H COMPANY, 2ND BATTALION, 5TH MARINES

AUGUST 1968 — MAMELUKE THRUST AND SUSSEX BAY

Compiled from the 2/5 Command Chronology for August 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 August 1968
Commander	Captain P. A. Vanderberg, commanding Company H for the whole period 1–31 August 1968
Higher HQ	2nd Battalion, 5th Marines (LtCol James W. Stemple); 5th Marines; 1st Marine Division
Area of Operations	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	Offensive — Operation Mameluke Thrust; Operation Sussex Bay from 29 August
Base of Operations	An Hoa Combat Base; Phu Loc (6)
Corps Area	I Corps Tactical Zone, Republic of Vietnam

2. Commander's Summary

August 1968 was Mameluke Thrust in the An Hoa basin under the battalion's new commander, LtCol James W. Stemple, with Captain P. A. Vanderberg commanding Hotel Company all month. The battalion fought repeated close actions at the fortified Phu Nhuan and Cu Ban village complexes south of the Song Thu Bon and spent much effort destroying fortifications; from 17 August it joined BLT 2/7 and 3/5 at Chau Phong.

The same booby-trapped ground kept taking its toll. On 23 August a Hotel Company Marine set off a booby-trapped M-26 grenade with a trip wire at AT 949499, wounding two.

The month ended with Operation Sussex Bay on Go Noi Island, H-hour 0900 on 29 August, 2/5 sweeping the eastern half of the island. Just after midnight on 30 August a Hotel Company blocking force at BT 018556 watched about 30 North Vietnamese fording the Song Ky Lam at BT 021556 and ambushed them; 29 enemy dead were found at first light, with no Marine casualties. At 2000 on 31 August the company ambushed a second group of about 30 NVA crossing in boats and, under 81mm illumination, sank both boats with small-arms fire.

3. Operations Overview

Operation / Activity	Dates	Description
Operation Mameluke Thrust	August 1968	H COMPANY PARTICIPATED. Search and destroy south of the Song Thu Bon from An Hoa and Phu Loc (6).
Operation Sussex Bay	29 August – 9 September 1968	H COMPANY PARTICIPATED. 5th and 7th Marines with ARVN Rangers and Korean Marines on Go Noi Island; 2/5 swept the eastern half. Hotel Company's ambushes on the Song Ky Lam on 30 and 31 August.

4. Chronology of Company H Activities

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

Date	Activity / Events
1–16 Aug	Search and destroy around the Phu Nhuan and Cu Ban complexes; one company at Phu Loc (6) and one at An Hoa.
17 Aug	2/5 joined BLT 2/7 and 3/5 at Chau Phong.
23 Aug	At 231150H a Marine from Company H detonated a booby-trapped M-26 grenade with trip wire at AT 949499 — 2 USMC WIA.
29 Aug	Operation Sussex Bay began at 0900.
30 Aug	At 300005H a Hotel Company blocking force at BT 018556 observed about 30 enemy fording the river at BT 021556 and ambushed them. 29 enemy dead were found at first light; no Marine casualties.
31 Aug	At 2000 Company H ambushed a second group of about 30 NVA crossing the Song Ky Lam in boats; under 81mm illumination both boats were sunk by small-arms fire.

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 August 1968 (Texas Tech item 1201048106), with Shulimson's official history for Sussex Bay.

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. OPERATION ALLEN BROOK REMOVED. The old file had Hotel Company at the conclusion of Allen Brook on 24 August. Allen Brook was a 7th and 27th Marines operation on Go Noi Island; 2/5 was not in it. See Operation_Allen_Brook.docx.

4. SUSSEX BAY ADDED. The Song Ky Lam ambushes were among Hotel Company's most successful actions of the war and were missing from the old file.

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 August 1968 (Texas Tech University Vietnam Archive item 1201048106).

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, Operation_Sussex_Bay.docx, Operation_Allen_Brook.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, August 1968