# H COMPANY, 2ND BATTALION, 5TH MARINES

## DECEMBER 1969 — THE ARIZONA TO LIBERTY BRIDGE

*Compiled from the 2/5 Command Chronology for December 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 December 1969 |
| **Commander** | 1st Lieutenant W. L. Taylor, commanding Company H for the whole period 1–31 December 1969 |
| **Higher HQ** | 2nd Battalion, 5th Marines (LtCol J. T. Bowen); 5th Marines; 1st Marine Division |
| **Area of Operations** | The Arizona (to 23 December); Liberty Bridge and Liberty Road (from 24 December) |
| **Combat Posture** | Offensive, then security — search and clear in the Arizona; Liberty Bridge from 24 December |
| **Base of Operations** | Field positions in the Arizona; from 24 December the Liberty Bridge combat outpost |
| **Corps Area** | I Corps Tactical Zone, Republic of Vietnam |

## 2. Commander's Summary

“During the month of December the Battalion's area of operations was the entire Arizona until 5 December when the 51st ARVN Regiment assumed control of the Southern Arizona and the Battalion (-) moved to the Northern Arizona and remained there until 23 December when they helilifted to An Hoa for a one day stand-down. On 24 December the 2nd Battalion moved into the eastern 5th Marines area of operations and occupied the Liberty Bridge Combat Outpost and provided security for Liberty Road.”

1st Lieutenant W. L. Taylor commanded Hotel Company for the whole month. Its squads patrolling the Arizona met the enemy in small numbers: one squad killed an NVA soldier in a blue shirt and black shorts; others found a trap door hiding two sewing machines, uniform cloth and camouflage utilities, spotted and fired on a VC running west in black pyjamas, and disposed of a buried 105mm round and an M-26 grenade rigged inside an illumination canister.

The battalion spent Christmas Eve moving into the Liberty Bridge combat outpost, where the year ended on road security.

## 3. Operations Overview

| Operation / Activity | Dates | Description |
|---|---|---|
| **Search and clear, the Arizona** | 1–23 December 1969 | The entire Arizona to 5 December, then the northern Arizona after the 51st ARVN Regiment took the south. |
| **Stand-down at An Hoa** | 23 December 1969 | The battalion (-) helilifted to An Hoa for a one-day stand-down. |
| **Liberty Bridge and Liberty Road** | From 24 December 1969 | The battalion occupied the Liberty Bridge combat outpost. |

## 4. Chronology of Company H Activities

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

| Date | Activity / Events |
|---|---|
| **Early Dec** | A Hotel Company squad in an ambush position killed one NVA wearing a blue shirt and black shorts. |
| **5 Dec** | The 51st ARVN Regiment assumed control of the southern Arizona; the battalion (-) moved to the northern Arizona. |
| **Dec** | A Hotel squad on patrol disposed of an M-26 grenade rigged inside an illumination canister with the pin pulled; searching a hootch, a squad found a trap door concealing two sewing machines, cloth and 12 sets of camouflage utilities. |
| **Dec** | A Hotel squad on patrol disposed of a buried 105mm round; another spotted a VC in black pyjamas running west and fired, with negative results. |
| **23 Dec** | Helilift to An Hoa for a one-day stand-down. |
| **24 Dec** | The battalion moved into the eastern 5th Marines area, occupied the Liberty Bridge combat outpost and took over Liberty Road security. |

## 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 December 1969 (Texas Tech item 1201048122).

**2.** LOCATION. The old file's “Arizona Territory / An Hoa / Liberty Bridge” location is broadly right; the dated sequence above replaces its generic entries.

**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 AND GRIDS. The journal is legible only in part; entries whose day cannot be read are marked “Dec.”

**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 December 1969 (Texas Tech University Vietnam Archive item 1201048122).

### 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, December 1969*