H COMPANY, 2ND BATTALION, 5TH MARINES

MAY 1969 — DUC DUC AND LIBERTY BRIDGE

Compiled from the 2/5 Command Chronology for May 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	1–31 May 1969
Commander	1st Lieutenant A. D. Skroch, commanding Company H for the whole period 1–31 May 1969
Higher HQ	2nd Battalion, 5th Marines (LtCol James H. Higgins); 5th Marines; 1st Marine Division
Area of Operations	The eastern part of Duc Duc District (1–22 May); Liberty Bridge and Liberty Road (23–31 May)
Combat Posture	Offensive — search and clear operations, then bridge and road security
Base of Operations	An Hoa; from 23 May Liberty Bridge
Corps Area	I Corps Tactical Zone, Republic of Vietnam

2. Commander's Summary

“1–22 May 1969, 2nd Battalion, 5th Marines conducted search and clear operations in the eastern part of Duc Duc District in the Quang Nam Province RVN. 23–31 May the Battalion (-) provided security for Liberty Bridge and Liberty Road.” That is the chronology's own summary of the month. 1st Lieutenant A. D. Skroch commanded Hotel Company throughout.

In the search and clear phase Hotel Company's platoons were in several firefights. At one point the rear elements of the battalion command group took an M-79 round, and Hotel Company returned fire and assaulted the enemy; at another, near AT 866517, the company answered automatic-weapons fire with small arms and assaulted the enemy positions.

From 9 to 13 May Company L, 3/5 worked under 2/5's control. On 22 May the battalion took over security of Liberty Bridge and the main supply route from Phu Loc (6) to An Hoa, which it would hold through June while the 1st Marines fought Operation Pipestone Canyon on Go Noi Island.

3. Operations Overview

Operation / Activity	Dates	Description
Search and clear, eastern Duc Duc District	1–22 May 1969	H COMPANY PARTICIPATED.
Liberty Bridge and Liberty Road security	23–31 May 1969	The battalion (-) secured Liberty Bridge and the road from Phu Loc (6) to An Hoa.
Operation Pipestone Canyon	From 26 May 1969	H COMPANY WAS NOT A MANOEUVRE UNIT. A 1st Marines operation on Go Noi Island with 1/1, 3/1 and 3/5. See Operation_Pipestone_Canyon.docx.

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 1969. Only entries naming Company H, or bearing directly on it, are listed. Grid references and times are as recorded.

Date	Activity / Events
1–22 May	Search and clear operations in eastern Duc Duc District.
9–13 May	Company L, 3/5 under 2/5 operational control.
Mid-May	Hotel Company returned fire and assaulted after the battalion command group's rear elements took an M-79 round (1 USMC WIA evacuated); in another contact near AT 866517 it assaulted enemy automatic-weapons positions.
22–23 May	The battalion (-) took over security of Liberty Bridge and Liberty Road.

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 1969 (Texas Tech item 1201048115).

2. OKLAHOMA HILLS REMOVED. The old file listed the conclusion of Operation Oklahoma Hills. That was a 7th Marines operation; 2/5 was not in it. See Operation_Oklahoma_Hills.docx.

3. PIPESTONE CANYON CORRECTED. The old file had the company on Pipestone Canyon from 26 May. 2/5 was not one of its participating battalions; it held Liberty Bridge and the road.

4. COMMANDER NAMED. The earlier version said the commander was “not confirmed in available sources.” The battalion's organisational data names him, as given above.

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 1969 (Texas Tech University Vietnam Archive item 1201048115).

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_Pipestone_Canyon.docx, Operation_Oklahoma_Hills.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, May 1969