	No named operation appears in this month's entries for the company; activities are listed in the chronology below.

4. Chronology of H&S Company Activities

Compiled from the checked transcriptions of the 2/5 command chronology for October 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
October day unstated	A "Spooky" gunship supports the battalion. [2/5 ComdC Oct 1969, PDF p. 9]
October until 16 Oct; start day unstated	Battalion rear without power for two weeks. [2/5 ComdC Oct 1969, PDF p. 12]
October days unstated	MEDCAPs at Truong An and Song Binh. [2/5 ComdC Oct 1969, PDF p. 12]
October day unstated	Two-company positions built up at Hill 52. [2/5 ComdC Oct 1969, PDF p. 6]
4 Oct 08:25	Engineers on the battalion road sweep at AT 890569 found an M-79 round with a pressure device buried at the right side of the road — Blown in place [2/5 ComdC Oct 1969, PDF p. 19]
5 Oct 08:11	A truck in a resupply convoy was driven off the road and completely submerged at AT 912588; the Division watch officer and the commanding general asked about it — Recovery to wait until the water recedes [2/5 ComdC Oct 1969, PDF p. 20]
10 Oct 09:00	Whiskey Battery, 11th Marines, at AT 879465: one rifle round fired at a Marine taking a shower, believed a sniper — None reported [2/5 ComdC Oct 1969, PDF p. 25]
10 Oct 15:30	The 1st MT Battalion truck (serial 319251) lost on 5 Oct was recovered from the water by the 3rd Amphibian Tractor Battalion and is at Hill 37 — Truck badly damaged; cargo of fruit and food destroyed [2/5 ComdC Oct 1969, PDF p. 25]

Date	Activity / Events
16 Oct 09:30	Battalion day watch on Hill 65 at AT 878575 spotted 100 VC/NVA moving in an open rice paddy; artillery and 81mm called — 3 VC/NVA (word cut off; probably KIA) [2/5 ComdC Oct 1969, PDF p. 31]
18 Oct 16:00	106s on day watch at AT 877574 fired 1 HE and 2 beehive rounds at 2 VC/NVA with rifles at AT 869563 — Unknown [2/5 ComdC Oct 1969, PDF p. 33]
19 Oct 18:00	Day watch at AT 877574 fired .50-caliber and 4 106mm HE rounds at 4 VC/NVA with packs at AT 863547 — Unknown [2/5 ComdC Oct 1969, PDF p. 34]
20 Oct 07:30	106s on day watch at AT 877576 fired a beehive round at 2 VC/NVA at AT 873566 — 2 VC/NVA KIA [2/5 ComdC Oct 1969, PDF p. 35]
20 Oct 10:00	106s on day watch at AT 877576 fired 1 HE and 3 beehive rounds at 2 VC/NVA at AT 875571 — 2 VC/NVA KIA [2/5 ComdC Oct 1969, PDF p. 35]
22 Oct 08:15	Engineers on the road sweep with Foxtrot at AT 853569 found an M-79 dud — Blown in place [2/5 ComdC Oct 1969, PDF p. 37]
22 Oct 19:50	106s using a night observation device (NOD) at AT 878575 fired on 2 VC/NVA crossing the river — Unknown [2/5 ComdC Oct 1969, PDF p. 37]
22 Oct 20:20	106s with the NOD at AT 877576 fired on 2 VC/NVA at AT 884555 — Unknown [2/5 ComdC Oct 1969, PDF p. 37]
22 Oct 20:40	106s with the NOD fired on 3 VC/NVA crossing the river at AT 884555 — Unknown [2/5 ComdC Oct 1969, PDF p. 37]
22 Oct 20:45	106s using the NOD fired on 9 VC/NVA from their position at AT 877576 toward AT 883555 — Unknown [2/5 ComdC Oct 1969, PDF p. 39]
22 Oct 20:55	106s using the NOD at AT 877576 fired on 2 VC/NVA crossing the river at AT 883555 — Unknown [2/5 ComdC Oct 1969, PDF p. 38]
23 Oct 08:45	Delta Battery at AT 878576 fired on about 12 VC/NVA at AT 857535 — 1 VC/NVA KIA [2/5 ComdC Oct 1969, PDF p. 39]
23 Oct 09:45	106s at AT 877576 fired 3 HE rounds at an enemy rice carrier at AT 875555 — 1 VC KIA [2/5 ComdC Oct 1969, PDF p. 39]
25 Oct 18:30	Recon OP "Hireling" at AT 788553 spotted about 2 companies of NVA (grid typed AT 210537) and called an 81mm mission — 6 NVA KIA [2/5 ComdC Oct 1969, PDF p. 41]
26 Oct 10:00	Regional Forces on patrol at AT 794554 fired 5 60mm rounds into a tree line — 1 Vietnamese child killed, 2 wounded [2/5 ComdC Oct 1969, PDF p. 42]
27 Oct 16:35	E Battery fired for OP Rio Grande (AT 869474) on 4 VC at AT 890529 — 1 VC KIA [2/5 ComdC Oct 1969, PDF p. 43]
27 Oct 17:15	D Battery fired for OP Rio Grande on 10 VC carrying equipment south-southeast at AT 875537 — 3 VC KIA [2/5 ComdC Oct 1969, PDF p. 43]
27 Oct 17:30	D Battery fired for OP Rio Grande (grid typed AT 883578) on 5 VC moving south-southeast at AT 878545 — 3 VC KIA [2/5 ComdC Oct 1969, PDF p. 43]
30 Oct 11:30	The battalion CP at AT 894545 detained 8 Vietnamese men found sitting in hootches — 8 detainees sent to Dai Loc District HQ [2/5 ComdC Oct 1969, PDF p. 47]
30 Oct	Command group, Echo, Foxtrot, Golf, Hotel moved from Not stated to LZ Lily (AT 865 530) by helicopter. 2/5 (less Foxtrot) lifted into LZ Lily: Golf first, then Echo, the command post and Hotel. (From the monthly “by Company” summary, written from the

Date	Activity / Events
	chronology page images.) Official history: “Company I, 3d Battalion, 5th Marines crossed the Song Thu Bon by LVTs near Football Island, secured a landing zone for elements of 2d Battalion, 5th Marines,” followed by “the insertion of Lieutenant Colonel Bowen’s command group, Companies G and H.” [2/5 ComdC Oct 1969, PDF p. 6; U.S. Marines in Vietnam · High Mobility and Standdown, 1969, PDF p. 213]
31 Oct 17:00	Battalion CP at AT 882557 found a 105mm round — Blown in place [2/5 ComdC Oct 1969, PDF p. 48]
31 Oct 17:30	Battalion CP at AT 879554 found a 60mm round — Blown in place [2/5 ComdC Oct 1969, PDF p. 48]
31 Oct 17:45	Battalion CP at AT 876556 fired on 4 VC/NVA moving NNW along the river at AT 876557 — 2 POWs [2/5 ComdC Oct 1969, PDF p. 48]

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 1969 (Texas Tech University Vietnam Archive item 1201048120); U.S. Marines in Vietnam · High Mobility and Standdown, 1969.

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 1969 (Texas Tech University Vietnam Archive item 1201048120)

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

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