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

MAY 1970 — LIBERTY BRIDGE

Compiled from the 2/5 Command Chronology for May 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 May 1970
Commander	Capt D. O. Ford (1–31 May)
Higher HQ	2nd Battalion, 5th Marines (LtCol F. D. Leder); 5th Marines; 1st Marine Division
Area of Operations	Liberty Bridge, An Hoa Combat Base
Combat Posture	Combat operations, patrols and security (15 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 May 1970 place it most often at or near Liberty Bridge (6 of 11 entries with a named place or grid), and also at An Hoa Combat Base.

H&S Company was commanded by Capt D. O. Ford (1–31 May); the battalion by LtCol F. D. Leder (1–31 May).

For May 1970 this report lists 92 entries (66 organization, 15 combat, 7 movement, 1 training, 1 personnel, 1 medical, 1 civic): 19 naming H&S or one of its sections (the battalion command post, the 106mm section, S-2, S-5), and 73 battalion-level entries recorded by the battalion headquarters.

On 1 May 1970: Summary: Hotel's H3C tripped a 60mm booby trap, 1 wounded evacuated and 1 RF; Echo's E2C found a Vietnamese boy killed by a 105mm round booby trap; Golf's G3B tripped a 60mm booby trap, 1 Marine and 2 RFs wounded; Hotel CP took 2 lob bombs and Echo's E2 one; 36 VC/NVA observed, none killed.

On 2 May 1970: Summary: 12 VC/NVA observed and 3 reported killed; Echo's E4 LP took 2 RPGs and small-arms fire, 1 wounded evacuated and 1 not; Hotel CP had 1 non-battle casualty from a fire in a hole; Foxtrot had one heat casualty; Foxtrot's F2B (as written) tripped a ChiCom, 1 wounded.

On 3 May 1970: Summary: 69 VC/NVA observed and 5 reported killed; Echo had one non-battle casualty from a short 81mm round; Hotel CP had one wounded from a friendly M-26; 425 lb of foodstuffs captured and 17 bunkers destroyed; Hotel CP received a lob bomb, a dud.

3. Operations Overview

Operation / Activity	Dates	Description
Liberty Bridge operations	May 1970	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 May 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 May 22:40	Message on VC gas [2/5 ComdC May 1970, PDF p. 15]
1 May 24:00	Summary: Hotel's H3C tripped a 60mm booby trap, 1 wounded evacuated and 1 RF; Echo's E2C found a Vietnamese boy killed by a 105mm round booby trap; Golf's G3B tripped a 60mm booby trap, 1 Marine and 2 RFs wounded; Hotel CP took 2 lob bombs and Echo's E2 one; 36 VC/NVA observed, none killed [2/5 ComdC May 1970, PDF p. 15]
May day unstated	23 Marines trained on the XM-174 grenade launcher. [2/5 ComdC May 1970, PDF p. 1]
May day unstated	Battalion Order 5100.2A, the battalion safety program. [2/5 ComdC May 1970, PDF p. 1]
May day unstated	Cipher units placed with Duc Duc District headquarters. [2/5 ComdC May 1970, PDF p. 1]
May days unstated	Four memorial services. [2/5 ComdC May 1970, PDF p. 1]
2 May 08:15	Message on chemical mortar rounds [2/5 ComdC May 1970, PDF p. 17]
2 May 24:00	Summary: 12 VC/NVA observed and 3 reported killed; Echo's E4 LP took 2 RPGs and small-arms fire, 1 wounded evacuated and 1 not; Hotel CP had 1 non-battle casualty from a fire in a hole; Foxtrot had one heat casualty; Foxtrot's F2B (as written) tripped a ChiCom, 1 wounded [2/5 ComdC May 1970, PDF p. 17]

Date	Activity / Events
3 May 24:00	Summary: 69 VC/NVA observed and 5 reported killed; Echo had one non-battle casualty from a short 81mm round; Hotel CP had one wounded from a friendly M-26; 425 lb of foodstuffs captured and 17 bunkers destroyed; Hotel CP received a lob bomb, a dud [2/5 ComdC May 1970, PDF p. 19]
4 May 10:45	A man was detained at the bridge for throwing [2/5 ComdC May 1970, PDF p. 23]
4 May 19:25	51st ARVN requests AO [2/5 ComdC May 1970, PDF p. 23]
4 May 20:00	Frag Order 16-70 received from Regiment [2/5 ComdC May 1970, PDF p. 23]
4 May 24:00	Summary: 25 VC/NVA observed and 3 reported killed; Frag O 16-70 received and the 51st ARVN requested an AO extension; 28 detainees turned over to the village chief of Phu Loc (6) [2/5 ComdC May 1970, PDF p. 23]
5 May 24:00	Summary: Hotel's H3C tripped an M-26, 2 wounded; Hotel CP had a non-battle from a 4.2 mission; the Echo tank operation resulted in 5 VC/NVA killed and 2 detained [2/5 ComdC May 1970, PDF p. 25]
6 May 06:15	Alpha 1/5 OPCON to 2/5 [2/5 ComdC May 1970, PDF p. 27]
6 May 08:00	The Pacifier spotted 10 and killed 6 VC/NVA [2/5 ComdC May 1970, PDF p. 27]
6 May 24:00	Summary: 18 VC/NVA observed and 7 reported killed; the 81mm FDC at Liberty Bridge burned down; Alpha 1/5 was OPCON to 2/5 for the Pacifier; Echo found and destroyed 2 booby traps [2/5 ComdC May 1970, PDF p. 27]
7 May 09:30	MO3 observed 6 secondary explosions while in command [2/5 ComdC May 1970, PDF p. 29]
7 May 24:00	Summary: 6 VC/NVA seen and 7 reported killed; Echo tripped 1 booby trap, 1 wounded not evacuated; 2 booby traps found; one Hoi Chanh received at Phu Loc (6); MO3 observed 11 secondary explosions; Hotel took 2 incoming rounds and captured 1 AK-47 and gear; Echo with tanks started the operation at 0800 on 7 May [2/5 ComdC May 1970, PDF p. 29]
8 May 09:35	Alpha 1/5 OPCON to 2/5 [2/5 ComdC May 1970, PDF p. 31]
8 May 10:00	Alpha 1/5 killed 10 VC/NVA from an air strike [2/5 ComdC May 1970, PDF p. 31]
8 May 14:40	The AO spotted a large tunnel and trench line [2/5 ComdC May 1970, PDF p. 31]
8 May 24:00	Summary: 30 VC/NVA seen and 17 reported killed; Golf's CP at Liberty Bridge received 100 rounds of 60mm, 81mm and B-40 rounds and small-arms fire, 9 wounded evacuated and 12 not; Echo received 3 incoming rounds without casualties; Golf set off 2 booby traps, 2 wounded; Alpha 1/5 became OPCON to the 5th Marines for the Pacifier [2/5 ComdC May 1970, PDF p. 31]
9 May 24:00	Summary: 8 VC/NVA spotted, none killed; 4 sniping incidents; Hotel's H3 took small-arms and mortar fire; Phu Loc (6) took 3 incoming lob bombs [2/5 ComdC May 1970, PDF p. 33]
10 May 24:00	Summary: 34 VC/NVA spotted and Foxtrot had 1 non-evac casualty; Echo took a lob bomb and white phosphorus and found 4 61mm HE rounds buried in a village; 3/5 requested and received an AO extension [2/5 ComdC May 1970, PDF p. 35]
11 May 24:00	Summary: 5 VC/NVA seen and 3 detained; Golf took a lob bomb outside the perimeter and Echo's E2C small-arms fire from an enemy of unknown size [2/5 ComdC May 1970, PDF p. 37]

Date	Activity / Events
12 May 24:00	Summary: 10 VC/NVA seen, none killed; four booby traps encountered and 2 set off, 2 wounded from Foxtrot; an AO extension for 3/5 approved; Hotel's H1A found a .50-cal machine gun and took 30 rounds of AK fire [2/5 ComdC May 1970, PDF p. 39]
13 May 07:45	MO CP, Hotel and Foxtrot interrogating 30 families (Le Nam) [2/5 ComdC May 1970, PDF p. 41]
13 May 12:10	Message to Regiment on the cordon and search of Le Nam [2/5 ComdC May 1970, PDF p. 41]
13 May 15:45	Ten VC/NVA KIA, 19 POWs and 65 detained from the operation [2/5 ComdC May 1970, PDF p. 41]
13 May 24:00	Summary: the cordon and search of Le Nam (1) resulted in 21 POWs, 2 enemy confirmed killed and 65 detainees; the 1/5 Pacifier in the AO resulted in 8 VC/NVA killed [2/5 ComdC May 1970, PDF p. 41]
13 May	Command group, Foxtrot, Hotel, with tanks moved from Not stated to Le Nam (1), south of Le Bac Island (means not stated). “On 13 May, 2nd Battalion, 5th Marines (-) with four tanks conducted a cordon and search operation of Le Nam (1) south of Le Bac Island. Maneuver forces included the Battalion Command Post, Hotel and Fox Companies, a reconnaissance platoon from Duc Duc Regional Forces and four tanks from 1st Tank Battalion. The village was cordoned by first light” (PDF p. 6). The tanks moved with the force; how the Marines moved is not stated. (From the May 1970 chronology, read 18 Nov 2026.) [2/5 ComdC May 1970, PDF p. 6]
14 May 09:30	MO CP captured 3 POWs wearing NVA uniforms [2/5 ComdC May 1970, PDF p. 43]
14 May 09:30	Follow-up: found a 9mm pistol and an AK-47 [2/5 ComdC May 1970, PDF p. 43]
14 May 12:20	CP, Foxtrot and Hotel back to An Hoa [2/5 ComdC May 1970, PDF p. 43]
14 May 15:15	ROK Marines request an AO extension [2/5 ComdC May 1970, PDF p. 43]
14 May 24:00	Summary: 9 VC/NVA captured and 76 detainees sent to Duc Duc, of whom 6 were VCI; Phu Loc (6) took 4 lob bombs; Foxtrot and the MO CP captured 9mm pistols, gear and an AK-47; the ROK Marines' AO extension was approved [2/5 ComdC May 1970, PDF p. 43]
15 May 12:25	Message on Buddha's birthday [2/5 ComdC May 1970, PDF p. 45]
15 May 16:10	Change of activities at Liberty Bridge [2/5 ComdC May 1970, PDF p. 45]
15 May 24:00	Summary: 1 VC/NVA seen and killed by Echo's E3A; Foxtrot began its heli-lift to the bridge; message on Buddha's birthday sent to all companies [2/5 ComdC May 1970, PDF p. 45]
16 May 22:30	Message from 1st MarDiv on the cordon and search operation [2/5 ComdC May 1970, PDF p. 47]
16 May 24:00	Summary: Echo's E3(-) killed one NVA, and 2 men drowned at Liberty Bridge; one non-battle from an accidental discharge of a .45 pistol in the shoulder [2/5 ComdC May 1970, PDF p. 47]

Date	Activity / Events
17 May 11:45	MO (-) detained 2 [2/5 ComdC May 1970, PDF p. 49]
17 May 13:00	MO captured 2 POWs [2/5 ComdC May 1970, PDF p. 49]
17 May 15:20	MO (-) detained 2 POWs [2/5 ComdC May 1970, PDF p. 49]
17 May 18:00	MO (-) captured 1 POW [2/5 ComdC May 1970, PDF p. 49]
17 May 23:00	Results of the 2/5 cordon and search operation (Le Nam 2) [2/5 ComdC May 1970, PDF p. 49]
17 May 24:00	Summary: 7 killed, 18 POWs, 21 detainees, 3 AK-47s, 3 SKSs, an M-16, a radio, 2 mortar sights, 2 ChiComs, 32 booster rounds, 2 B-40s, an NVA pack, a wallet, documents and medical gear [2/5 ComdC May 1970, PDF p. 49]
18 May 07:30	MO (-) detained 12 Vietnamese [2/5 ComdC May 1970, PDF p. 53]
18 May 08:05	The MO CP arrived at An Hoa [2/5 ComdC May 1970, PDF p. 53]
18 May 24:00	Summary: 7 VC/NVA seen, none killed; 12 Vietnamese detained and 7 booby traps found and destroyed [2/5 ComdC May 1970, PDF p. 53]
19 May 10:00	A VR flight spotted the body of a drowned Marine [2/5 ComdC May 1970, PDF p. 55]
19 May 24:00	Summary: the body of one of the 2 drowned Marines was recovered, and 2 Marines were hurt by ground fire during the recovery; 8 VC/NVA captured in a combined operation of Echo, Golf and tanks; 5 VC sighted by Foxtrot's F2; F3A tripped a booby trap going to a stinger site at 2000, 1 emergency medevac [2/5 ComdC May 1970, PDF p. 55]
20 May 16:30	Intelligence report on an attack [2/5 ComdC May 1970, PDF p. 57]
20 May 24:00	Summary: 1 VC/NVA seen and 2 killed; one detained; an intelligence report sent to Echo, Foxtrot and Golf of a possible enemy attack [2/5 ComdC May 1970, PDF p. 57]
21 May 09:30	MO CP had 1 Marine find a booby-trapped cigarette lighter [2/5 ComdC May 1970, PDF p. 59]
21 May 12:15	Message concerning a scuba team [2/5 ComdC May 1970, PDF p. 59]
21 May 24:00	Summary: 15 detainees and 2 booby traps, one set off with no casualties; Hotel's H3 with tanks captured 1 SKS rifle; Foxtrot had 3 casualties from an unknown explosion while burning brush outside its position; Foxtrot also received a Chieu Hoi captured by the ARVN [2/5 ComdC May 1970, PDF p. 59]
22 May 07:00	S-2 paid a Chieu Hoi for information [2/5 ComdC May 1970, PDF p. 61]
22 May 23:50	Message on the cordon and search of Thon Bon (1) [2/5 ComdC May 1970, PDF p. 61]
22 May 24:00	Summary: 14 VC/NVA seen and 4 reported killed; one detained and 2 booby traps encountered; no friendly casualties [2/5 ComdC May 1970, PDF p. 61]

Date	Activity / Events
23 May 06:45	MO CP group lifted out [2/5 ComdC May 1970, PDF p. 63]
23 May 06:55	MO CP is at Thon Bon (1) [2/5 ComdC May 1970, PDF p. 63]
23 May 10:40	Late entry: MO 1/4 conducted a beacon strike [2/5 ComdC May 1970, PDF p. 63]
23 May 11:10	H&S detained 80 Vietnamese [2/5 ComdC May 1970, PDF p. 63]
23 May 24:00	Summary: 20 VC/NVA seen, none killed; one booby trap set off, 2 wounded not evacuated; the CP moved to Thon Bon (1); Golf found 23 bags of rice; Hotel found an AK-47 with magazines and Echo an SKS rifle [2/5 ComdC May 1970, PDF p. 63]
24 May 10:45	H&S reporting a propaganda team working [2/5 ComdC May 1970, PDF p. 63]
24 May 15:40	H&S found 300 lb of rice [2/5 ComdC May 1970, PDF p. 63]
24 May 15:45	MO CP in An Hoa [2/5 ComdC May 1970, PDF p. 63]
24 May 24:00	Summary: 26 VC/NVA seen, none killed; Golf tripped two 105mm rounds linked together, 2 wounded evacuated; Golf detained a boy running from near the booby trap; Hotel took about 40 rounds of sniper fire in its new position; the battalion CP and Echo returned to the rear from the Thon Bon (2) area [2/5 ComdC May 1970, PDF p. 63]
25 May 11:00	West Orange (Hill 119) requested an AO extension; approved [2/5 ComdC May 1970, PDF p. 67]
25 May 24:00	Summary: activity very light; Golf's forward company found a 105mm booby trap with a trip wire on a paddy dike, blown in place; a tank from the 1st Tank Battalion hit a 50-lb box mine on Liberty Road just south of Liberty Bridge, losing its right track, 1 wounded [2/5 ComdC May 1970, PDF p. 67]
26 May 24:00	Summary: 7 VC/NVA seen, none killed; Golf's G6 spotted 3-4 sampans and called artillery; Hotel's H2B took 12 rounds of friendly artillery with no casualties [2/5 ComdC May 1970, PDF p. 69]
27 May 01:05	Message on the cordon and search of Truong An [2/5 ComdC May 1970, PDF p. 71]
27 May 24:00	Summary: Phu Loc (6) and Liberty Bridge received 2 lob bombs and 2 82mm rockets; several fire missions fired; Foxtrot's F3 took 2 M-79 rounds [2/5 ComdC May 1970, PDF p. 71]
28 May 05:30	Message on a Vietnamese male apprehended on a truck [2/5 ComdC May 1970, PDF p. 73]
28 May 17:45	2/2 reports to S-3 20 VC with rifles in the open [2/5 ComdC May 1970, PDF p. 73]
28 May 18:40	Dai Loc personnel questioned 290 detainees and held 12 [2/5 ComdC May 1970, PDF p. 73]
28 May 23:00	From the 5th Marines COC: results of the cordon and search (My Hiep 1) [2/5 ComdC May 1970, PDF p. 73]

Date	Activity / Events
28 May 24:00	Summary: Golf's G12 tripped a booby trap with 1 wounded evacuated (as written); 1 NVA found killed, and 105mm and 250-lb booby traps found; 1 emergency evac, 1 killed, 6 wounded not evacuated, 1 priority evac and 3 emergency evacs; 12 detainees and 1 NVA killed reported [2/5 ComdC May 1970, PDF p. 73]
29 May 20:00	Message on the delay of an 82mm round [2/5 ComdC May 1970, PDF p. 75]
29 May 24:00	Summary: the CP and Hotel landed in An Hoa; a VIP report received from Golf; a message sent to all companies on the delayed-action 82mm mortar [2/5 ComdC May 1970, PDF p. 75]
29 May	Command group, Hotel moved from Not stated to An Hoa Combat Base (AT 873 473) by helicopter. 29 May May: 1500 The CP and Hotel landed in An Hoa – PDF 75 (From the monthly “by Company” summary, written from the chronology page images.) [2/5 ComdC May 1970, PDF p. 75]
30 May 23:00	Message on the ROK AO extension on Go Noi Island [2/5 ComdC May 1970, PDF p. 77]
30 May 24:00	Summary: Golf found and destroyed a 105mm booby trap; a woman medevaced after a motorcycle accident; 28 pieces of ordnance turned in; Hotel CP took 4 60mm rounds, 3 wounded evacuated [2/5 ComdC May 1970, PDF p. 77]
30 May 27:00	Late report: 81s landed on a Vietnamese village [2/5 ComdC May 1970, PDF p. 77]
30 May	Echo, Hotel moved from Not stated to Go Noi Island (BT 02 54) (means not stated). 30–31 May May: Echo began reconnaissance in force near Football Island and Hotel moved to Go Noi Island. (From the monthly “by Company” summary, written from the chronology page images.) [2/5 ComdC May 1970, PDF p. 6]
31 May 10:30	Pacifier Alpha 1/5 OPCON to 2/5 [2/5 ComdC May 1970, PDF p. 79]
31 May 10:30	Message on the ROK AO on Go Noi Island [2/5 ComdC May 1970, PDF p. 79]
31 May 15:50	The Pacifier passed OPCON to the 5th Marines [2/5 ComdC May 1970, PDF p. 79]
31 May 23:35	The CP spotted 4 VC/NVA and fired small arms [2/5 ComdC May 1970, PDF p. 79]
31 May 24:00	Summary: 22 VC/NVA spotted, 18 by Hotel and 4 by the MO; 5 of the 18 seen by Hotel were killed by the Alpha 1/5 Pacifier, OPCON to 2/5 at 311030H and passed to the 5th Marines at 1550H; friendly casualties 3 wounded not evacuated and 1 non-battle; Hotel's H1 received a Chieu Hoi [2/5 ComdC May 1970, PDF p. 79]

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 May 1970 (Texas Tech University Vietnam Archive item 1201048127).

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 May 1970 (Texas Tech University Vietnam Archive item 1201048127)

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

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, May 1970