E COMPANY, 2ND BATTALION, 5TH MARINES

MAY 1968 — PHU GIA PASS (BATTALION CP)

Compiled from the 2/5 Command Chronology for May 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 May 1968
Commander	Capt J. J. Norton (1–10, 18–31 May); 2ndLt P. R. McConnell (10–18 May); Capt J. J. Norton (1–10, 18–31 May)
Higher HQ	2nd Battalion, 5th Marines (LtCol E. C. Cheatham Jr.); 5th Marines; 1st Marine Division
Area of Operations	Battalion area: Phu Gia Pass (battalion CP), Cao Doi tunnel (battalion CP), Phu Loc District headquarters
Combat Posture	Combat operations, patrols and security (7 combat entries)
Base of Operations	With the battalion: Phu Gia Pass (battalion CP)
Corps Area	I Corps Tactical Zone, Republic of Vietnam

2. Commander's Summary

The battalion’s entries for May 1968 place the battalion most often at or near Phu Gia Pass (battalion CP) (3 of 5 entries with a named place or grid), and also at Cao Doi tunnel (battalion CP), Phu Loc District headquarters. None of Company E’s own entries names a place.

Company E was commanded by Capt J. J. Norton (1–10, 18–31 May); 2ndLt P. R. McConnell (10–18 May); Capt J. J. Norton (1–10, 18–31 May); the battalion by LtCol E. C. Cheatham Jr. (1–31 May).

The battalion’s command chronology names Company E in 7 entries this month (7 combat).

On 1 May 1968: Echo began a 4-day search and clear southeast of Phu Loc Fire Base (ZC075986) — 8 NVA/VC KIA, an enemy base camp destroyed.

On 3 May 1968: An Echo squad ambush at ZC117953 — 1 NVA KIA, AK-47 captured.

On 3 May 1968: An Echo squad ambush at ZC115957 fought 15 enemy at ZC114952, then found a platoon base camp at ZC113959 — 1 USMC KIA, 7 USMC WIA, 10 NVA/VC KIA, a B-40 launcher captured.

3. Operations Overview

Operation / Activity	Dates	Description
With the battalion: Phu Gia Pass (battalion CP) operations	May 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 May 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
1 May	Echo began a 4-day search and clear southeast of Phu Loc Fire Base (ZC075986) — 8 NVA/VC KIA, an enemy base camp destroyed [2/5 ComdC May 1968, PDF p. 89]
3 May 12:35	An Echo squad ambush at ZC117953 — 1 NVA KIA, AK-47 captured [2/5 ComdC May 1968, PDF p. 89]
3 May 15:10	An Echo squad ambush at ZC115957 fought 15 enemy at ZC114952, then found a platoon base camp at ZC113959 — 1 USMC KIA, 7 USMC WIA, 10 NVA/VC KIA, a B-40 launcher captured [2/5 ComdC May 1968, PDF p. 90]
12 May 11:00	An Echo platoon swept a ridgeline near AT866905 under fire — 1 USMC KIA [2/5 ComdC May 1968, PDF p. 92]
12 May 12:15	Echo found a cache at AT867905 (36 B-40 rounds, claymores) [2/5 ComdC May 1968, PDF p. 92]
13 May 12:30	Echo found 2 fresh graves at AT878902 — 2 NVA/VC KIA [2/5 ComdC May 1968, PDF p. 92]
13 May 16:45	Echo found an enemy storage area at AT870902 (1 ton of rice, salt, medical supplies, uniforms, documents) [2/5 ComdC May 1968, PDF p. 92]

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 May 1968 (Texas Tech University Vietnam Archive item 1201048103).

2. HOW IT WAS COMPILED. Every entry in the research database whose units name Company E (Echo) for May 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 May 1968 (Texas Tech University Vietnam Archive item 1201048103)

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

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, May 1968