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

JANUARY 1970 — PHU LOC (6) REFUGEE HAMLET

Compiled from the 2/5 Command Chronology for January 1970

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 January 1970
Commander	1stLt W. T. Collins (1–11 January); 1stLt D. J. Andrea (12–28 January); 1stLt R. W. Vaughn (29–31 January)
Higher HQ	2nd Battalion, 5th Marines (LtCol J. T. Bowen; LtCol F. D. Leder); 5th Marines; 1st Marine Division
Area of Operations	Phu Loc (6) refugee hamlet, Liberty Bridge, An Hoa Combat Base, Nam Chanh (1)
Combat Posture	Combat operations, patrols and security (21 combat entries)
Base of Operations	Phu Loc (6) refugee hamlet
Corps Area	I Corps Tactical Zone, Republic of Vietnam

2. Commander's Summary

H&S Company’s entries for January 1970 place it most often at or near Phu Loc (6) refugee hamlet (15 of 35 entries with a named place or grid), and also at Liberty Bridge, An Hoa Combat Base, Nam Chanh (1).

H&S Company was commanded by 1stLt W. T. Collins (1–11 January); 1stLt D. J. Andrea (12–28 January); 1stLt R. W. Vaughn (29–31 January); the battalion by LtCol J. T. Bowen (1–14 January); LtCol F. D. Leder (15–31 January).

For January 1970 this report lists 70 entries (31 organization, 21 combat, 5 logistics, 5 movement, 4 civic, 3 medical, 1 personnel): 12 naming H&S or one of its sections (the battalion command post, the 106mm section, S-2, S-5), and 58 battalion-level entries recorded by the battalion headquarters.

On 2 January 1970: While carrying dud ordnance at AT 906476, 2 engineers dropped an M-79 HE round, which went off — 1 engineer KIA, 1 emergency evac.

On 6 January 1970: Moving at AT 940527, a Kilo Marine tripped a 105mm booby trap with a trip wire buried in the ground — 3 USMC WIA, medevac completed.

On 8 January 1970: Kilo platoon on patrol at AT 938520 tripped a dud booby trap: an 81mm illumination canister packed with C-4 in a paddy dike with a trip wire — Blown in place.

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	Message from LM3: latest intelligence indicates the Marine MIA is being taken through the Arizona to an enemy mountain base; alert units to look for a 6-ft-1 Caucasian
Operation Dry Well	26 January 1970 is the only date on which the 2/5 chronology names Operation Dry Well (S-3 journal, 0245H).	Command group, Foxtrot moved from Not stated to Liberty Bridge (AT 922 533) by helicopter.

4. Chronology of H&S Company Activities

Compiled from the checked transcriptions of the 2/5 command chronology for January 1970 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 Jan 14:00	S-2 bought 3 M-79 HE rounds, an M-79 projectile and a ChiCom grenade for 800 piasters — Ordnance destroyed [2/5 ComdC Jan 1970, PDF p. 14]
1 Jan 17:00	S-2 bought 2 CS grenades, a 105mm HE round, 2 ChiCom grenades, 4 M-26 grenades and 100 rounds of 7.62 from a Vietnamese man for 3,500 piasters — Ordnance destroyed [2/5 ComdC Jan 1970, PDF p. 14]
January day unstated	853 patients seen at the aid station; no heat casualties. [2/5 ComdC Jan 1970, PDF p. 11]
January day unstated	Civic action handed to the regimental S-5. [2/5 ComdC Jan 1970, PDF p. 12]

Date	Activity / Events
January completed 20 January	Liberty Bridge Combat Outpost built up: about 60,000 sandbags, wire and ammunition trucked in daily. [2/5 ComdC Jan 1970, PDF p. 10]
January day unstated	Two new command bunkers built in the An Hoa cantonment. [2/5 ComdC Jan 1970, PDF p. 10]
2 Jan 08:30	While carrying dud ordnance at AT 906476, 2 engineers dropped an M-79 HE round, which went off — 1 engineer KIA, 1 emergency evac [2/5 ComdC Jan 1970, PDF p. 16]
4 Jan 14:40	Kilo on a sweep at AT 965542 saw 2 VC/NVA with packs and weapons in green utilities at AT 963529; artillery mission — Negative results [2/5 ComdC Jan 1970, PDF p. 20]
4 Jan	2/5 (-): Echo and Foxtrot moved from Liberty Bridge area to Go Noi Island (reconnaissance in force) (BT 02 54) (means not stated). “From 4–9 January the Battalion (-), consisting of Echo and Fox Companies, conducted a Reconnaissance in Force on Go Noi Island”; afterwards “A company was maintained on the Island for the remainder of the month” (PDF p. 6). Mode not stated. (From the January 1970 chronology, read 18 Nov 2026.) [2/5 ComdC Jan 1970, PDF p. 6]
6 Jan 17:30	Moving at AT 940527, a Kilo Marine tripped a 105mm booby trap with a trip wire buried in the ground — 3 USMC WIA, medevac completed [2/5 ComdC Jan 1970, PDF p. 26]
8 Jan 12:00	Kilo platoon on patrol at AT 938520 tripped a dud booby trap: an 81mm illumination canister packed with C-4 in a paddy dike with a trip wire — Blown in place [2/5 ComdC Jan 1970, PDF p. 30]
8 Jan 13:45	Kilo platoon on patrol at AT 947519 tripped an M-26 booby trap hidden in grass beside a trail — 1 USMC WIA, medevac completed [2/5 ComdC Jan 1970, PDF p. 30]
8 Jan 16:00	An LVT fired 2 line charges at AT 931528: the first set off 3 suspected booby traps (a 105mm round, a 60mm round and an M-26) and destroyed 2 small bunkers and 200 m of treeline; the second set off an 81mm HE and an 81mm WP round [2/5 ComdC Jan 1970, PDF p. 30]
10 Jan 12:00	Returning to An Hoa, an earth mover from the 7th Engineers set off a 100-lb pressure-type box mine in the middle of the road about 100 m north of the OP site (AT 922548); one tire blown off — No casualties; area searched, negative [2/5 ComdC Jan 1970, PDF p. 34]
11 Jan 14:00	Vietnamese children brought into the S-2A at AT 921535: 12 60mm illumination rounds, 4 60mm HE rounds, 18 M-79 rounds, 8 M-79 beehive rounds, 2 claymores, 4 trip flares, 3 aircraft illumination canisters and 3 M-26 grenades, to the Liberty Bridge compound — Given C-rations because the VIP fund was short; EOD to dispose of the ordnance [2/5 ComdC Jan 1970, PDF p. 36]
19 Jan 10:10	Battalion to company: request for one company to cordon and search Le Nam (1), south of Le Bac Island, vicinity AT 957532 [2/5 ComdC Jan 1970, PDF p. 54]
19 Jan 10:20	No vehicles to move on Liberty Road in either direction until more road sweeps completed [2/5 ComdC Jan 1970, PDF p. 54]
19 Jan 15:00	Order to Echo: prepare to move 2 platoons and the company CP to a blocking position along South Liberty Road, set a company (-) patrol base in the 2/5 AO east of Liberty Road, and chop one platoon OPCON to Hotel to continue its mission north of the AO [2/5 ComdC Jan 1970, PDF p. 54]

Date	Activity / Events
20 Jan 13:00	Request that Golf's long rifles come to An Hoa for admin work and promotion [2/5 ComdC Jan 1970, PDF p. 58]
20 Jan 17:20	Engineers (7th) arrived at Liberty Bridge [2/5 ComdC Jan 1970, PDF p. 58]
20 Jan 18:15	More information from Vietnamese at Phu Lac (6): a VC unit will move out at 0730 from AT 925525 south toward the general vicinity of AT 951510 [2/5 ComdC Jan 1970, PDF p. 58]
20 Jan 19:30	An LMH (light helicopter) will provide security for the 7th Engineers [2/5 ComdC Jan 1970, PDF p. 58]
21 Jan 00:30	Message from DC to LM3: conduct a search of Phu Nhuan and further inquiry of PFs to determine the size of enemy troops [2/5 ComdC Jan 1970, PDF p. 60]
21 Jan 13:40	At about 1300 Duc Duc District forces were attacked by a company-size VC/NVA force, well camouflaged and dug in — 3 known casualties: the senior Army advisor and his radio operator KIA, and the District Chief [2/5 ComdC Jan 1970, PDF p. 60]
21 Jan 13:40	At about 0430 the senior S-2 scout and a Kit Carson Scout left Phu Lac (6) with 2 PFs to visit a girl in an unknown location; at about 0730 at AT 909513 the four met a large VC/NVA force; they killed 2 VC/NVA and captured an AK-47; the PFs decided to return to Phu Lac (6); the S-2 scout gave his pistol to a PF to return to his unit; the scout then went east; they were last seen surrounded at AT 903517 and have not been heard from since; the pistol was returned to Golf — Both missing [2/5 ComdC Jan 1970, PDF p. 60]
21 Jan 18:30	7th Engineers cleared 100 m of road at AT 923528 — 923520 [2/5 ComdC Jan 1970, PDF p. 60]
21 Jan 19:35	Message to Golf and Hotel: large enemy unit in the area; keep alert [2/5 ComdC Jan 1970, PDF p. 60]
21 Jan 20:45	Interpreters questioned refugees at AT 927529 picked up at Duc Duc District — 4 Vietnamese detained, to be sent to An Hoa for questioning [2/5 ComdC Jan 1970, PDF p. 60]
22 Jan 14:00	Col. Beck will be at Liberty Bridge for one hour to inspect [2/5 ComdC Jan 1970, PDF p. 64]
22 Jan 16:50	Message referencing 1st MarDiv OG 210245Z Jan 1970 [2/5 ComdC Jan 1970, PDF p. 66]
22 Jan 19:45	H6 and G6 informed of operations involving Echo (-) [2/5 ComdC Jan 1970, PDF p. 66]
22 Jan 23:00	S-2 and ARVN at AT 925526 took 45 rounds of AK-47 fire from 6 VC/NVA at AT 932525 and 932515; called 81s — Negative results [2/5 ComdC Jan 1970, PDF p. 66]
22 Jan	“On 22 January, companies of the Battalion were rotated to An Hoa for a three day stand-down with the dual mission of providing base augmentation defense” (PDF p. 6). Which companies and how is not stated. (From the January 1970 chronology, read 18 Nov 2026.) [2/5 ComdC Jan 1970, PDF p. 6]
22 Jan	Rifle companies (in rotation) moved from Liberty Bridge and Liberty Road positions to An Hoa Combat Base (three-day stand-down) (AT 874 474) (means not stated). “On 22 January, companies of the Battalion were rotated to An Hoa for a three day stand-down with the dual mission of providing base augmentation defense” (PDF p. 6). Which companies and how is not stated. (From the January 1970 chronology, read 18 Nov 2026.) [2/5 ComdC Jan 1970, PDF p. 6]

Date	Activity / Events
23 Jan 12:15	Message from LM3: latest intelligence indicates the Marine MIA is being taken through the Arizona to an enemy mountain base; alert units to look for a 6-ft-1 Caucasian [2/5 ComdC Jan 1970, PDF p. 68]
23 Jan 14:05	Chief KCS questioned the woman who saw the S-2 scout [2/5 ComdC Jan 1970, PDF p. 68]
23 Jan 19:35	RFs and PFs in Phu Loc (6) at AT 926527 took 2 incoming rounds from the northeast; returned fire with M-60 and small arms — 2 ChiCom grenades killed 2 people: a village chief and a village policeman [2/5 ComdC Jan 1970, PDF p. 68]
24 Jan 09:40	Follow-up to the 23 Jan 1945 report: an 11-year-old Vietnamese girl wounded in that night's action — Medevac completed [2/5 ComdC Jan 1970, PDF p. 72]
24 Jan 18:10	Message to LMB: cancel 1 patrol and OP for 25 Jan and submit a day activity for your position on Go Noi Island [2/5 ComdC Jan 1970, PDF p. 74]
24 Jan 22:30	On a listening post at AT 880465, H&S heard movement and saw a figure moving from rock to rock toward the water tower; blew 4 claymores and threw 4 M-26 grenades — The ARVN then opened up at the H&S LP [2/5 ComdC Jan 1970, PDF p. 74]
25 Jan 23:45	To Echo: 51st ARVN Regiment early in Golf — frequency 48.70 [2/5 ComdC Jan 1970, PDF p. 78]
26 Jan 11:10	Message concerning control of rabies under ICI 6200 of 1 Dec 69 [2/5 ComdC Jan 1970, PDF p. 80]
26 Jan 15:15	Enemy reported near AT 925515; patrols to check [2/5 ComdC Jan 1970, PDF p. 80]
26 Jan 18:15	To the CUPP platoon: its mission is to provide security for Vietnamese refugees located in ... [2/5 ComdC Jan 1970, PDF p. 80]
26 Jan 18:15	(cont.) ... vicinity AT 926528, in coordination with PF platoons 69 and 117, and to help PF units organize defenses at the Phu Loc (6) refugee site [2/5 ComdC Jan 1970, PDF p. 82]
26 Jan	Command group, Foxtrot moved from Not stated to Liberty Bridge (AT 922 533) by helicopter. 26 Jan January: Operation Dry Well: Foxtrot and a battalion jump command post flew to Liberty Bridge as a one-night reaction force. (From the monthly “by Company” summary, written from the chronology page images.) The narrative: “On 26 January, Operation Dry Well was conducted at the Liberty Bridge Combat Outpost. Foxtrot Company and a Battalion jump Command Post conducted a helilifftted reactionary reinforcement to Liberty Bridge Combat Outpost” (PDF p. 6). [2/5 ComdC Jan 1970, PDF p. 6]
27 Jan 08:10	16 sets of torso body armor sent on the convoy [2/5 ComdC Jan 1970, PDF p. 84]
27 Jan 10:30	Message: units to report enemy antiaircraft fire immediately [2/5 ComdC Jan 1970, PDF p. 84]
27 Jan 10:45	An aerial observer supporting Hotel reported killing 8 VC/NVA near AT 923497; Hotel checked and found 3 VC/NVA bodies at AT 937512, 940507 (Scarface, 3 credited with both) and 937511 (AO credited) [2/5 ComdC Jan 1970, PDF p. 84]
27 Jan 14:30	CUPP platoon placed under OPCON of LMH immediately; resupply through Hotel [2/5 ComdC Jan 1970, PDF p. 84]
27 Jan 16:00	One CUPP platoon ambush cancelled [2/5 ComdC Jan 1970, PDF p. 84]
27 Jan 16:05	From 28 Jan the squad on OP Durham will be used as a patrol during daylight hours [2/5 ComdC Jan 1970, PDF p. 84]

Date	Activity / Events
28 Jan 02:30	The CP at AT 877467 took 5 rounds of 60mm across the road from the power plant near a Vietnamese building at AT 872466; rounds thought to come from the west, but no flashes or sounds — Perimeter put on 100 percent [2/5 ComdC Jan 1970, PDF p. 88]
28 Jan 12:45	Late entry: the CUPP unit has no interpreters; the T/O is for 4 [2/5 ComdC Jan 1970, PDF p. 88]
28 Jan 13:35	Late entry: an aerial observer reported a new bunker and fighting positions at AT 970520 [2/5 ComdC Jan 1970, PDF p. 90]
28 Jan 17:00	Clearing the sides of Liberty Road at AT 914514, a Marine from the 7th Engineers set off an M-26 booby trap with a trip wire in a bush — 1 USMC WIA, priority evac, medevac completed [2/5 ComdC Jan 1970, PDF p. 90]
29 Jan 13:00	On patrol at AT 926521, CUPP 1 tripped an embedded M-26 booby trap with a trip wire — 1 USMC WIA, priority evac, medevac completed [2/5 ComdC Jan 1970, PDF p. 92]
29 Jan 13:20	Message to LMG: provide security for the LZ at AT 910475 for the extraction of 3/51 ARVN by 301200H Jan 70 [2/5 ComdC Jan 1970, PDF p. 92]
29 Jan 16:30	On patrol at AT 926521, CUPP 1 found 2 M-26 booby traps in cans with the pins pulled, in brush beside a trail — Destroyed in place [2/5 ComdC Jan 1970, PDF p. 92]
29 Jan 17:00	Liaison with Duc Duc District made; the new District Chief agrees with the previous plan and agreements [2/5 ComdC Jan 1970, PDF p. 92]
29 Jan 19:25	Warn G-6 and H6 about contacts at AT 903518 [2/5 ComdC Jan 1970, PDF p. 92]
30 Jan 08:30	Supporting Echo at AT 9553, a gunship saw 5 VC/NVA in green utilities running into a hooch; it directed F-4s, which dropped 12 500-lb bombs and napalm on the hooch [2/5 ComdC Jan 1970, PDF p. 96]
31 Jan 01:40	The CP at AT 871466 took 5 M-79 rounds 300 m in front of Bunker 14; the OOD investigated and assumed they were H&I fire from other sectors [2/5 ComdC Jan 1970, PDF p. 102]
31 Jan 08:00	The CP at AT 877465 had a claymore set up in front of Bunker 8 go off; no injuries — OOD investigating whether it was set off on purpose or by accident [2/5 ComdC Jan 1970, PDF p. 102]
31 Jan 08:40	Message: the convoy to An Hoa on 31 Jan will carry sensitive explosive dynamite [2/5 ComdC Jan 1970, PDF p. 102]
31 Jan 11:40	PF security in our AO [2/5 ComdC Jan 1970, PDF p. 102]
31 Jan 12:20	Called the DC S-5 on the land line about refugees at Phu Loc (6) not being fed — S-5 will act [2/5 ComdC Jan 1970, PDF p. 102]
31 Jan 13:55	To H6: relieved of security of Hill 119 [2/5 ComdC Jan 1970, PDF p. 102]
31 Jan 14:00	Regiment activated 1 platoon of Golf to assume OPCON of the Recon OP on Hill 119 [2/5 ComdC Jan 1970, PDF p. 102]
31 Jan 17:55	To LMG: move companies into night positions under cover of darkness [2/5 ComdC Jan 1970, PDF p. 102]

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 Jan 1970 (Texas Tech University Vietnam Archive item 1201048123).

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 Jan 1970 (Texas Tech University Vietnam Archive item 1201048123)

— 2nd Battalion, 5th Marines Command Chronology for January 1970, as published on hotel25vv.com (Battalion Chronology page): https://hotel25vv.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/06/1970January-2-5CommandChronology.pdf

SECONDARY SOURCES

— Cosmas, Graham A. and Terrence P. Murray. U.S. Marines in Vietnam: Vietnamization and Redeployment, 1970–1971. History and Museums Division, HQMC, 1986.

— “2/5 Battalion Chronology.” Hotel 2/5 Combat Marines. https://hotel25vv.com/vietnam-war-chronology/battalion-chronology