

18 NOVEMBER

1. OPERATIONS SUMMARY:

From midnight to dawn there was sporadic sniper firing at the sites of both perimeters near ALBANY, but the major threat was over. At first light A and B companies 1/5 Cav moved from their overnight positions and screened to the west and linked up with the western-most perimeter and the remainder of the 2/7 Cav at 0900 hours. The entire battalion patrolled out from the perimeter and recovered dead and wounded personnel and friendly and enemy equipment and weapons. The intermingling of US and N-V-A dead testified that much of the action had taken place at point blank range.

At 1400 hours, A and B companies 1/5 Cav reverted to their parent battalion control and marched to COLUMBUS. The 2/7 Cav remained on ALBANY for the night.

At COLUMBUS, the 1/5 guarded the artillery positions. At 1735 an outpost at the northern portion of the battalion perimeter engaged the lead elements of an enemy unit moving into an attack position. Within ten minutes the battalion perimeter was under heavy mortar and automatic weapons fire. Air strikes dropped ordnance to within 100 meters of the perimeter foxholes. The artillery units at COLUMBUS were used in a flat trajectory fire support role.

At approximately 2100 hours the attack lost momentum and subsided into small arms fire that continued sporadically throughout the night.

Just prior to the attack, the 2/5 Cav, moving to the west to a blocking position, air assaulted into L-Z CROOKS (YA875125) along with an artillery battery. The battalion conducted patrols from the new base and during the night received light probes and harrassing small arms and mortar fire.

The 3d Brigade CP was maintained at STADIUM and the 1/7 Cav continued rest and reorganization at CAMP HOLLOWAY.

2. TASK ORGANIZATION:

3D BRIGADE
No Change

DIVISION
No Change

3. INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY:

Once again the enemy found that US defensive fires make assaults very costly affairs. The attack on COLUMBUS was the last enemy offensive effort of any consequence against American positions in the IA DRANG.

By late evening the major contact had been broken and thereafter, the only contact throughout the CHU PONG-IA DRANG complex was with scattered N-V-A elements of squad or platoon size that had been flushed out and chased by Cavalry heliborne or foot patrols.

4. ACTIVITIES STATISTICS:

FRIENDLY LOSSES

KIA 2

WIA 31

MIA 0

ENEMY LOSSES

KIA-27(BC) 46(Est)

WIA-100 (Est)

WPNS-Light machine guns 4
Heavy machine guns 2
Assault rifles 7
Carbines 6
Rocket launchers 1