H COMPANY, 2ND BATTALION, 5TH MARINES

JULY 1968 — SOUTH TO AN HOA

Compiled from the 2/5 Command Chronology for July 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 July 1968
Commander	Captain G. D. Hendrickson, 1–24 July 1968; 1st Lieutenant S. R. Brown, 25–30 July 1968; Captain P. A. Vanderberg from 31 July 1968
Higher HQ	2nd Battalion, 5th Marines — LtCol Ernest C. Cheatham Jr.; Maj O. K. Steele commanding from 28 July; 5th Marines; 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 (to 25 July); then 2/5 An Hoa area of operations, Quang Nam Province — the An Hoa basin, Liberty Road, Phu Loc (6) and Go Noi Island
Combat Posture	Security on Route 1, then movement south and Operation Mameluke Thrust
Base of Operations	Phu Gia; from 26 July An Hoa Combat Base
Corps Area	I Corps Tactical Zone, Republic of Vietnam

2. Commander's Summary

July 1968 brought the battalion back to An Hoa. The chronology is short, but it records the move precisely. On 24 July Companies E and F were detached to the 7th Marines and helilifted to An Hoa as the advance echelon of the 5th Marines' move into its new area. On 25 July, relieved in place by 3/26, the rest of the battalion displaced south and arrived at the An Hoa combat base late on the afternoon of the 26th, where Company E was already in contact.

The battalion joined Operation Mameluke Thrust at 0600 on 28 July, and from that day it normally kept one company at Phu Loc (6), one at An Hoa and the rest on search and destroy operations south of the Song Thu Bon.

Hotel Company had three commanders in the month: Captain G. D. Hendrickson to 24 July (he then moved to the S-3 section), 1st Lieutenant S. R. Brown from 25 to 30 July, and Captain P. A. Vanderberg from 31 July.

3. Operations Overview

Operation / Activity	Dates	Description
Operation Houston (end of 2/5's part)	1–25 July 1968	Route 1 security from Phu Gia.
Move to An Hoa	24–26 July 1968	Companies E and F to An Hoa on 24 July under 7th Marines control; the battalion (-) relieved by 3/26 on 25 July and at An Hoa late on 26 July.
Operation Mameluke Thrust	From 280600H July 1968	H COMPANY PARTICIPATED (1stLt S. R. Brown commanding 28–30 July). 5th Marines operation in the An Hoa basin.

4. Chronology of Company H Activities

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

Date	Activity / Events
1–24 Jul	Route 1 security from Phu Gia under Captain Hendrickson.
24 Jul	Companies E and F detached to the 7th Marines and helilifted to An Hoa.
25 Jul	The battalion (-) was relieved in place by 3/26 and displaced south. 1stLt S. R. Brown took Company H.
26 Jul	The battalion arrived at the An Hoa combat base in the late afternoon; Company E was in contact.
28 Jul	At 0600 2/5 joined Operation Mameluke Thrust under the 5th Marines.
31 Jul	Captain P. A. Vanderberg took command of Company H.

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 July 1968 (Texas Tech item 1201048105), 20 pages.

2. HAPPY VALLEY REMOVED. The earlier version put the company in “Happy Valley” (the Song Chang valley) on Mameluke Thrust. The 2/5 chronology places the battalion in the An Hoa basin — Phu Nhuan, Cu Ban, La Thap, Liberty Road and Go Noi — for its part of Mameluke Thrust, not in Happy Valley.

3. COMMANDERS NAMED. The old file said the commander was not confirmed. The July data lists Capt Hendrickson (1–24 July), 1stLt S. R. Brown (25–30 July) and Capt P. A. Vanderberg (31 July).

4. BATTALION COMMAND. Major O. K. Steele is shown commanding the battalion for Mameluke Thrust from 28 to 31 July; LtCol James W. Stemple took command on 1 August.

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 July 1968 (Texas Tech University Vietnam Archive item 1201048105).

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_Mameluke_Thrust.docx.

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. | Hotel Company, 2/5 Marines, July 1968