# H COMPANY, 2ND BATTALION, 5TH MARINES

## MAY 1968 — ROUTE 1 AND THE BRIDGES

*Compiled from the 2/5 Command Chronology for May 1968*

1st Marine Division · III Marine Amphibious Force · I Corps, Republic of Vietnam

## 1. Unit Overview

| | |
|---|---|
| **Unit Designation** | Hotel Company (H Co), 2nd Battalion, 5th Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division |
| **Reporting Period** | 1–31 May 1968 |
| **Commander** | Captain G. D. Hendrickson, commanding Company H for the whole period 1–31 May 1968 |
| **Higher HQ** | 2nd Battalion, 5th Marines (LtCol Ernest C. Cheatham Jr.); 5th Marines; Task Force X-Ray, 1st Marine Division |
| **Area of Operations** | Thua Thien Province south of Hue — Phu Bai, the Truoi River bridge, Cao Doi, the Rock Crusher, Phu Gia and Route 1; the Thua Luu bridge area |
| **Combat Posture** | Security — Operation Houston, second phase: Route 1, bridges and outposts |
| **Base of Operations** | Cao Doi, the tunnel and the Rock Crusher; from 17 May the Phu Gia command post |
| **Corps Area** | I Corps Tactical Zone, Republic of Vietnam |

## 2. Commander's Summary

In May 1968 Hotel Company guarded the road north. Captain G. D. Hendrickson commanded the whole month. At the start of the month the companies were spread along Route 1: Company E at the Phu Loc fire base, Company F at the Nuoc Ngot bridge, and Hotel Company at Cao Doi, the tunnel and the Rock Crusher, while Company G was under the 7th Marines.

The enemy's weapon was the mortar. At 1900 on 7 May a Hotel Company squad in a defensive position near ZD 016024 took 45 to 50 rounds of 82mm fire, answered by counter-mortar fire. When the battalion relieved 3/5 in place and took over a new area of operations, Hotel Company assumed Company I's area around the Thua Luu bridge.

The battalion moved its command post to Phu Gia on 17 May, where the companies secured new positions that day. On 28–29 May Hotel Company's 2nd Platoon served under the operational control of Company A, 1/5.

## 3. Operations Overview

| Operation / Activity | Dates | Description |
|---|---|---|
| **Operation Houston (second phase)** | May 1968 | H COMPANY PARTICIPATED. Security of Route 1 in the southern half of the regimental area with squad and fire-team ambushes, patrols and outposts. |
| **Relief of 3/5; Thua Luu bridge** | May 1968 | Company H assumed Company I, 3/5's area of operations around the Thua Luu bridge. |
| **2nd Platoon with Company A, 1/5** | 28–29 May 1968 | Company A, 1/5 had operational control of the 2nd Platoon, Company H. |

## 4. Chronology of Company H Activities

Compiled from the narrative summary and the chronological sequence of events in the 2/5 command chronology for May 1968. Only entries naming Company H, or bearing directly on it, are listed. Grid references and times are as recorded.

| Date | Activity / Events |
|---|---|
| **Early May** | Company H at Cao Doi, the tunnel and the HCB Rock Crusher; Company E at the Phu Loc fire base, Company F at the Nuoc Ngot bridge. |
| **7 May** | At 071900H a Hotel Company squad in a defensive position near ZD 016024 received 45–50 rounds of 82mm mortar fire; counter-mortar fire was returned. |
| **Mid-May** | In the relief in place of 3/5, Company H assumed Company I's area around the Thua Luu bridge. |
| **17 May** | The battalion CP moved to Phu Gia; Companies E, G and H secured new positions and reported their night activities. |
| **28–29 May** | Company A, 1/5 had operational control of Hotel Company's 2nd Platoon. |

## 5. Notes and Caveats

This file was rewritten on 21 September 2026 directly from the 2nd Battalion, 5th Marines command chronology. The notes below record what changed and where the record is thin.

1. SOURCE. The 2/5 command chronology for May 1968 (Texas Tech item 1201048103).

**2.** OPERATION MAMELUKE THRUST CORRECTED. The earlier version put Hotel Company on Mameluke Thrust from 19 May in the An Hoa / Arizona area. In May the battalion was on Route 1 in Thua Thien Province; it joined Mameluke Thrust only on 28 July, after moving south.

**3.** COMMANDER NAMED. The old file said Captain Christmas commanded “through departure; successor not confirmed.” Captain G. D. Hendrickson is listed for 1–31 May 1968.

**4.** The earlier version placed the company on “Arizona Territory patrol operations.” From 13 January to 25 July 1968 the battalion was in Thua Thien Province, around Phu Bai, Hue and Route 1, more than 80 kilometres north of the Arizona Territory. The dated entries here replace the invented ones.

**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

— 2nd Battalion, 5th Marines Command Chronology for May 1968 (Texas Tech University Vietnam Archive item 1201048103).

### SECONDARY SOURCES

— Shulimson, Jack, et al. U.S. Marines in Vietnam: The Defining Year, 1968. History and Museums Division, HQMC, 1997.

— “Hotel Company.” Hotel 2/5 Combat Marines. https://hotel25vv.com/hotel-company

— Related files in this collection: Operation_Houston.docx.