H COMPANY, 2ND BATTALION, 5TH MARINES

JULY 1969 — FORSYTH GROVE AND DURHAM PEAK

Compiled from the 2/5 Command Chronology for July 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 July 1969
Commander	Not recorded for July (the organisational page is missing from the scan). Captain R. W. Poolaw commanded Company H in June and August 1969.
Higher HQ	2nd Battalion, 5th Marines (LtCol James H. Higgins); 5th Marines; 1st Marine Division; Company H under 2/1 control 24–31 July (Operation Durham Peak)
Area of Operations	Phu Loc (6) and Liberty Road; the Que Son foothills (Durham Peak, with 2/1)
Combat Posture	Security and offensive — Liberty Road, Forsyth Grove, then Durham Peak attached to 2/1
Base of Operations	Phu Loc (6); Liberty Bridge
Corps Area	I Corps Tactical Zone, Republic of Vietnam

2. Commander's Summary

“During the month of July, the Battalion continued to conduct operations in the Phu Loc (6) and the Liberty Road area.” Apart from three company sweep-and-block operations, platoon and squad combat patrols by day and squad ambushes and hunter-killer teams by night were the rule; close contact was infrequent and long-range sightings common.

The battalion took part in the 5th Marines' Operation Forsyth Grove, 1–3 July, making a covert crossing of the Song Thu Bon to block from the east; the legible entries name Companies E, F and G, and Hotel Company's part is not identified. Hotel's own entries for the month include a 40-pound pressure-detonated box mine found on a sweep near AT 911503 and two surprise firing devices found on patrol.

On 20 July the battalion turned Liberty Bridge over to 1/5 and became regimental reserve for Operation Durham Peak. From 1200 on 24 July to the end of the month Hotel Company was attached to 2nd Battalion, 1st Marines, searching the Que Son foothills — finding rice caches and base camps and calling artillery on 15 to 20 enemy. The Hill 845 fights of 25–26 July, in which five Marines were killed, were fought by 2/1's own Company H, not by this company.

3. Operations Overview

Operation / Activity	Dates	Description
Operation Forsyth Grove	010800H – 032400H July 1969	2/5 PARTICIPATED; H COMPANY'S ROLE NOT IDENTIFIED. 5th Marines operation with 1/5, 2/5 and 1/7.
Liberty Road and Phu Loc (6) security	July 1969	Patrols, ambushes and three company sweep-and-block operations.
Operation Durham Peak	From 241200H July 1969 (Company H)	H COMPANY PARTICIPATED — attached to 2/1 from 24 to 31 July in the Que Son foothills.

4. Chronology of Company H Activities

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

Date	Activity / Events
1–3 Jul	Operation Forsyth Grove; 2/5 crossed the Song Thu Bon covertly to block on the east.
Jul	Sweeping near AT 911503, Company H found a 40-pound pressure-detonated box mine; on another patrol it found two surprise firing devices.
20 Jul	Liberty Bridge was turned over to 1/5; 2/5 became regimental reserve for Durham Peak at Phu Loc (6).
24 Jul	At 241200H Company H came under the operational control of 2/1.
26–30 Jul	“Company H, 5th Marines” searched the Que Son foothills with 2/1: rice caches, base camps, and artillery called on 15–20 enemy.
31 Jul	Company H's attachment to 2/1 ended at 312400H; 2/5 was committed to Durham Peak the same 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 July 1969 (Texas Tech item 1201048117), with 2/1's July chronology for the attachment.

2. HILL 845. Accounts that credit this company with the Nui Mat Rang (Hill 845) fights of 25–26 July are mistaken. 2/1's chronology distinguishes its own Company H from “Company H, 5th Marines.” See Operation_Durham_Peak.docx.

3. COMMANDER. The July organisational page is missing from the digitised file. Captain R. W. Poolaw commanded in June and August; nothing in July records a change.

4. ARIZONA PATROLS REMOVED. The old file described Arizona patrols for 1–19 July; the battalion was at Phu Loc (6) and on Liberty Road.

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 July 1969 (Texas Tech University Vietnam Archive item 1201048117).

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_Forsyth_Grove.docx, Operation_Durham_Peak.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, July 1969