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

## MARCH 1970 — LIBERTY BRIDGE

*Compiled from the 2/5 Command Chronology for March 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 March 1970 |
| **Commander** | 1stLt R. W. Vaughn (1–9 March); Capt D. O. Ford (10–31 March) |
| **Higher HQ** | 2nd Battalion, 5th Marines (LtCol F. D. Leder); 5th Marines; 1st Marine Division |
| **Area of Operations** | Liberty Bridge, Duc Duc District headquarters, An Hoa Combat Base |
| **Combat Posture** | Combat operations, patrols and security (8 combat entries) |
| **Base of Operations** | Liberty Bridge |
| **Corps Area** | I Corps Tactical Zone, Republic of Vietnam |

## 2. Commander's Summary

H&S Company’s entries for March 1970 place it most often at or near Liberty Bridge (4 of 6 entries with a named place or grid), and also at Duc Duc District headquarters, An Hoa Combat Base.

H&S Company was commanded by 1stLt R. W. Vaughn (1–9 March); Capt D. O. Ford (10–31 March); the battalion by LtCol F. D. Leder (1–31 March).

For March 1970 this report lists 69 entries (56 organization, 8 combat, 2 medical, 2 movement, 1 personnel): 3 naming H&S or one of its sections (the battalion command post, the 106mm section, S-2, S-5), and 66 battalion-level entries recorded by the battalion headquarters.

On 1 March 1970: Summary: 21 VC/NVA spotted, none reported killed; Golf tripped a booby trap, 1 wounded; Hotel found a 60mm booby trap and blew it in place; Echo and Foxtrot received VIP ordnance; intelligence reports state that Liberty Bridge will be attacked.

On 1 March 1970: Unsuccessful ground attack on the Phu Loc (6) refugee area by 30–35 enemy.

On 2 March 1970: Summary: 2 VC/NVA seen and 2 killed; the 1st Engineers set off a booby trap, 1 killed and 2 wounded; Echo had 9 heat-stroke casualties; 1/5 came under the 5th Marines (OPCON).

## 3. Operations Overview

| Operation / Activity | Dates | Description |
|---|---|---|
| **Operation Blackboard** | Put into effect at 2006 on 29 March 1970; practiced on the night of 3 June 1970; mentioned again in September 1970. “Blackboard” was a code word, not a named offensive operation. | Blackboard operation in effect |

## 4. Chronology of H&S Company Activities

Compiled from the checked transcriptions of the 2/5 command chronology for March 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 Mar 24:00** | Summary: 21 VC/NVA spotted, none reported killed; Golf tripped a booby trap, 1 wounded; Hotel found a 60mm booby trap and blew it in place; Echo and Foxtrot received VIP ordnance; intelligence reports state that Liberty Bridge will be attacked [2/5 ComdC Mar 1970, PDF p. 16] |
| **March days unstated** | 23 heat casualties. [2/5 ComdC Mar 1970, PDF p. 11] |
| **March days unstated** | Five memorial services for 2/5 Marines. [2/5 ComdC Mar 1970, PDF p. 5] |
| **March day unstated** | Forward aid station opened at Liberty Bridge. [2/5 ComdC Mar 1970, PDF p. 11] |
| **March see the March journal** | Unsuccessful ground attack on the Phu Loc (6) refugee area by 30–35 enemy. [2/5 ComdC Mar 1970, PDF p. 1] |
| **2 Mar 14:45** | Alfa Company 1/5 at the bridge [2/5 ComdC Mar 1970, PDF p. 16] |
| **2 Mar 24:00** | Summary: 2 VC/NVA seen and 2 killed; the 1st Engineers set off a booby trap, 1 killed and 2 wounded; Echo had 9 heat-stroke casualties; 1/5 came under the 5th Marines (OPCON) [2/5 ComdC Mar 1970, PDF p. 16] |

| Date | Activity / Events |
|---|---|
| **3 Mar 24:00** | Summary: 2 VC/NVA seen and killed, 2 POWs captured and 1 detained; Hotel tripped a booby trap, 1 killed and 1 wounded; Echo bought VIP ordnance and tripped a booby trap, 1 wounded; medevacs for all casualties [2/5 ComdC Mar 1970, PDF p. 18] |
| **4 Mar 10:50** | Company A 3B (1/5) tripped a 60mm booby trap — 1 WIA evac, 2 non-evac [2/5 ComdC Mar 1970, PDF p. 20] |
| **4 Mar 12:05** | Received a boat and paddles [2/5 ComdC Mar 1970, PDF p. 20] |
| **4 Mar 24:00** | Summary: 7 VC/NVA seen, none killed; patrols took sniper fire at various places; Company A (OPCON to 2/5) tripped a 60mm booby trap, 1 wounded evacuated and 2 not [2/5 ComdC Mar 1970, PDF p. 20] |
| **5 Mar 16:20** | Companies D and A returned to 1/5 by helicopter [2/5 ComdC Mar 1970, PDF p. 22] |
| **5 Mar 24:00** | Summary: 7 VC/NVA spotted, none killed; Golf tripped a booby trap, 1 wounded; Echo received numerous VIP ordnance; companies D and A of 1/5 returned to their parent unit; message on fire restrictions and on firing at intelligence targets with mortars; the Phu Loc (6) refugee camp took M-79 rounds, 40 refugees wounded [2/5 ComdC Mar 1970, PDF p. 24] |
| **6 Mar 08:50** | Request for a flame tank [2/5 ComdC Mar 1970, PDF p. 24] |
| **6 Mar 13:00** | A Recon helicopter was downed — 1 KIA, 6 WIA [2/5 ComdC Mar 1970, PDF p. 24] |
| **6 Mar 13:15** | From 5th Marines: assumption of the new TAOR [2/5 ComdC Mar 1970, PDF p. 24] |
| **6 Mar 24:00** | Summary: 1 VC/NVA seen; Hotel received VIP ordnance; the 5th Marines assumed the new TAOR; a Recon helicopter was downed, 1 killed and 6 wounded; Echo destroyed 2 M-26 booby traps and took a ChiCom grenade [2/5 ComdC Mar 1970, PDF p. 24] |
| **7 Mar 24:00** | Summary: 3 VC/NVA spotted and 3 killed; Echo's E1 detained 44; Hotel's H2B took 350 rounds of small-arms fire and destroyed a dud 81mm round; Hotel and Echo bought VIP ordnance, 1,000 piasters [2/5 ComdC Mar 1970, PDF p. 26] |
| **8 Mar 24:00** | Summary: 6 VC/NVA spotted, none killed; Echo and Hotel each tripped booby traps, 2 casualties each; Echo and Hotel bought VIP ordnance [2/5 ComdC Mar 1970, PDF p. 28] |
| **9 Mar 24:00** | Summary: 4 VC/NVA seen, none killed; two booby traps found and one set off, 3 wounded evacuated; Hotel detained 10 VC suspects; Echo received numerous VIP ordnance; the 5th Marines frag order was acknowledged; Foxtrot heli-lifted [2/5 ComdC Mar 1970, PDF p. 30] |
| **10 Mar 18:15** | Little people operating at AT 870488 [2/5 ComdC Mar 1970, PDF p. 32] |
| **10 Mar 21:10** | Provide a blocking force [2/5 ComdC Mar 1970, PDF p. 32] |
| **10 Mar 24:00** | Summary: 13 VC/NVA seen; Echo's E1A detained 45 Vietnamese; Hotel found a .45 pistol and Foxtrot destroyed 4 bunkers; one non-battle casualty from heat stroke and another from convulsions; Hotel's H1C took 6 RPG rounds and small-arms fire, 1 priority evac [2/5 ComdC Mar 1970, PDF p. 32] |
| **10 Mar – 13 Mar** | 10–13 Mar March: A battalion jump command post moved to Liberty Bridge to coordinate the defense of the bridge and Phu Loc (6). (From the monthly “by Company” summary, written from the chronology page images.) [2/5 ComdC Mar 1970, PDF p. 5] |

| Date | Activity / Events |
|---|---|
| **10 Mar** | Command group moved from Not stated to Liberty Bridge (AT 922 533) (means not stated). 10–13 Mar March: A battalion jump command post moved to Liberty Bridge to coordinate the defense of the bridge and Phu Loc (6). (From the monthly “by Company” summary, written from the chronology page images.) [2/5 ComdC Mar 1970, PDF p. 5] |
| **11 Mar 09:30** | Message: Special Forces with advisors [2/5 ComdC Mar 1970, PDF p. 34] |
| **11 Mar 14:30** | Golf's G2 and Echo's E2 with tanks destroyed 8 bunkers and 3 spider holes [2/5 ComdC Mar 1970, PDF p. 34] |
| **11 Mar 24:00** | Summary: 5 VC/NVA seen; 43 bunkers destroyed and 22 Vietnamese detained; 7 booby traps found and 3 set off, causing 5 KIA and 8 WIA evac; 5 non-battle evac; 3 spider holes destroyed; from the combined tank and infantry units [2/5 ComdC Mar 1970, PDF p. 38] |
| **12 Mar 04:00** | S-2 reported seeing VC/NVA digging on the road [2/5 ComdC Mar 1970, PDF p. 40] |
| **12 Mar 09:30** | Regiment informed of the Kingfisher operation [2/5 ComdC Mar 1970, PDF p. 40] |
| **12 Mar 24:00** | Summary: 17 VC/NVA seen, none killed; all units took enemy fire; Foxtrot had 1 wounded from a booby trap and destroyed a 250-lb bomb; Hotel received VIP ordnance; Hotel's checkpoints were out of the AO and ten thrust points missing, action taken [2/5 ComdC Mar 1970, PDF p. 40] |
| **13 Mar 24:00** | Summary: 8 VC/NVA seen; 8 bunkers found and destroyed by Foxtrot's F3B, which also found an M-26 booby trap; Golf set off a 60mm booby trap, 3 wounded, and a ChiCom, 1 wounded; Hotel's H2B tripped a box mine, 1 Marine killed; one heat casualty [2/5 ComdC Mar 1970, PDF p. 42] |
| **14 Mar 24:00** | Summary: 10 VC/NVA spotted, 4 reported killed, 2 wounded and 2 detained; 3 booby traps found and set off, 4 wounded; 3 bunkers found and destroyed; Echo purchased VIP ordnance; Lt Sullivan was relieved of duties [2/5 ComdC Mar 1970, PDF p. 44] |
| **15 Mar 20:50** | Report on 3 VC/NVA killed by air [2/5 ComdC Mar 1970, PDF p. 46] |
| **15 Mar 22:05** | Checking bodies [2/5 ComdC Mar 1970, PDF p. 46] |
| **15 Mar 24:00** | Summary: 7 VC/NVA reported seen and 5 killed; Echo received incoming mortars and a ground attack, 1 friendly casualty and 7 NVA killed, capturing 6 AK-47s and other ordnance; three booby traps encountered and 2 set off, 2 wounded; fire missions throughout [2/5 ComdC Mar 1970, PDF p. 46] |
| **16 Mar 15:00** | Troop lift completed [2/5 ComdC Mar 1970, PDF p. 50] |
| **16 Mar 21:50** | Message to Echo and Hotel 6s: 51st ARVN operation [2/5 ComdC Mar 1970, PDF p. 50] |
| **16 Mar 24:00** | Summary: 31 VC/NVA spotted, 3 killed and 8 detained; Hotel's H1 set off a 155mm round, 2 killed and 1 wounded; the 51st ARVN operation began 16 Mar; units in the AO took small-arms fire, mostly sniper fire [2/5 ComdC Mar 1970, PDF p. 50] |
| **17 Mar 07:45** | Divide into groups — Vietnamese [2/5 ComdC Mar 1970, PDF p. 52] |

| Date | Activity / Events |
|---|---|
| **17 Mar 14:30** | Liaison with West Orange (Hill 119) [2/5 ComdC Mar 1970, PDF p. 52] |
| **17 Mar 24:00** | Summary: 5 VC/NVA spotted, 5 killed, and 159 detainees heli-lifted; two booby traps set off, 1 killed and 2 wounded evacuated; Foxtrot secured the LZ for the lift and Golf made liaison with West Orange; all detainees heli-lifted to Phu Loc (6); fire and air support called [2/5 ComdC Mar 1970, PDF p. 52] |
| **18 Mar 24:00** | Summary: 5 VC/NVA found dead and 1 reported killed; three booby traps found and destroyed; Foxtrot took incoming rounds and Echo received a Vietnamese with a gunshot wound and called a medevac [2/5 ComdC Mar 1970, PDF p. 54] |
| **19 Mar 10:30** | Enemy mission to commence [2/5 ComdC Mar 1970, PDF p. 56] |
| **19 Mar 24:00** | Summary: 9 booby traps found and 3 set off, 3 wounded evacuated; Foxtrot found and destroyed 2 bunkers; no enemy sightings, but intelligence reports said enemy missions would begin on 20 March [2/5 ComdC Mar 1970, PDF p. 56] |
| **20 Mar 17:15** | The battalion rear (An Hoa) received short rounds — 26 casualties [2/5 ComdC Mar 1970, PDF p. 58] |
| **20 Mar 24:00** | Summary: 2 detained, none killed; Foxtrot found and destroyed 2 bunkers and a 1,000-lb bomb; the 2/5 rear received a 155mm round causing 26 casualties, 2 of them emergency evacs; the enemy was heard constantly on bullhorns, and fire missions were called [2/5 ComdC Mar 1970, PDF p. 58] |
| **21 Mar 24:00** | Summary: 11 VC/NVA seen, none killed; Foxtrot tripped 2 booby traps, 4 wounded in all; fire missions called on sightings [2/5 ComdC Mar 1970, PDF p. 62] |
| **22 Mar 18:35** | Confirmation of accident [2/5 ComdC Mar 1970, PDF p. 64] |
| **22 Mar 24:00** | Summary: 2 booby traps found and one caused 1 wounded not evacuated; Echo had 1 killed by VIP ordnance; the enemy sightings reported received artillery fire called by units [2/5 ComdC Mar 1970, PDF p. 64] |
| **23 Mar 24:00** | Summary: 6 VC/NVA reported seen, none killed; two bunkers found and destroyed; Hotel tripped a 60mm booby trap, 1 wounded evacuated, and found and destroyed a 105mm booby trap; Foxtrot found and destroyed an XM-194 round on a paddy dike [2/5 ComdC Mar 1970, PDF p. 66] |
| **24 Mar 24:00** | Summary: 5 VC/NVA seen and 1 killed; 15 detainees captured by Hotel; Echo had a shotgun round go off accidentally, 2 wounded not evacuated; Hotel received VIP ordnance [2/5 ComdC Mar 1970, PDF p. 68] |
| **25 Mar 15:15** | Request a sniper team [2/5 ComdC Mar 1970, PDF p. 70] |
| **25 Mar 24:00** | Summary: 38 VC/NVA spotted, none reported killed; Hotel's H1A had one casualty from an M-79 round; word sent that cipher will be used 24 hours a day; message to Echo that Stack Arms was moved up to 3 April 1970 [2/5 ComdC Mar 1970, PDF p. 70] |
| **26 Mar 19:15** | Regiment passed OPCON (Delta 1/5) to 2/5 at 261845H Mar 70 [2/5 ComdC Mar 1970, PDF p. 72] |
| **26 Mar 19:43** | Informed Regiment that Hotel is being hit [2/5 ComdC Mar 1970, PDF p. 72] |

| Date | Activity / Events |
|---|---|
| **26 Mar 21:00** | Company D (1/5) made enemy contact (Pacifier, Football Island) [2/5 ComdC Mar 1970, PDF p. 72] |
| **26 Mar 24:00** | Summary: 4 VC/NVA spotted, with Delta believed to have 2 confirmed; Foxtrot had one man bitten by a rat; Golf's G3A (as written) tripped a booby trap, 1 killed and 1 wounded evacuated; at 1620 Golf's sector came under Mike Company, and at 1845 Delta passed to 2/5; Hotel had contact, with fire missions called [2/5 ComdC Mar 1970, PDF p. 72] |
| **27 Mar 08:30** | Delta Company passed OPCON back to 1/5 [2/5 ComdC Mar 1970, PDF p. 74] |
| **27 Mar 24:00** | Summary: 36 VC/NVA spotted and 7 detained; Delta passed OPCON back to the regiment at 270805H; Foxtrot (as written; Echo in the 1645 entry) tripped a 60mm booby trap, 2 wounded; Hotel with tanks received 4 RPG rounds, and earlier 8 RPGs killing 1 and wounding 12 [2/5 ComdC Mar 1970, PDF p. 74] |
| **28 Mar 21:40** | Brief on LZs [2/5 ComdC Mar 1970, PDF p. 78] |
| **28 Mar 24:00** | Summary: 2 VC/NVA spotted and 29 detained; Hotel took incoming 60mm and set off a 105mm round, 3 wounded; Golf tripped a daisy chain, 1 killed and 1 wounded; Foxtrot tripped an M-26, 2 wounded evacuated; LZ brief sent to all companies [2/5 ComdC Mar 1970, PDF p. 78] |
| **29 Mar 20:06** | Blackboard operation in effect [2/5 ComdC Mar 1970, PDF p. 80] |
| **29 Mar 21:10** | The air package reported 2 secondary explosions [2/5 ComdC Mar 1970, PDF p. 80] |
| **29 Mar 24:00** | Summary: 15 VC/NVA spotted, none killed; Echo's E1 detained 70 Vietnamese; the "Blackboard" operation went into effect at 292006H Mar 70 [2/5 ComdC Mar 1970, PDF p. 80] |
| **30 Mar 14:15** | At 301415H Mar 70 one platoon passed OPCON to the 1st Recon Bn [2/5 ComdC Mar 1970, PDF p. 82] |
| **30 Mar 24:00** | Summary: no VC/NVA reported seen; Echo's E3C found 1 ton of rice with 100 lb of corn and other food caches; 2/5 chopped one platoon to the 1st Recon Bn [2/5 ComdC Mar 1970, PDF p. 82] |
| **31 Mar 18:52** | The 2/5 CP received a premature airburst — No casualties [2/5 ComdC Mar 1970, PDF p. 84] |
| **31 Mar 24:00** | Summary: no enemy sightings; Echo had one routine medevac for a burn from a trip flare accident; a premature artillery airburst over the 2/5 CP caused no casualties [2/5 ComdC Mar 1970, PDF p. 84] |

## 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 Mar 1970 (Texas Tech University Vietnam Archive item 1201048125).

**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 Mar 1970 (Texas Tech University Vietnam Archive item 1201048125)

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