OPERATION MAMELUKE THRUST

2ND BATTALION, 5TH MARINES

1st Marine Division | Republic of Vietnam | 19 May – 23 October 1968

FIELD	DETAIL
Operation Name	Operation Mameluke Thrust
Dates of Operation	19 May – 23 October 1968 (whole operation). 2/5 took part 280600H July – 231200H October 1968.
Mission Purpose / Objective	Search and destroy operation in western Quang Nam Province. 2/5's mission was to find and destroy enemy forces, base areas and caches, and secondarily to secure Liberty Bridge and the main supply route to An Hoa.
Locations / Cities	Duc Duc District, Quang Nam Province; An Hoa; Phu Loc (6); Liberty Bridge and Liberty Road; Phu Nhuan and Cu Ban village complexes south of the Song Thu Bon; La Thap (1); Chau Phong; Go Noi Island
TAOR	An Hoa Basin, Arizona Territory and Go Noi approaches; western Quang Nam Province
UTM Coordinates	Company H at AT 901512 and AT 901518 (1 Sep). Company E contacts at AT 890498 and AT 889500. Battalion contact with an enemy company (+) at AT 937518 (6 Sep). (Sheets 6640 I and IV.).
USMC Units Involved	5th Marines. 2nd Battalion (Rein), 5th Marines: Maj O.K. Steele (28–31 Jul), LtCol James W. Stemple (1 Aug – 23 Oct). Company E: 2ndLt P.R. McConnell, then Capt J.A. Woggon Jr. Company F: 1stLt T.D. Martin, then Capt D.B. Brown. Company G: Capt H.J. Poole. Company H: 1stLt S.R. Brown (28–30 Jul), then Capt P.A. Vanderberg (1 Aug – 23 Oct). 3/5, BLT 2/7 and 2/11 artillery.
2/5 Companies Participated	Company E; Company F; Company G; Company H. All four rifle companies are named with their commanders in the record.
Mission Results	The battalion normally kept one company at Phu Loc (6), one at An Hoa, and the rest on search and destroy operations. It fought frequent close actions at the fortified Phu Nhuan and Cu Ban village complexes south of the Song Thu Bon and spent much effort destroying enemy fortifications. 6 Aug: a misdirected air strike dropped canisters on the 3d Platoon, Company F; 26 Marines were burned. From 17 August 2/5 joined BLT 2/7 and 3/5 at Chau Phong. On 18 August Company G, 2/5 took La Thap (1) in a five-hour fight, killing 37 NVA and losing 7 killed and 19 wounded. 30–31 Aug: Company H's ambushes on the Song Ky Lam belong to Operation Sussex Bay (see that file). 1 Sep: Company H positions near AT 901512 were hit by grenades and booby traps.
USMC KIA	Whole operation: 269 (previously recorded figure). Breakdown by 2/5 company: not recorded.
USMC Wounded	Whole operation: 1,730 (previously recorded figure). Breakdown by 2/5 company: not recorded.
Enemy KIA	Whole operation: 2,730 killed, 47 prisoners, 8 ralliers (Shulimson)
Enemy Wounded	Unknown

NOTES & SOURCE REFERENCES

UPDATED 16 SEPTEMBER 2026 FROM PRIMARY SOURCES. CONFIRMED H COMPANY PARTICIPATION. The 2/5 Combat After Action Report for Mameluke Thrust (2/5 Command Chronology, October 1968) lists Company H in the task organization for the battalion's whole phase, 28 July – 23 October 1968, under Capt P.A. Vanderberg from 1 August. CORRECTION: Company H did not operate from An Hoa "throughout" the five-month operation. 2/5 was in Operation Houston in Thua Thien Province until late July 1968. From 1 to 19 October, 2/5 (-) was detached to Operation Maui Peak without Company H. The record does not say whether H&S Company took part.

Primary sources: 2/5 Command Chronology, October 1968, including the Combat After Action Report for Mameluke Thrust dated 30 October 1968 (Texas Tech University Vietnam Archive item 1201048108); Jack Shulimson et al., U.S. Marines in Vietnam: The Defining Year, 1968 (HQMC, 1997), pp. 348–349 and 422–423. Originals: National Archives, RG 127 (National Archives II, College Park MD 20740; Marine Corps History Division, Quantico VA 22134).