H COMPANY, 2ND BATTALION, 5TH MARINES

JUNE 1969 — LIBERTY BRIDGE

Compiled from the 2/5 Command Chronology for June 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 June 1969
Commander	Captain R. W. Poolaw, commanding Company H for the whole period 1–30 June 1969
Higher HQ	2nd Battalion, 5th Marines (LtCol James H. Higgins); 5th Marines; 1st Marine Division
Area of Operations	Liberty Bridge and Liberty Road north, eastern Duc Duc District
Combat Posture	Security — Liberty Bridge and Liberty Road
Base of Operations	Liberty Bridge (southern cantonment)
Corps Area	I Corps Tactical Zone, Republic of Vietnam

2. Commander's Summary

“During the month of June, the Battalion operated with two companies in the immediate area of Liberty Bridge and Liberty Road north. Very little enemy contact was encountered during the month.” Captain R. W. Poolaw commanded Hotel Company for the whole month.

Most enemy sightings were at long range, and 81mm mortars, 106mm recoilless rifles, .50-calibre machine guns, snipers and artillery did the shooting. The permanent defensive positions on Henderson Hill were abandoned and the company moved into the southern cantonment at Liberty Bridge. The daily road sweep found only two large booby traps; a 250-pound and a 500-pound bomb were destroyed in place.

Hotel Company's own entries are booby traps: its platoons on patrol found and destroyed booby-trapped grenades near AT 882509 and AT 883512, and one Marine set off a device rigged from a 105mm round. “The Battalion suffered light casualties for the month with the majority of these caused by surprise firing devices.”

3. Operations Overview

Operation / Activity	Dates	Description
Liberty Bridge and Liberty Road security	June 1969	Two companies secured the bridge and the road north; daily road sweeps; long-range engagements with supporting arms.
Operation Pipestone Canyon	June 1969	H COMPANY WAS NOT A MANOEUVRE UNIT. 1st Marines operation on Go Noi Island.

4. Chronology of Company H Activities

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

Date	Activity / Events
Jun	Two companies around Liberty Bridge and Liberty Road north; the Henderson Hill positions were abandoned and the company billeted in the southern cantonment at Liberty Bridge.
Jun	A Hotel Company platoon on patrol found a booby-trapped grenade in a ditch at AT 882509 and destroyed it; another found one at AT 883512.
Jun	A Hotel Company Marine detonated a booby trap made from a 105mm round.
Jun	Road sweeps destroyed a 250-pound and a 500-pound bomb in place.

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 June 1969 (Texas Tech item 1201048116).

2. ARIZONA PATROLS REMOVED. The old file described “Arizona Territory patrol operations” for the whole month. The chronology places the battalion at Liberty Bridge.

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

4. DATES. The journal scan is too degraded to date the individual booby-trap entries reliably; they are listed without days.

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 June 1969 (Texas Tech University Vietnam Archive item 1201048116).

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.

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, June 1969