H COMPANY, 2ND BATTALION, 5TH MARINES

APRIL 1969 — OPERATION MUSKOGEE MEADOW

Compiled from the 2/5 Command Chronology for April 1969

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 April 1969
Commander	Captain W. C. Fite, 1–25 April 1969; 1st Lieutenant A. D. Skroch, 26–30 April 1969
Higher HQ	2nd Battalion, 5th Marines (LtCol James H. Higgins); 5th Marines; 1st Marine Division
Area of Operations	The northern Arizona Territory and the eastern part of Duc Duc District, Quang Nam Province
Combat Posture	Offensive — Operation Muskogee Meadow (rice denial), then search and clear operations
Base of Operations	An Hoa Combat Base; company positions in the Arizona
Corps Area	I Corps Tactical Zone, Republic of Vietnam

2. Commander's Summary

In April 1969 the battalion “conducted search and clear operations in the eastern part of Duc Duc District,” and from 7 to 20 April it fought Operation Muskogee Meadow in the northern Arizona — a rice-denial operation with security for Vietnamese harvest workers. Captain W. C. Fite commanded Hotel Company to 25 April and 1st Lieutenant A. D. Skroch from 26 April.

Contact was light from 7 to 11 April and heavy from 12 April, when 2/5 swept north. Booby traps took the heaviest toll of Hotel Company: on 12 April one Marine was killed and others wounded by trip-wired M-26 grenades, one of them while the company was guarding a medical evacuation. On 10 April the 3rd Platoon at AT 822492 took AK-47 and M-79 fire from seven enemy in a treeline and assaulted their position. On 13 April the 1st Platoon, sweeping near AT 862537, spotted NVA to the north and assaulted a bunker line, and when the 3rd Platoon closed the cordon from the east and resistance stiffened, the company pulled back 200 metres and called in artillery.

Some 5,000 pounds of rice were collected, and 284 refugees from the Arizona were resettled during the month. After the operation, on 26 April, about 40 NVA attacked Hotel Company's night position at AT 822472.

3. Operations Overview

Operation / Activity	Dates	Description
Operation Muskogee Meadow	7–20 April 1969	H COMPANY PARTICIPATED. 5th Marines rice-denial operation in the northern Arizona with security for Vietnamese workers. Light contact to 11 April, heavy from 12 April. 5,000 pounds of rice collected.
Search and clear, eastern Duc Duc District	April 1969	Battalion operations for the rest of the month.
Night attack on Company H	26 April 1969	About 40 NVA attacked Hotel Company's night position at AT 822472.

4. Chronology of Company H Activities

Compiled from the narrative summary and the chronological sequence of events in the 2/5 command chronology for April 1969. Only entries naming Company H, or bearing directly on it, are listed. Grid references and times are as recorded.

Date	Activity / Events
7 Apr	The battalion moved into the northern Arizona. At 071200H, sweeping near AT 831507, a Hotel Company Marine detonated a booby-trapped M-26 grenade — 2 USMC WIA.
10 Apr	At 100900H the 3rd Platoon on patrol at AT 822492 received AK-47 and M-79 fire from seven VC/NVA in a treeline; Company H returned fire with 60mm, 81mm and 106mm and assaulted the position at AT 822495 — 2 USMC WIA non-evacuated. At 101645H two VC/NVA surrendered to a Hotel Company observation post.
12 Apr	At 120930H, sweeping at AT 970515, a Hotel Marine set off a booby-trapped grenade (1 WIA evacuated, 1 not). At 121100H, in a security perimeter for a medical evacuation at AT 870517, another booby trap killed a Hotel Marine. At 121410H a further booby trap near AT 873514; in the day's fighting the company lost 1 USMC KIA and 2 WIA evacuated, with 2 NVA killed.
13 Apr	At 131101H, sweeping at AT 862537, the 1st Platoon saw about four NVA 200 metres north and assaulted with 60mm and artillery; after it seized the southernmost bunkers the 3rd Platoon assaulted from the east. When resistance stiffened the company drew back 200 metres to call in artillery.
14 Apr	At 141310H a Hotel Company patrol at AT 863546 took sniper fire from 500 metres — 1 USMC WIA evacuated.

Date	Activity / Events
16–18 Apr	At 162230H a Hotel Company ambush at AT 863504 fired on four VC/NVA 800 metres away. At 181115H a Hotel platoon sweeping near AT 806416 found a wounded NVA and took him prisoner.
20 Apr	Operation Muskogee Meadow ended.
26 Apr	About 40 NVA attacked Hotel Company's night position at AT 822472. 1stLt A. D. Skroch had taken command that day.

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 April 1969 (Texas Tech item 1201048114), whose S-3 journal is headed “Operation Muskogee Meadow.”

2. MUSKOGEE MEADOW ADDED. The old file described generic “Arizona Territory patrol operations” and Liberty Bridge security. The month's operation was Muskogee Meadow.

3. COMMANDERS. The April data lists Capt W. C. Fite (1–25 April) and 1stLt A. D. Skroch (26–30 April 1969). The old file said Captain Drez was “departing spring 1969”; he had left on 7 March.

4. CASUALTIES. The chronology's April totals for the battalion are 9 killed; the Hotel Company figures given above are the dated entries only.

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 April 1969 (Texas Tech University Vietnam Archive item 1201048114).

SECONDARY SOURCES

— Smith, Charles R. U.S. Marines in Vietnam: High Mobility and Standdown, 1969. History and Museums Division, HQMC, 1988.

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

— Related files in this collection: Operation_Muskogee_Meadow.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, April 1969