

16 NOVEMBER

1. OPERATIONS SUMMARY:

At approximately 0400 hours, the N-V-A infantry began light probing attacks at various places on the perimeter with elements ranging from squad to platoon strength. At 0430 hours a two company attack was directed against the southeast portion of the perimeter, now manned by B 2/7 Cav. This was beaten back by small arms and artillery fires under illumination provided by "Smokey" the Air Force flare ship. A second attack by a company-sized element also was repulsed. At 0600 a company-sized assault was directed against the northeast portion of the L-Z, manned by elements of the 2/5 Cav. It too was smashed by accurate defensive fires. At 0627 still another attack was launched from the north, and again without success. (Inclosure 24)

At 0655, all positions in the perimeter opened up with small arms and machine guns. They systematically sprayed trees, bushes and anthills to their front. This had the salutary effect of prematurely triggering a 40-man N-V-A assault element directly in front of A 2/7 Cav. The unit had been creeping forward, using high grass and bushes for concealment. The technique also accomplished its primary function by bringing down several snipers that had climbed trees close to the perimeter during the night.

At 0910 hours, all units began a sweep to their front to a depth of about 500 meters, utilizing covering artillery fire, and policed up the battle area. The first elements of 2/7 (-) with A 1/5 Cav attached began closing into X-RAY after a foot movement from COLUMBUS. The battalion completed its move by 1200 hours, and at 1400 hours, the 1/7 Cav, plus B 2/7 Cav and a platoon of A 2/7 Cav were relieved on station and moved by helicopters to CAMP HOLLOWAY for rest and reorganization.

Sporadic sniper fires marked the rest of the day at X-RAY and both the 2/5 and 2/7 battalions made plans for movement out of the area on the following day. The L-Z was located along the path of a projected target area for a B-52 strike and it was necessary to move the units outside a three kilometer safety limit.

To reinforce the units in the battle area, the remaining units of the 1/5 Cav moved by chopper to COLUMBUS, where that battalion remained over night

The 1/9 Cav Sqdn elements continued close surveillance of the battlefield and the routes leading into it and, early in the afternoon, one of its scout-gun ships (UH-1B) was shot down in the jungle north of the IA DRANG. Heavy fire from the area prevented the immediate recovery of the ship and the crew was carried as missing.

2. TASK ORGANIZATION:

3D BRIGADE
No Change

DIVISION
No Change

3. INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY:

Early on the morning of the 16th, the N-V-A elements had another go at X-RAY---and again there was a blood bath. The nu was too tough to crack. But if this position was too strong, what about the artillery bases, from whence came so much of the N-V-A misery? Might they not be less well protected? Strong elements were set under way toward both COLUMBUS and FALCON. These included portions of the 66th Regiment and the H-15 VIET CONG Battalion.

Also, once the attacks on X-RAY were broken off, a general movement of units began north and west along the base of the mountain and in the IA DRANG valley.

4. ACTIVITIES STATISTICS

FRIENDLY LOSSES

KIA 6 (79 Cumulative)
WIA 8 (125 Cumulative)
MIA 0 (0 Cumulative)

ENEMY LOSSES

(14-15-16 Cumulative)
KIA -834 (BC) 1,215 (Est)
WIA -No estimates made
VCC -6

WPNS & EQUIPMENT DESTROYED IN POSITION:

Crew Served and Indiv Wpns 100
Anti Tank Rockets 9
Hand Grenades 300-400
Assorted 7.62mm Ammo 7,000 rounds
Entrenching Tools 100-150
Assorted Packs, Uniforms, etc.

WPNS & EQUIP EVACUATED:

Assault carbines 54
Assault rifles 57
Automatic rifles 17
Heavy machine guns 4
Rocket launchers 5
Pistols 2
82mm Mortars 2
Medic Kits 6

