

160 soldiers, rebels killed in clashes. (1995, November 20). *The Globe and Mail*.

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Asia

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COLOMBO — At least 160 secessionists and Sri Lankan soldiers were killed in fierce fighting in the north and east yesterday as the army beat off stiff resistance to tighten its grip on the rebels' base in the northern Jaffna Peninsula.

State radio said troops who had pushed to within 800 metres of the centre of the town of Jaffna in a month-long offensive repulsed a fierce rebel counterattack with air and artillery strikes, killing 60 rebels and wounding more than 200.

"Almost every building in the area had been booby-trapped," it said.

The army lost 12 soldiers in the clash and 84 were wounded, mostly by pressure mines laid by retreating rebel fighters, it added.

The rebels of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam struck back with a fierce counterattack in eastern Sri Lanka, killing 38 government soldiers in an ambush.

— Reuters