

Rescue 'copters attacked but none hit. (1993, November 16). *The Island*.

Army silenced Tiger firepower

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by Norman Palihawadana

The helicopters deployed to remove the dead and injured in the Pooneryn battle were subjected to heavy mortar fire on Sunday night. Army sources said. But none of the helicopters had been hit, as the Army effectively silenced the LTTE's fire power.

Brigadier Nalin Angamma, told "The Island" that reinforcements sent to rescue troops marooned in the Pooneryn camp arrived on Sunday afternoon and removed 300 injured soldiers. Pooneryn area is now being readied for the landing of aircraft.

Meanwhile, it is reported that an army officer and four other ranks had been admitted by the LTTE to the Jaffna General Hospital which, according to sources was packed with injured Tigers.

Army sources say that of the bodies of 282 soldiers killed in action at Pooneryn camp 185 have been handed over to the Divisional Secretary, Killinochchi by the LTTE. The remaining 97 bodies were recovered by the reinforcements sent to Jaffna.

As these bodies were in a highly decomposed state they had to be cremated and their ashes sent to the army by the ICRC (International Committee of the Red Cross).