E COMPANY, 2ND BATTALION, 5TH MARINES

AUGUST 1966 — SONG LY LY VALLEY PATROL BASE

Compiled from the 2/5 Command Chronology for August 1966

1st Marine Division · III Marine Amphibious Force · I Corps, Republic of Vietnam

1. Unit Overview

Unit Designation	Echo Company (E Co), 2nd Battalion, 5th Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division
Reporting Period	1–31 August 1966
Commander	Capt J. L. Cooper (1–29 August); 1stLt J. Ebbert (29–31 August)
Higher HQ	2nd Battalion, 5th Marines (LtCol W. Moore); 5th Marines; 1st Marine Division
Area of Operations	Song Ly Ly valley patrol base, Tam Ky (Colorado base), Thanh My Trung (1) (Echo patrol base), Phu Long
Combat Posture	Combat operations, patrols and security (8 combat entries)
Base of Operations	Song Ly Ly valley patrol base
Corps Area	I Corps Tactical Zone, Republic of Vietnam

2. Commander's Summary

Company E’s entries for August 1966 place it most often at or near Song Ly Ly valley patrol base (7 of 13 entries with a named place or grid), and also at Tam Ky (Colorado base), Thanh My Trung (1) (Echo patrol base), Phu Long.

Company E was commanded by Capt J. L. Cooper (1–29 August); 1stLt J. Ebbert (29–31 August); the battalion by LtCol W. Moore (1–31 August).

The battalion’s command chronology names Company E in 23 entries this month (12 movement, 8 combat, 1 , 1 medical, 1 logistics).

On 3 August 1966: An Echo squad ambush at BT439046 tripped an M-26 grenade on a trip wire — 1 USMC WIA, 1 PF WIA.

On 6 August 1966: Echo (reinforced) moved from Tam Ky landing zone (BT 296 234) to Objective 2 landing zone (AT 916 254) by helicopter.

On 9 August 1966: Echo fought 5 VC at AT956306; air strike — 5 VC KIA confirmed.

3. Operations Overview

Operation / Activity	Dates	Description
Song Ly Ly valley patrol base operations	August 1966	No named operation appears in this month's entries for the company; activities are listed in the chronology below.

4. Chronology of Company E Activities

Compiled from the checked transcriptions of the 2/5 command chronology for August 1966 in the hotel25vv research database. Only entries naming Company E are listed. Times and grid references are as recorded; each entry ends with its source page.

Date	Activity / Events
3 Aug 21:00	An Echo squad ambush at BT439046 tripped an M-26 grenade on a trip wire — 1 USMC WIA, 1 PF WIA [2/5 ComdC Aug 1966, PDF p. 9]
6 Aug 11:40–11:50	Echo (reinforced) moved from Tam Ky landing zone (BT 296 234) to Objective 2 landing zone (AT 916 254) by helicopter. Landed at 1150. The first report said the zone was under fire; Echo later said it was not (062300 entry gives the zone as AT 916 254). [2/5 ComdC Aug 1966, PDF p. 26; 2/5 ComdC Aug 1966, PDF p. 27]
6 Aug 12:06–18:30	Echo moved from Objective 2 (AT 916 254) to Hiep Duc (Objective 2 sweep) (AT 915 253) on foot. Swept north-west toward Objective 3 after sweeping into Hiep Duc; found the village empty and fortified. [2/5 ComdC Aug 1966, PDF p. 27]
6 Aug 13:00	Echo saw 3 VC at AT914253; one dropped a medical kit — 1 VCC (guerrilla squad leader) [2/5 ComdC Aug 1966, PDF p. 27]
6 Aug 18:30	A helicopter went down at BT009218 with engine failure; Echo's 3rd platoon secured the crew [2/5 ComdC Aug 1966, PDF p. 27]
6 Aug 18:30	Echo moved from Objective 2 (AT 915 253) to Objective 3 landing zone (BT 009 217) by helicopter. One helicopter went down in the landing zone with engine failure; the crew was evacuated and Echo's 3rd Platoon guarded it overnight. Battalion perimeter at BT 016 218. [2/5 ComdC Aug 1966, PDF p. 27; 2/5 ComdC Aug 1966, PDF p. 28]
9 Aug 07:20–08:10	Echo moved from Tam Ky (BT 290 234) to Blocking-position landing zone, Song Ly Ly valley (AT 958 300) by helicopter. Lifted into blocking positions on the enemy's western escape routes; first wave in the zone 0803, all of Echo by 0810. The battalion commander was airborne from 0720 and in the zone at 0800. [2/5 ComdC Aug 1966, PDF p. 29; 2/5 ComdC Aug 1966, PDF p. 44]
9 Aug 08:00	Echo landed at LZ AT958300 [2/5 ComdC Aug 1966, PDF p. 29]
9 Aug 09:21	Echo fought 5 VC at AT956306; air strike — 5 VC KIA confirmed [2/5 ComdC Aug 1966, PDF p. 29]

Date	Activity / Events
9 Aug 10:10–11:40	Echo moved from Hill (AT 965 308) to Hill 150 (AT 951 298) on foot. Secured the hill at AT 965 308, then moved to Hill 150, "moving slowly due to heat"; Hill 150 secured at 1140. [2/5 ComdC Aug 1966, PDF p. 30]
9 Aug 10:45	Echo found a guerrilla camp with caves and 3 Russian RPG-2 rockets at AT951304 [2/5 ComdC Aug 1966, PDF p. 30]
10 Aug 10:15–11:30	Echo (3rd Platoon leading) moved from Battalion perimeter (AT 950 295) to Hill 100 village (AT 959 309) on foot. Searched the river bed and the village near Hill 100; blew up tunnel complexes and a supply cache. All units back in the perimeter by 1424. [2/5 ComdC Aug 1966, PDF p. 32; 2/5 ComdC Aug 1966, PDF p. 33]
10 Aug 10:45	Echo's 3rd platoon searched the village near Hill 100 AT959309 and blew up tunnels, a PF-supply cache [2/5 ComdC Aug 1966, PDF p. 33]
11 Aug 01:55	The Echo sector at AT946300 took 12 rounds of fire from AT944304 [2/5 ComdC Aug 1966, PDF p. 33]
11 Aug 02:05	An Echo squad ambush at AT946305 fired on 2 VC on a trail — 1 VC KIA, 1 VC WIA captured and later died of wounds [2/5 ComdC Aug 1966, PDF p. 33]
11 Aug 17:00	Echo secured the 2/11 artillery position at BT226320 [2/5 ComdC Aug 1966, PDF p. 34]
11 Aug 17:00–17:35	Echo, with Hotel's 3rd Platoon as convoy security moved from Tam Ky (BT 290 234) to 2/11 artillery position (BT 226 320) by truck. Echo took over security of the artillery; Hotel's 3rd Platoon rode back to Tam Ky at 1800. [2/5 ComdC Aug 1966, PDF p. 34]
12 Aug 08:00	An Echo patrol found the 2 mortar base plates used in the attack [2/5 ComdC Aug 1966, PDF p. 34]
12 Aug 15:30	Echo moved from 2/11 artillery position (BT 226 320) to Tam Ky (BT 290 233) (means not stated). Returned to Tam Ky; the means is not stated (Echo had gone out by truck convoy). Lightning struck its bivouac at 1715. [2/5 ComdC Aug 1966, PDF p. 35]
12 Aug 17:15	Lightning struck the Echo bivouac about 50 meters from the 2/5 CP at BT290233 — 2 USMC killed, 7 injured [2/5 ComdC Aug 1966, PDF p. 35]
13 Aug 06:45	Echo landed at LZ BT163293 to sweep east toward Route 1 [2/5 ComdC Aug 1966, PDF p. 35]
26 Aug 12:00	Echo went under the operational control of the 7th Marines [2/5 ComdC Aug 1966, PDF p. 11]
30 Aug 12:00	Echo returned from the 7th Marines [2/5 ComdC Aug 1966, PDF p. 12]

5. Notes and Caveats

This file was built on 22 November 2026 in the same format as the Company H reports, directly from the checked, page-cited transcriptions of the 2nd Battalion, 5th Marines command chronologies. The notes below record its sources and where the record is thin.

1. SOURCE. The entries come from 2/5 Command Chronology Aug 1966 (Texas Tech University Vietnam Archive item 1201048072); U.S. Marines in Vietnam · An Expanding War, 1966.

2. HOW IT WAS COMPILED. Every entry in the research database whose units name Company E (Echo) for August 1966 is listed in date and time order, with the page of the chronology it was read from. Entries that name only another company are left out.

3. COMMANDER. Company and battalion commanders are taken from the monthly organisation data (Section I of each chronology) as recorded in the battalion leadership ledger.

4. CASUALTIES. Casualty figures are not totalled here. Individual losses appear in the entries as recorded; for authoritative totals see the casualty tables in the original chronology.

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

— 2/5 Command Chronology Aug 1966 (Texas Tech University Vietnam Archive item 1201048072)

— U.S. Marines in Vietnam · An Expanding War, 1966

SECONDARY SOURCES

— Shulimson, Jack and Charles M. Johnson. U.S. Marines in Vietnam: An Expanding War, 1966. History and Museums Division, HQMC, 1982.

— “Echo Company.” Hotel 2/5 Combat Marines. https://hotel25vv.com

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. | Echo Company, 2/5 Marines, August 1966