

MESSAGE FROM GENERAL ABRAMS

22 Nov 67

82

With respect to friendly troops being "trapped". At no time have US or ARVN troops been considered trapped, cut off, or surrounded in the current battle around DAK TO. This story no doubt originated as a result of a contact by the 2nd Bn/ 503rd Airborne Infantry about 23 km southwest of DAK TO. This battalion, while sweeping the area in the vicinity of Hill 875 ran into a strongly defended enemy position. In conducting assaults against this position, the battalion suffered moderate to heavy casualties. The battalion was unable to advance. In order to get this attack going

OVER

again, the 4th battalion of the 503rd Airborne Infantry moved into the area to reinforce and plans were made to helilift the 2nd battalion out of the area for reorganization, rest and refitting. Due to enemy small arms fire, some difficulty was experienced in getting helicopters into the area. As a result, heavy tactical air strikes and artillery were directed against the enemy positions. The 4th battalion then continued the attack on hill 875 while the 2nd Battalion secured the fire support base, instead of being extracted.