H COMPANY, 2ND BATTALION, 5TH MARINES

NOVEMBER 1968 — HENDERSON HILL TO MEADE RIVER

Compiled from the 2/5 Command Chronology for November 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	1–30 November 1968
Commander	Captain R. J. Drez, commanding Company H for the whole period 1–30 November 1968
Higher HQ	2nd Battalion, 5th Marines (LtCol James W. Stemple); 5th Marines; 1st Marine Division; under the 1st Marines for Operation Meade River from 20 November
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; the Dodge City cordon south of Da Nang (Operation Meade River)
Combat Posture	Offensive — Operation Henderson Hill, then the Meade River cordon
Base of Operations	An Hoa Combat Base; in the field on the Meade River cordon from 20 November
Corps Area	I Corps Tactical Zone, Republic of Vietnam

2. Commander's Summary

November 1968 began in Henderson Hill and ended in the Meade River cordon, with Captain Ronald J. Drez commanding Hotel Company throughout. The chronology records the company's night ambushes around An Hoa and its searches of the basin in the first weeks of the month.

On 20 November 2/5 left Henderson Hill for Operation Meade River, the 1st Marines' great cordon of “Dodge City” south of Da Nang, with Companies E, F, G and H and later Company A, 1/7. Meade River was a slow, methodical cordon and search, and for 2/5 it was largely quiet.

On Thanksgiving Day, 28 November, BLT 2/26 and 2/5 reached the Suoi Co Ca on the eastern side of the cordon. The hard fighting for Hotel Company would come in the first week of December.

3. Operations Overview

Operation / Activity	Dates	Description
Operation Henderson Hill	1–20 November 1968	H COMPANY PARTICIPATED. An Hoa and Go Noi sectors.
Operation Meade River	From 200800H November 1968	H COMPANY PARTICIPATED. 1st Marines cordon of Dodge City; 2/5 with Companies E, F, G and H (Capt Ronald J. Drez).

4. Chronology of Company H Activities

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

Date	Activity / Events
1–19 Nov	Henderson Hill operations; Company H night ambushes set in around An Hoa.
20 Nov	At 200800H 2/5 entered Operation Meade River under the 1st Marines.
28 Nov	Thanksgiving: BLT 2/26 and 2/5 reached the Suoi Co Ca on the eastern side of the cordon.
29–30 Nov	Cordon and search continued with little contact for 2/5.

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 November 1968 (Texas Tech item 1201048109), with Shulimson for Meade River.

2. PRE-MEADE RIVER PATROLLING. The old file described “pre-Meade River patrol operations” for 1–19 November. The battalion was on Henderson Hill in those weeks.

3. COMMANDER. Captain R. J. Drez is listed for 1–30 November 1968.

4. LOCATION. The old file placed the whole month in the Dodge City cordon; 2/5 entered it only on 20 November.

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 November 1968 (Texas Tech University Vietnam Archive item 1201048109).

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_Henderson_Hill.docx, Operation_Meade_River.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, November 1968