E COMPANY, 2ND BATTALION, 5TH MARINES

APRIL 1968 — CAO DOI TUNNEL (BATTALION CP)

Compiled from the 2/5 Command Chronology for April 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	1–30 April 1968
Commander	Capt P. A. Duffy (1–5 April); Capt J. J. Norton (6–30 April)
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)
Combat Posture	Combat operations, patrols and security (8 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 April 1968 place the battalion most often at or near Cao Doi tunnel (battalion CP) (3 of 3 entries with a named place or grid). None of Company E’s own entries names a place.

Company E was commanded by Capt P. A. Duffy (1–5 April); Capt J. J. Norton (6–30 April); the battalion by LtCol E. C. Cheatham Jr. (1–30 April).

The battalion’s command chronology names Company E in 12 entries this month (8 combat, 4 movement).

On 19 April 1968: Echo at YD850231 hit by a platoon-size enemy with B-40s at YD853234; airstrike called — 1 USMC KIA, 6 USMC WIA, 4 NVA/VC KIA, 8 detainees, 4 AK-47s, SKS, B-40 launcher captured.

On 20 April 1968: An Echo platoon (YD856237) under fire from 15 enemy at YD857238; the company at YD864218 counter-mortared — 2 USMC KIA, 12 USMC WIA, 2 NVA/VC KIA.

On 21 April 1968: An Echo Marine set off a booby trap at YD880250 — 1 USMC WIA.

3. Operations Overview

Operation / Activity	Dates	Description
With the battalion: Cao Doi tunnel (battalion CP) operations	April 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 April 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
19 Apr 15:28	Echo at YD850231 hit by a platoon-size enemy with B-40s at YD853234; airstrike called — 1 USMC KIA, 6 USMC WIA, 4 NVA/VC KIA, 8 detainees, 4 AK-47s, SKS, B-40 launcher captured [2/5 ComdC Apr 1968, PDF p. 21]
20 Apr 11:40	Echo (YD849232) took 200 rounds from YD851229 — 2 detainees [2/5 ComdC Apr 1968, PDF p. 21]
20 Apr 18:30	An Echo platoon (YD856237) under fire from 15 enemy at YD857238; the company at YD864218 counter-mortared — 2 USMC KIA, 12 USMC WIA, 2 NVA/VC KIA [2/5 ComdC Apr 1968, PDF p. 21]
21 Apr 16:30	An Echo Marine set off a booby trap at YD880250 — 1 USMC WIA [2/5 ComdC Apr 1968, PDF p. 22]
21 Apr – 22 Apr	21–22 Apr April: The battalion swept north and southeast with tanks and amtracs through heavily booby-trapped hamlets; on 22 April Echo lost 14 wounded to two booby traps in two hours and Hotel 7 more. (From the monthly "by Company" summary, written from the chronology page images.) [2/5 ComdC Apr 1968, PDF p. 22]
22 Apr 04:35	An Echo Marine set off a booby-trapped grenade at YD901233 — 7 USMC WIA, 1 not evac [2/5 ComdC Apr 1968, PDF p. 25]
22 Apr 06:15	An Echo platoon's lead set off a chain of buried grenades at YD894230 — 7 USMC WIA, 1 not evac [2/5 ComdC Apr 1968, PDF p. 26]
22 Apr 10:55	Echo with tanks and amtracs under fire at YD924205; a VC woman with a grenade shot and captured — 1 VC POW [2/5 ComdC Apr 1968, PDF p. 26]
24 Apr 18:00	Echo helilifted to YD986132 to search for the 2 missing Marines [2/5 ComdC Apr 1968, PDF p. 28]
24 Apr 18:00	Echo moved from Last reported position (YD 924 205) to Reported position (YD 986 132) by helicopter. Echo helilifted to YD986132 to search for the 2 missing Marines. Starting point is Echo's last reported position (22 Apr 1055), not stated in this entry. [2/5 ComdC Apr 1968, PDF p. 28]

Date	Activity / Events
25 Apr 18:30	Echo (YD945200) fought 35-40 enemy at YD946193 who fired 35 B-40s; gunships and artillery; the enemy fled north with Echo in pursuit [2/5 ComdC Apr 1968, PDF p. 28]
25 Apr 23:10	Echo rejoined the battalion at YD825245 [2/5 ComdC Apr 1968, PDF p. 28]

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 Apr 1968 (Texas Tech University Vietnam Archive item 1201048102).

2. HOW IT WAS COMPILED. Every entry in the research database whose units name Company E (Echo) for April 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 Apr 1968 (Texas Tech University Vietnam Archive item 1201048102)

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