# H COMPANY, 2ND BATTALION, 5TH MARINES

## OCTOBER 1969 — HILL 65 AND THE NORTHERN ARIZONA

*Compiled from the 2/5 Command Chronology for October 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 October 1969 |
| **Commander** | Captain R. W. Poolaw, 1–14 October 1969; 1st Lieutenant W. L. Taylor, 15–31 October 1969 |
| **Higher HQ** | 2nd Battalion, 5th Marines (LtCol J. T. Bowen); 5th Marines; 1st Marine Division; Company H under 3/1 control 17–19 October |
| **Area of Operations** | Hill 65, central Dai Loc District; the northern Arizona (30–31 October) |
| **Combat Posture** | Offensive — patrols from Hill 65; a regimental search and clear operation at month's end |
| **Base of Operations** | Hill 65 |
| **Corps Area** | I Corps Tactical Zone, Republic of Vietnam |

## 2. Commander's Summary

“1–31 October 1969, 2nd Battalion, 5th Marines occupied Hill 65 in the central Dai Loc District in the Quang Nam Province, RVN. Company H was under operational control of the 3rd Battalion, 1st Marines for the period of 17–19 October. During the period 30–31 October, three companies and the Battalion Command Post were in the Northern Arizona as a Regimental Search and Clear Operation.”

Captain R. W. Poolaw commanded Hotel Company to 14 October, and 1st Lieutenant W. L. Taylor from 15 October. The company's patrols turned up caches: a platoon at AT 823585 found a cave and tunnels holding four RPG rounds, two 60mm mortar rounds and AK-47 magazines; another at AT 834586 fired on an enemy soldier and found three caves; and at AT 887544 the company found a hootch and bunker with 24 Vietnamese and 100 pounds of rice, the detainees being sent to the Dai Loc district headquarters.

On one sweep the company took 25 to 30 rounds of AK-47 fire from an unknown unit and called an air strike. A Vietnamese child brought an M-79 round to a Hotel platoon at AT 835566, and it was blown in place.

## 3. Operations Overview

| Operation / Activity | Dates | Description |
|---|---|---|
| **Hill 65 operations** | October 1969 | Patrols and searches from Hill 65. |
| **Under 3/1 control** | 17–19 October 1969 | Company H under the operational control of 3rd Battalion, 1st Marines. |
| **Regimental search and clear, northern Arizona** | 30–31 October 1969 | Three companies and the battalion CP. |

## 4. Chronology of Company H Activities

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

| Date | Activity / Events |
|---|---|
| **Early Oct** | A Hotel Company platoon on patrol at AT 823585 found a cave and tunnels containing 4 RPG rounds, 2 60mm mortar rounds and 2 AK-47 magazines. |
| **Oct** | A Hotel platoon at AT 835566 was handed an M-79 round by a Vietnamese child; it was blown in place. |
| **Oct** | At 0500 a Hotel platoon on patrol at AT 834586 fired on an enemy soldier; the search found three caves. |
| **Oct** | Company H at AT 887544 found a hootch and bunker with 24 Vietnamese and 100 lb of rice; the detainees were sent to Dai Loc District HQ. |
| **Oct** | At 1615 Company H on a sweep received 25–30 rounds of AK-47 fire from an unknown unit; air was called. |
| **15 Oct** | 1st Lieutenant W. L. Taylor took command of Company H. |
| **17–19 Oct** | Company H under the operational control of 3/1. |
| **30–31 Oct** | Three companies and the battalion CP in the northern Arizona on a regimental search and clear operation. |

## 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 October 1969 (Texas Tech item 1201048120).

**2.** MUSKOGEE MEADOW AND FORSYTH GROVE REMOVED. The old file listed “Operations Muskogee Meadow / Forsythe Grove (1969, precise dates not confirmed)” under October. Muskogee Meadow was 7–20 April and Forsyth Grove 1–3 July 1969.

**3.** COMMANDERS. Capt R. W. Poolaw (1–14 October) and 1stLt W. L. Taylor (15–31 October 1969).

**4.** DATES. Several journal entries are legible except for the day; they are shown as “Oct.”

**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 October 1969 (Texas Tech University Vietnam Archive item 1201048120).

### 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, Operation_Forsyth_Grove.docx.