H COMPANY, 2ND BATTALION, 5TH MARINES

SEPTEMBER 1969 — HILL 65

Compiled from the 2/5 Command Chronology for September 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 September 1969
Commander	Captain R. W. Poolaw, commanding Company H for the whole period 1–30 September 1969
Higher HQ	2nd Battalion, 5th Marines (LtCol J. T. Bowen); 5th Marines; 1st Marine Division
Area of Operations	Hill 65, central Dai Loc District, and the Arizona
Combat Posture	Offensive and security — operations from Hill 65
Base of Operations	Hill 65
Corps Area	I Corps Tactical Zone, Republic of Vietnam

2. Commander's Summary

“1–30 September 1969, 2nd Battalion, 5th Marines (-) occupied Hill 65 in central Dai Loc District in the Quang Nam Province RVN,” while Company G secured the 1st Marine Division command post in Da Nang. Captain R. W. Poolaw commanded Hotel Company for the whole month under LtCol J. T. Bowen.

The September journal is badly degraded. Its legible Hotel Company entries record a sighting of enemy on a river bank and a Hotel Marine wounded and evacuated while digging.

Nothing more can be read of the company's month, and nothing has been added.

3. Operations Overview

Operation / Activity	Dates	Description
Hill 65 operations	September 1969	Patrols and reconnaissance in force from Hill 65.

4. Chronology of Company H Activities

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

Date	Activity / Events
Sep	Hotel Company on Hill 65 with the battalion (-); Company G at the 1st Marine Division CP in Da Nang.
Sep	A Hotel Company element spotted enemy on a river bank.
Sep	A Hotel Company Marine was wounded and evacuated while digging.

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 September 1969 (Texas Tech item 1201048119).
2. HILL 55. The old file listed “Hill 65 / Hill 55 security operations.” The chronology records Hill 65 only.
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. THIN RECORD. The daily journal scan is largely illegible.
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 September 1969 (Texas Tech University Vietnam Archive item 1201048119).

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

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, September 1969