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

DECEMBER 1969 — LZ LILY

Compiled from the 2/5 Command Chronology for December 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 December 1969
Commander	1stLt H. W. Brookshire Jr. (1–18 December); 1stLt W. T. Collins (19–31 December)
Higher HQ	2nd Battalion, 5th Marines (LtCol J. T. Bowen); 5th Marines; 1st Marine Division
Area of Operations	LZ Lily, An Hoa Combat Base, Liberty Bridge, Henderson Hill
Combat Posture	Combat operations, patrols and security (20 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 December 1969 place it most often at or near LZ Lily (20 of 37 entries with a named place or grid), and also at An Hoa Combat Base, Liberty Bridge, Henderson Hill.

H&S Company was commanded by 1stLt H. W. Brookshire Jr. (1–18 December); 1stLt W. T. Collins (19–31 December); the battalion by LtCol J. T. Bowen (1–31 December).

For December 1969 this report lists 52 entries (21 civic, 20 combat, 7 movement, 2 organization, 1 medical, 1 logistics): 34 naming H&S or one of its sections (the battalion command post, the 106mm section, S-2, S-5), and 18 battalion-level entries recorded by the battalion headquarters.

On 4 December 1969: On day watch the 106s spotted 8 NVA and fired at AT 812498 — 3 NVA KIA.

On 4 December 1969: On day watch at AT 818484 the 106s spotted and killed an NVA running into a bunker — 1 NVA KIA.

On 6 December 1969: During resupply for Golf at AT 863546, a gunship spotted enemy at AT 868548 — 3 VC/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	29,000 lb of rice and 550 gallons of tar captured in the Arizona.

4. Chronology of H&S Company Activities

Compiled from the checked transcriptions of the 2/5 command chronology for December 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
December days unstated	29,000 lb of rice and 550 gallons of tar captured in the Arizona. [2/5 ComdC Dec 1969, PDF p. 12]
December days unstated	398 foot disorders from the flooded paddies. [2/5 ComdC Dec 1969, PDF p. 11]
December days unstated	Care for Arizona refugees at company and battalion CPs. [2/5 ComdC Dec 1969, PDF p. 11]
December day unstated	Civic action passes to the regimental S-5. [2/5 ComdC Dec 1969, PDF p. 12]
December day unstated	Master plan and sandbagging for the An Hoa cantonment. [2/5 ComdC Dec 1969, PDF p. 10]
3 Dec 10:30	At the battalion CP (AT 821481) 3 children brought in 3 60mm rounds and an M-26 — Children paid 400 piasters; destroyed [2/5 ComdC Dec 1969, PDF p. 20]
4 Dec 09:50	H&S and Hotel in a day position at AT 821495 saw 2 VC/NVA in white shirts and black pants heading northwest toward a foothill — Search negative [2/5 ComdC Dec 1969, PDF p. 24]

Date	Activity / Events
4 Dec 16:00	On day watch the 106s spotted 8 NVA and fired at AT 812498 — 3 NVA KIA [2/5 ComdC Dec 1969, PDF p. 24]
4 Dec 17:30	On day watch at AT 818484 the 106s spotted and killed an NVA running into a bunker — 1 NVA KIA [2/5 ComdC Dec 1969, PDF p. 24]
5 Dec 08:30	The CP at AT 819484 received 6 refugees asking to go to Duc Duc — Refugees [2/5 ComdC Dec 1969, PDF p. 26]
5 Dec 08:40	The CP in its day position at AT 819484 received 2 VC ralliers in civilian clothes — 2 Chieu Hoi [2/5 ComdC Dec 1969, PDF p. 26]
5 Dec 12:35	The CP at AT 819484 had 10 refugees asking to go to Duc Duc — Permission granted by Duc Duc headquarters [2/5 ComdC Dec 1969, PDF p. 26]
6 Dec 07:40	The CP in its day position at AT 818485 received 30 refugees asking to go to Duc Duc — Permission granted by S-5 [2/5 ComdC Dec 1969, PDF p. 30]
6 Dec 11:30	Moving to a new position at AT 849505, the CP found a dud 105mm and a dud 155mm round — Destroyed [2/5 ComdC Dec 1969, PDF p. 30]
6 Dec 15:00	The CP at AT 848519 received an old Vietnamese man with a shoulder wound who asked to go to An Hoa — Sent on the resupply [2/5 ComdC Dec 1969, PDF p. 30]
6 Dec 16:15	During resupply for Golf at AT 863546, a gunship spotted enemy at AT 868548 — 3 VC/NVA KIA [2/5 ComdC Dec 1969, PDF p. 30]
6 Dec	Command group moved from Not stated to LZ Lily (AT 858 518) (means not stated). 6 December: the 51st ARVN Regiment took over the southern Arizona and the battalion moved to the northern Arizona, with its command post at about AT 858518. (From the monthly “by Company” summary, written from the chronology page images.) [2/5 ComdC Dec 1969, PDF p. 3]
10 Dec 09:30	The CP in its day position at AT 857519 received 2 ralliers — 2 Chieu Hoi to ITT [2/5 ComdC Dec 1969, PDF p. 42]
10 Dec 10:00	The CP at AT 857519 received 27 refugees asking to go to Duc Duc — Refugees [2/5 ComdC Dec 1969, PDF p. 43]
10 Dec 11:30	The CP at AT 857519 received 7 refugees — Refugees [2/5 ComdC Dec 1969, PDF p. 42]
11 Dec 17:30	The CP at AT 858519 received 6 refugees asking to go to Duc Duc; one had a gunshot wound — Refugees [2/5 ComdC Dec 1969, PDF p. 46]
14 Dec 10:45	The CP at AT 888519 received 4 refugees asking to go to Duc Duc — Refugees [2/5 ComdC Dec 1969, PDF p. 54]
14 Dec 12:10	The CP at AT 858519 received 10 refugees asking to go to An Hoa — Refugees [2/5 ComdC Dec 1969, PDF p. 54]
15 Dec	Command group, Foxtrot, Golf, Hotel moved from Not stated to Not stated on foot. 15–16 December, northwest Arizona: Foxtrot and Hotel swept west, Foxtrot along the south bank of the Vu Gia, while Golf and the battalion jump command post blocked. (From the monthly “by Company” summary, written from the chronology page images.) [2/5 ComdC Dec 1969, PDF p. 6]
16 Dec 10:00	A Combat Intelligence Team and ralliers went to the CP at AT 858519 to show where 20 refugees and 500 lb of unhusked rice were — Recovered [2/5 ComdC Dec 1969, PDF p. 58]

Date	Activity / Events
17 Dec 09:30	6 refugees came to the CP at AT 858519 asking to go to Duc Duc — Refugees [2/5 ComdC Dec 1969, PDF p. 62]
17 Dec 16:00	10 refugees came to the CP at AT 858519 asking to go to Duc Duc — Refugees [2/5 ComdC Dec 1969, PDF p. 62]
18 Dec 08:55	10 refugees came to the CP at AT 858519 asking to go to Duc Duc — Refugees [2/5 ComdC Dec 1969, PDF p. 64]
18 Dec 09:00	Children brought 25 M-79 rounds to the CP at AT 858519 — Children paid 400 piasters from the VIP fund [2/5 ComdC Dec 1969, PDF p. 64]
18 Dec 14:00	The CP found and destroyed 25 seedling beds at AT 854518 — Destroyed [2/5 ComdC Dec 1969, PDF p. 64]
18 Dec 14:30	The CP found 500 lb unhusked rice in 3 jars at AT 861512 — Rice sent to An Hoa [2/5 ComdC Dec 1969, PDF p. 64]
19 Dec 10:00	On patrol at AT 858516 the CP found and destroyed 6 seedling beds — Destroyed [2/5 ComdC Dec 1969, PDF p. 66]
20 Dec 13:45	10 refugees asked to go to Duc Duc (AT 858519) — Refugees [2/5 ComdC Dec 1969, PDF p. 68]
20 Dec 17:50	H&S at AT 858519 found and destroyed 4 rice beds — Destroyed [2/5 ComdC Dec 1969, PDF p. 68]
20 Dec	2/5 (battalion) moved from Not stated to Not stated on foot. 2/5 and elements of the 51st ARVN Regiment blocked while an ARVN battalion swept north onto the island. (From the monthly “by Company” summary, written from the chronology page images.) [2/5 ComdC Dec 1969, PDF p. 6]
21 Dec 08:40	The CP in its day position at AT 858519 received 7 refugees asking to go to Duc Duc — Refugees [2/5 ComdC Dec 1969, PDF p. 70]
21 Dec 17:00	A MedCap was held near AT 870527 — MedCap [2/5 ComdC Dec 1969, PDF p. 70]
23 Dec 10:00	2/5 began its helicopter lift from the Arizona to the battalion rear at An Hoa Combat Base — Lift began [2/5 ComdC Dec 1969, PDF p. 74]
23 Dec	2/5 (battalion) moved from Not stated to An Hoa Combat Base (AT 873 473) by helicopter. On 23 December the battalion flew out of the Arizona to An Hoa for a one-day stand-down. (From the monthly “by Company” summary, written from the chronology page images.) The December chronology: the battalion “remained there until 23 December when they helilifted to An Hoa for a one day stand-down” (PDF p. 3). (From the December 1969 chronology, read 18 Nov 2026.) Official history: on 23 December 3/5’s Command Group Alpha “helilifted into the Arizona, relieving the 2d Battalion, 5th Marines,” and the next day 2/5 took over the regiment’s eastern area (Liberty Bridge and Liberty Road). [2/5 ComdC Dec 1969, PDF p. 6; 2/5 ComdC Dec 1969, PDF p. 3]
24 Dec	Echo moved from Not stated to Football Island (AT 88 51) (means not stated). On 24 December it exchanged areas with 3/5 and moved into the eastern 5th Marines area: Echo guarded Liberty Bridge, and Company L of 3/5 (under 2/5 from 24 December) guarded Liberty Road north of the bridge and kept a platoon screening south of Football Island. (From the monthly “by Company” summary, written from the chronology page images.) [2/5 ComdC Dec 1969, PDF p. 6]
24 Dec	2/5 (battalion) moved from An Hoa Combat Base (AT 874 474) to Liberty Bridge Combat Outpost (AT 922 533) (means not stated). The December chronology: “On 24

Date	Activity / Events
	December the 2nd Battalion moved into the eastern 5th Marines area of operations and occupied the Liberty Bridge Combat Outpost and provided security for Liberty Road" (PDF p. 3). Mode not stated. (From the December 1969 chronology, read 18 Nov 2026.) [2/5 ComdC Dec 1969, PDF p. 3]
26 Dec 08:30	(Late entry) Setting in an OP at AT 893512, Company L found a 155mm round with a trip wire across a trail — Destroyed in place [2/5 ComdC Dec 1969, PDF p. 80]
26 Dec 17:30	A Company L platoon at AT 889512 saw a seemingly empty boat floating with the current toward Liberty Bridge about 35 m from shore; fired M-79s, and the rounds hit the boat, setting off a large secondary explosion of unknown charge — 3 USMC emergency evac [2/5 ComdC Dec 1969, PDF p. 80]
27 Dec 12:00	5 Vietnamese children brought in an M-26, a 105mm white phosphorus and a 105mm HE round — Children paid 2,800 piasters from the VIP fund [2/5 ComdC Dec 1969, PDF p. 82]
29 Dec 11:00	Children turned in ordnance at AT 936534 (a 155mm round, an E-8 gas round, a 105mm illumination round, 6 M-26 grenades and 100 rounds of 7.62 linked) — Children paid 4,700 piasters [2/5 ComdC Dec 1969, PDF p. 86]
29 Dec 11:15	Company L squad on patrol at AT 938523 tripped a pressure-type 60mm booby trap buried in the ground — 2 USMC WIA emergency evac [2/5 ComdC Dec 1969, PDF p. 86]
29 Dec 11:45	Company L squad on a day patrol at AT 938533 found a 60mm round tied to a stick near a trail, with a "V"-shaped bamboo marker near the booby trap — Blown in place [2/5 ComdC Dec 1969, PDF p. 86]
29 Dec 14:00	The bridge watch at AT 920533 saw 6 bodies floating in the river toward the bridge (5 in green, 1 in white); fired small arms and M-79s — Cause of death unknown [2/5 ComdC Dec 1969, PDF p. 86]
30 Dec 11:00	S-2 at AT 925534 bought ordnance from Vietnamese children (M-26s, aircraft illumination, 20mm explosive heads, 6 TNT charges, M-79s, a blasting cap with time fuze, 105mm and 60mm rounds, .50-cal linked and an AK-50 rifle) — Children paid 11,400 piasters from the VIP fund [2/5 ComdC Dec 1969, PDF p. 90]
30 Dec 16:00	S-2 at AT 922534 bought more ordnance from Vietnamese children (60mm rounds, an M-26, white pop-ups, a 105mm fuze assembly, 20 ft of time fuze, a 155mm white phosphorus round, M-79 heads, 100 M-16 rounds, a CS gas grenade, 4 M-26s and an 81mm HE round) — Children paid 8,700 piasters from the VIP fund [2/5 ComdC Dec 1969, PDF p. 90]
31 Dec 08:30	"Hostage King" (an OV-10) spotted a VC/NVA body spread-eagled on a sand bar, in blue, aged 20-25 — Killed by air, confirmed by E 1/4 and F 1/4 [2/5 ComdC Dec 1969, PDF p. 94]
31 Dec 16:45	Company L platoon on patrol at AT 906523 saw 2 VC/NVA moving southeast; pursued and detained them — 2 detainees to S-2 [2/5 ComdC Dec 1969, PDF p. 94]

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 Dec 1969 (Texas Tech University Vietnam Archive item 1201048122); 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 Dec 1969 (Texas Tech University Vietnam Archive item 1201048122)

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

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