# E COMPANY, 2ND BATTALION, 5TH MARINES

## MARCH 1970 — LIBERTY BRIDGE

*Compiled from the 2/5 Command Chronology for March 1970*

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 1970 |
| **Commander** | 1stLt J. D. Pereira(?) (1–14 March); 1stLt C. E. Schaffer (15–31 March) |
| **Higher HQ** | 2nd Battalion, 5th Marines (LtCol F. D. Leder); 5th Marines; 1st Marine Division |
| **Area of Operations** | Liberty Bridge |
| **Combat Posture** | Combat operations, patrols and security (63 combat entries) |
| **Base of Operations** | Liberty Bridge |
| **Corps Area** | I Corps Tactical Zone, Republic of Vietnam |

## 2. Commander's Summary

Company E’s entries for March 1970 place it most often at or near Liberty Bridge (1 of 1 entries with a named place or grid).

Company E was commanded by 1stLt J. D. Pereira(?) (1–14 March); 1stLt C. E. Schaffer (15–31 March); the battalion by LtCol F. D. Leder (1–31 March).

The battalion’s command chronology names Company E in 79 entries this month (63 combat, 8 civic, 5 organization, 2 medical, 1 logistics).

On 1 March 1970: Echo's E1B found and destroyed a 60mm booby trap.

On 1 March 1970: Echo's E1B received 3 ChiComs — 1 WIA evac.

On 2 March 1970: Echo received 1 RPG round and called a fire mission.

## 3. Operations Overview

| Operation / Activity | Dates | Description |
|---|---|---|
| **Liberty Bridge operations** | March 1970 | 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 1970 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 Mar 12:00** | Echo's E1B found and destroyed a 60mm booby trap [2/5 ComdC Mar 1970, PDF p. 14] |
| **1 Mar 18:45** | Echo's S-2B received VIP ordnance [2/5 ComdC Mar 1970, PDF p. 14] |
| **1 Mar 21:05** | Echo's E1B received 3 ChiComs — 1 WIA evac [2/5 ComdC Mar 1970, PDF p. 14] |
| **2 Mar 00:55** | Echo received 1 RPG round and called a fire mission [2/5 ComdC Mar 1970, PDF p. 16] |
| **2 Mar 08:55** | Echo's E3A saw Company B, 1st Engineers set off a booby trap — 1 KIA, 2 WIA evac (engineers) [2/5 ComdC Mar 1970, PDF p. 16] |
| **2 Mar 09:00** | Echo's E1B found a boat and M-26s — Blown in place [2/5 ComdC Mar 1970, PDF p. 16] |
| **2 Mar 14:10** | Echo's E2(-) had 9 USMC heat-stroke casualties [2/5 ComdC Mar 1970, PDF p. 16] |
| **3 Mar 16:15** | Echo found a human head floating in the river [2/5 ComdC Mar 1970, PDF p. 18] |
| **3 Mar 17:30** | Echo's E6 saw a man throwing .50-cal rounds at children [2/5 ComdC Mar 1970, PDF p. 18] |
| **3 Mar 18:45** | Echo's E3 tripped a booby trap — 1 WIA evac [2/5 ComdC Mar 1970, PDF p. 18] |
| **3 Mar 20:20** | Echo's E3C spotted 1 VC/NVA and fired small arms [2/5 ComdC Mar 1970, PDF p. 18] |
| **4 Mar 19:55** | Echo received VIP ordnance from Vietnamese children [2/5 ComdC Mar 1970, PDF p. 20] |
| **4 Mar 21:30** | Echo's E1A spotted 2 VC/NVA and fired small arms [2/5 ComdC Mar 1970, PDF p. 20] |
| **5 Mar 20:15** | Echo received VIP ordnance from Vietnamese children [2/5 ComdC Mar 1970, PDF p. 22] |
| **5 Mar 20:30** | Echo saw the refugee camp (Phu Loc 6) taking incoming M-79 rounds — 40 casualties, one refugee killed [2/5 ComdC Mar 1970, PDF p. 22] |
| **6 Mar 14:05** | Echo's E3B found 2 M-26 booby traps [2/5 ComdC Mar 1970, PDF p. 24] |

| Date | Activity / Events |
|---|---|
| **6 Mar 20:10** | Echo's E1B received a ChiCom and fired small arms [2/5 ComdC Mar 1970, PDF p. 24] |
| **6 Mar 23:00** | Echo spotted 1 VC/NVA and called a fire mission [2/5 ComdC Mar 1970, PDF p. 24] |
| **7 Mar 08:05** | Echo saw a dead Vietnamese man in a stream [2/5 ComdC Mar 1970, PDF p. 26] |
| **7 Mar 16:00** | Echo's E1 tank patrol killed 3 VC/NVA and detained 44 [2/5 ComdC Mar 1970, PDF p. 26] |
| **7 Mar 19:20** | Echo purchased VIP ordnance [2/5 ComdC Mar 1970, PDF p. 26] |
| **7 Mar 22:10** | Echo saw the PF unit taking small-arms fire [2/5 ComdC Mar 1970, PDF p. 26] |
| **8 Mar 09:15** | Echo's E2A tripped 2 M-26 booby traps — 1 WIA evac, 1 non-evac [2/5 ComdC Mar 1970, PDF p. 28] |
| **8 Mar 09:15** | Follow-up: Echo found 2 M-26 booby traps [2/5 ComdC Mar 1970, PDF p. 28] |
| **8 Mar 18:30** | Echo purchased VIP ordnance [2/5 ComdC Mar 1970, PDF p. 28] |
| **8 Mar 19:30** | Echo spotted 2 VC/NVA swimming in the river [2/5 ComdC Mar 1970, PDF p. 28] |
| **9 Mar 19:20** | Echo reported VIP ordnance [2/5 ComdC Mar 1970, PDF p. 30] |
| **10 Mar 16:00** | Echo's E1A detained 45 Vietnamese [2/5 ComdC Mar 1970, PDF p. 32] |
| **10 Mar 19:00** | Echo spotted 13 VC/NVA and called a mission [2/5 ComdC Mar 1970, PDF p. 32] |
| **11 Mar 12:00** | Echo's E2 with tanks destroyed 5 bunkers [2/5 ComdC Mar 1970, PDF p. 34] |
| **11 Mar 12:35** | Echo's E2 gathered detainees and destroyed bunkers [2/5 ComdC Mar 1970, PDF p. 34] |
| **11 Mar 12:42** | Echo's E2 with tanks set off a 105mm round — 2 USMC KIA, 3 WIA evac [2/5 ComdC Mar 1970, PDF p. 34] |
| **11 Mar 13:30** | Echo's E2 with tanks set off a 60mm booby trap [2/5 ComdC Mar 1970, PDF p. 34] |
| **11 Mar 13:35** | Casualty report from Echo: 2 KIA and 1 WIA [2/5 ComdC Mar 1970, PDF p. 34] |
| **11 Mar 16:30** | Late entry: Echo with tanks destroyed 43 bunkers and detained 22; 4 VC/NVA were observed [2/5 ComdC Mar 1970, PDF p. 38] |
| **12 Mar 14:35** | Echo's E3A spotted 10 VC/NVA and called a mission [2/5 ComdC Mar 1970, PDF p. 40] |
| **13 Mar 16:55** | Echo's E3B spotted 1 VC/NVA and fired small arms [2/5 ComdC Mar 1970, PDF p. 42] |
| **13 Mar 18:00** | Echo received VIP ordnance [2/5 ComdC Mar 1970, PDF p. 42] |
| **14 Mar 03:00** | Echo tower spotted 1 VC/NVA [2/5 ComdC Mar 1970, PDF p. 44] |
| **14 Mar 11:15** | Echo's E2B tripped a booby trap — 1 WIA non-evac [2/5 ComdC Mar 1970, PDF p. 44] |

| Date | Activity / Events |
|---|---|
| **14 Mar 14:30** | Echo's E2B tripped a booby trap — 2 WIA evac [2/5 ComdC Mar 1970, PDF p. 44] |
| **14 Mar 21:50** | Echo purchased VIP ordnance [2/5 ComdC Mar 1970, PDF p. 44] |
| **15 Mar 02:00** | Echo saw an explosion of unknown size [2/5 ComdC Mar 1970, PDF p. 46] |
| **15 Mar 02:00** | Follow-up: POWs [2/5 ComdC Mar 1970, PDF p. 46] |
| **15 Mar 03:35** | Echo received incoming and a ground attack (Liberty Bridge / Phu Loc 6) — 1 USMC WIA, 1 KCS (Kit Carson Scout) KIA, 1 RF WIA, 6 VC/NVA KIA [2/5 ComdC Mar 1970, PDF p. 46] |
| **15 Mar 20:00** | Echo's E2B tripped a daisy chain — 1 WIA and POW [2/5 ComdC Mar 1970, PDF p. 46] |
| **17 Mar 21:00** | Echo's E2A spotted 5 VC/NVA and fired small arms [2/5 ComdC Mar 1970, PDF p. 52] |
| **18 Mar 13:45** | Echo's E2 received a Vietnamese with a gunshot wound [2/5 ComdC Mar 1970, PDF p. 54] |
| **19 Mar 07:10** | Echo's E1A set off a 60mm booby trap — 1 WIA evac [2/5 ComdC Mar 1970, PDF p. 56] |
| **20 Mar 00:30** | Echo spotted 1 VC/NVA 300 m southwest [2/5 ComdC Mar 1970, PDF p. 58] |
| **20 Mar 13:40** | Scout dog report from Echo [2/5 ComdC Mar 1970, PDF p. 58] |
| **20 Mar 17:00** | Echo spotted 5 VC/NVA and called artillery [2/5 ComdC Mar 1970, PDF p. 58] |
| **20 Mar 21:40** | Echo heard a woman with a bullhorn and called artillery [2/5 ComdC Mar 1970, PDF p. 58] |
| **21 Mar 16:00** | Echo's E2A spotted 5 VC/NVA and called a fire mission [2/5 ComdC Mar 1970, PDF p. 62] |
| **21 Mar 16:00** | Follow-up on E2A: found bunkers and huts [2/5 ComdC Mar 1970, PDF p. 62] |
| **22 Mar 12:18** | Echo had one ammo tech killed by VIP ordnance [2/5 ComdC Mar 1970, PDF p. 64] |
| **23 Mar 04:45** | Echo called illumination because the generator was out [2/5 ComdC Mar 1970, PDF p. 66] |
| **23 Mar 09:45** | Echo's E2A tripped a 60mm round — 1 WIA evac [2/5 ComdC Mar 1970, PDF p. 66] |
| **23 Mar 20:20** | Echo spotted 4-5 VC/NVA and fired small arms [2/5 ComdC Mar 1970, PDF p. 66] |
| **24 Mar 02:00** | Echo found a dead body on the bridge [2/5 ComdC Mar 1970, PDF p. 68] |

| Date | Activity / Events |
|---|---|
| **24 Mar 08:00** | Echo took the body out of the water [2/5 ComdC Mar 1970, PDF p. 68] |
| **24 Mar 12:30** | Echo had a shotgun round go off — 2 WIA non-evac [2/5 ComdC Mar 1970, PDF p. 68] |
| **24 Mar 17:20** | Echo's E1A spotted 4 VC/NVA and fired a mission [2/5 ComdC Mar 1970, PDF p. 68] |
| **25 Mar 09:30** | Echo received word the enemy have a radio in the area [2/5 ComdC Mar 1970, PDF p. 70] |
| **25 Mar 10:50** | Date for Stack Arms (E6) to 3 April 70 [2/5 ComdC Mar 1970, PDF p. 70] |
| **25 Mar 10:55** | Echo's E2B found a trap door and blew it in place [2/5 ComdC Mar 1970, PDF p. 70] |
| **25 Mar 18:00** | Echo spotted 8 VC/NVA and called a mission [2/5 ComdC Mar 1970, PDF p. 70] |
| **25 Mar 18:00** | Echo spotted 5 VC/NVA and called a mission [2/5 ComdC Mar 1970, PDF p. 70] |
| **25 Mar 20:25** | Echo saw 2 tracer rounds firing at a jet [2/5 ComdC Mar 1970, PDF p. 70] |
| **25 Mar 21:05** | Echo saw 3 lights moving and called a mission [2/5 ComdC Mar 1970, PDF p. 70] |
| **26 Mar 10:35** | Echo received a Vietnamese child hurt, sent to hospital [2/5 ComdC Mar 1970, PDF p. 72] |
| **27 Mar 10:55** | Echo's E1 found 5 dud 81mm HE rounds — Blown in place [2/5 ComdC Mar 1970, PDF p. 74] |
| **27 Mar 16:45** | Echo's E2C tripped a 60mm booby trap — 2 WIA evac [2/5 ComdC Mar 1970, PDF p. 74] |
| **29 Mar 11:20** | Echo's E1 spotted 10 VC/NVA and called a mission [2/5 ComdC Mar 1970, PDF p. 80] |
| **29 Mar 16:00** | Echo's E1 and E2B detained 70 Vietnamese [2/5 ComdC Mar 1970, PDF p. 80] |
| **30 Mar 06:45** | Echo's E3C found food caches: 1 ton of rice and corn [2/5 ComdC Mar 1970, PDF p. 82] |
| **30 Mar 10:00** | Echo observed 3 secondary explosions [2/5 ComdC Mar 1970, PDF p. 82] |
| **30 Mar 20:15** | Echo observed 3 secondary explosions [2/5 ComdC Mar 1970, PDF p. 82] |
| **31 Mar 14:20** | Echo had one man burned by a trip flare [2/5 ComdC Mar 1970, PDF p. 84] |

## 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 1970 (Texas Tech University Vietnam Archive item 1201048125).

**2.** HOW IT WAS COMPILED. Every entry in the research database whose units name Company E (Echo) for March 1970 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 1970 (Texas Tech University Vietnam Archive item 1201048125)

### SECONDARY SOURCES

— Cosmas, Graham A. and Terrence P. Murray. U.S. Marines in Vietnam: Vietnamization and Redeployment, 1970–1971. History and Museums Division, HQMC, 1986.

— “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, March 1970*