E COMPANY, 2ND BATTALION, 5TH MARINES

MARCH 1968 — CAO DOI TUNNEL (BATTALION CP)

Compiled from the 2/5 Command Chronology for March 1968

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 March 1968
Commander	Capt P. A. Duffy (1–31 March)
Higher HQ	2nd Battalion, 5th Marines (LtCol E. C. Cheatham Jr.); 5th Marines; 1st Marine Division
Area of Operations	Battalion area: Cao Doi tunnel (battalion CP), ARVN armory, Hue, Song Truoi Bridge, Public Health Building, Hue (#52)
Combat Posture	Combat operations, patrols and security (11 combat entries)
Base of Operations	With the battalion: Cao Doi tunnel (battalion CP)
Corps Area	I Corps Tactical Zone, Republic of Vietnam

2. Commander's Summary

The battalion’s entries for March 1968 place the battalion most often at or near Cao Doi tunnel (battalion CP) (5 of 10 entries with a named place or grid), and also at ARVN armory, Hue, Song Truoi Bridge, Public Health Building, Hue (#52). None of Company E’s own entries names a place.

Company E was commanded by Capt P. A. Duffy (1–31 March); the battalion by LtCol E. C. Cheatham Jr. (1–31 March).

The battalion’s command chronology names Company E in 11 entries this month (11 combat).

On 9 March 1968: An Echo patrol (ZC098983; chronology writes ZD) — 1 NVA/VC KIA, 1 AK-47.

On 9 March 1968: An Echo recon patrol took 2 grenades from ZC101979 (chronology writes ZD) — 2 USMC WIA.

On 11 March 1968: An Echo platoon (ZC104969) under mortar and small-arms fire; gunships called — 2 NVA/VC KIA, 11 fighting holes destroyed.

3. Operations Overview

Operation / Activity	Dates	Description
With the battalion: Cao Doi tunnel (battalion CP) operations	March 1968	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 March 1968 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
9 Mar 10:40	An Echo patrol (ZC098983; chronology writes ZD) — 1 NVA/VC KIA, 1 AK-47 [2/5 ComdC Mar 1968, PDF p. 9]
9 Mar 11:00	An Echo recon patrol took 2 grenades from ZC101979 (chronology writes ZD) — 2 USMC WIA [2/5 ComdC Mar 1968, PDF p. 9]
11 Mar 17:15	An Echo platoon (ZC104969) under mortar and small-arms fire; gunships called — 2 NVA/VC KIA, 11 fighting holes destroyed [2/5 ComdC Mar 1968, PDF p. 10]
14 Mar 10:30	An Echo platoon found a recently used assembly area at YC978969 [2/5 ComdC Mar 1968, PDF p. 10]
14 Mar 11:55	An Echo platoon ambush at ZC008981 — 1 NVA/VC KIA [2/5 ComdC Mar 1968, PDF p. 10]
14 Mar 15:20	An Echo platoon (YC976972) fired on 7 NVA/VC at a harbor site — 2 NVA/VC KIA (one an NVA POW who died in evacuation), AK-47 and documents captured [2/5 ComdC Mar 1968, PDF p. 10]
15 Mar 13:05	An Echo squad (YC972972) under AK-47 fire; blood trail [2/5 ComdC Mar 1968, PDF p. 11]
15 Mar 14:45	An Echo squad ambush (YC973975) killed an NVA medical officer — 1 NVA/VC KIA, .45 pistol and medical documents captured [2/5 ComdC Mar 1968, PDF p. 11]
17 Mar 14:45	An Echo platoon (ZC004971) took 9 60mm rounds and 300 rounds from ZC005975 [2/5 ComdC Mar 1968, PDF p. 12]
17 Mar 16:20	An Echo squad patrol along the river (ZC000394) took heavy fire and grenades — 2 USMC WIA [2/5 ComdC Mar 1968, PDF p. 12]
25 Mar 18:45	An Echo recon patrol found an enemy camp at ZC059925 — 15 U.S. fly tents captured [2/5 ComdC Mar 1968, PDF p. 13]

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 Mar 1968 (Texas Tech University Vietnam Archive item 1201048101).

2. HOW IT WAS COMPILED. Every entry in the research database whose units name Company E (Echo) for March 1968 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 Mar 1968 (Texas Tech University Vietnam Archive item 1201048101)

SECONDARY SOURCES

— Shulimson, Jack, Leonard A. Blasiol, Charles R. Smith and David A. Dawson. U.S. Marines in Vietnam: The Defining Year, 1968. History and Museums Division, HQMC, 1997.

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