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Tiger bodies, arms recovered

RAFIK Jalaldeen

Troops that captured Puthukudiyiruppu town in a fierce battle on Tuesday recovered a number LTTE bodies and a haul of arms and ammunition yesterday.

Military spokesman Brigadier Udaya Nanayakkara said troops of the 53 and 58 divisions consolidating their position after capturing the last LTTE town of Puthukudiyiruppu in Mullaitivu and carrying out mopping-up and search operations, found seven bodies of Tiger cadres left behind together with a cache of arms, explosives and ammunition.

He said fierce fighting raged in the Kevil area on Tuesday morning as the LTTE cadres attempted to breach the FDL's attached to the 55 division. In the counter attack the Tiger cadres suffered heavy casualties.

In a subsequent search operation, troops recovered three bodies of Tigers, seven T-56 rifles, two magazines, two Multi Purpose Machine Guns (MPMG), an MPMG tripod, two 12.7mm weapons, a 60mm mortar bomb, five Arul bombs, two I-com sets and one Hero Honda motorcycle.

Meanwhile, troops engaged in clearing operations in the Chundikulam area found three Rocket Propeller Grenades (RPG) together with powerful explosives, four man packs, some field-dressings and a stock of dry rations on Tuesday.

Troops of the 572 under the command of the 57 division recovered three 130mm heavy artillery gun barrels and a 122mm artillery gun barrel buried in the Sudhanthirapuram area on Monday.

"Fleeing defeated LTTE cadres have buried these heavy weapons", the Brigadier said.

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