

How Boko Haram killed 70 soldiers in Metele attack—Survivor

A Nigerian soldier, who survived the deadly attack on a military base in the northern part of Borno State on Monday, said they suffered a heavy casualty figure due to lack of adequate weapons.

The soldier, who managed to escape the attack alongside other injured troops, said no fewer than 70 soldiers died in the attack.

He said the corpses of the slain soldiers were yet to be evacuated days after Boko Haram took advantage of their lack of munitions to deal them a devastating defeat.

The attack at Metele village in Gizamala Local Government Area of the state happened on Monday evening.

Premium Times broke the story on Tuesday, detailing how rampaging Boko Haram insurgents overran a Nigerian Army battalion in Borno State on Sunday, killing the unit's commander and dozens of soldiers.

Military sources told Premium Times that large cache of arms, ammunition and military equipment were carted away by Boko Haram fighters during the attack on 157 Task Force Battalion in Metele at about 6p.m.

Premium Times reported on Monday that there were efforts being made to evacuate corpses of the fallen soldiers on Tuesday morning.

However, according to some of the soldiers that survived the attack, the move to evacuate the corpses was thwarted by the Boko Haram fighters, who held their ground and forced the soldiers to abandon the mission.

How Metele was attacked

According to the soldier, who survived the attack, their location was invaded after Boko Haram allegedly issued a threat letter, last Friday, that it would soon take over four strategic military locations around the Lake Chad region.

Premium Times has not been able to see or confirm any copy of the threat letter mentioned by the military sources.

"The attack came at about 6p.m. on Monday evening," said the soldier. "When the soldier on top of the observation post alerted that a large number of Boko Haram fighters were advancing, we all got alarmed as we took cover and waited within the base in Metele.

"The fight did not last for more than 45 minutes, but it was bloody because the Boko Haram fighters had more armament advantage than the soldiers.

"When we realised the fight would be against us, we decided to retreat from the camp, but it was rather too late.

"The camp was surrounded with barbed wire and the enemy

fire was coming from the direction of the entrance. We were surrounded."

The massacre

"One of the drivers of the gun trucks decided to push through the barbed wire so that other vehicles could follow and escape, but the truck got stuck; that was how many of our soldiers in other vehicles and those on foot were massacred.

"Those that managed to escape with injuries made it on foot through Cross-Kauwa to Monguno, where they boarded commercial vehicles. Some even sat in the booth of Golf cars to get to Maiduguri.

"Boko Haram made away with about seven gun trucks of the Nigeria Army."

The senior non-commissioned military source said no fewer than 70 soldiers were killed while many others, who were outgunned by the Boko Haram fighters had to fled.

The soldier, who claimed to have made it to Maiduguri on foot after escaping the battle, said an attempt to return to the battlefield to evacuate the bodies of the fallen heroes was thwarted by another attack from the insurgents.

A soldiers challenges

The soldier, who pleaded strict anonymity in this report, informed Premium Times that troops in the field were still facing serious challenges of inadequate ammunition and motivation.

The soldier said the deployed team that went to evacuate the bodies of the soldiers could only pick about five corpses before they suffered yet another ambush attack from Boko Haram fighters, forcing them to abandon the mission and fled.

"Up till Wednesday," he said, "the evacuation of the corpses have not been completed to the best of my knowledge."

The source said troops had been recording the death of many soldiers almost on a daily basis as Boko Haram sustained attacks on military formations.

"We need the world to hear how we are being sent to slaughter as though our lives don't matter," he said.

It could be recalled that on August 12, a group of soldiers stationed at the Maiduguri International Airport staged what seemed a mutiny, following a protest over military authority's move to redeploy them to the frontline.

The soldiers insisted that the redeployment would put them in danger following the fact that those deployed earlier suffered serious casualty due to inadequate arms and ammunition.

The military command in Maiduguri disputed claims of the soldiers and some of the

revolting soldiers were later court-martialled.

The source said despite the protest and the subsequent court-martial, some of the soldiers that were deployed still suffered the fate that befell their colleagues.

... cries to media for help

His words: "Some few weeks ago, about 75 of us from our own unit here in Maiduguri were deployed to the front line and it took the grace of God for about 40 of us to return alive.

"When we returned and lodged our complaint, we were asked to go back again to Metele, an area near Kangarwa Forest, and we have been there for about three weeks now fighting a defensive battle.

"We beg the Nigerian media to help us by echoing out our muffled voices. The children of poor Nigerians have been turned into chicken meat for easy sacrifices by our commanders.

"We are being killed on a daily basis as if our lives don't matter. Of course as soldiers we signed to lay down our lives in defence of this country, but certainly not in the manner we are being presented for slaughter without dignity.

"A soldier should die fighting and not being chased or overpowered.

"Our morale has been dampened so badly—not only because we are not given our due allowances, but for the fact that we have been outgunned by Boko Haram.

"The situation has gone so bad it has got to a stage that soldiers would be rushing to pack up their camps and flee upon hearing the news that Boko Haram fighters are advancing.

"We have suddenly lost our spirit of launching attacks because of lack of resources to prosecute the battle. Many of us are ready to do our best, but there has been no requisite support from those sending us out there.

"As I am talking to you now, we have about 70 corpses of soldiers littering the battleground in Metele and when we went to evacuate them on Monday, the Boko Haram gunmen came out in large numbers from all angles.

"So we had to abandon the corpses after just picking five of them. We left most of the corpses there as I am talking to you now."

The military, both at the Army headquarters, Abuja and at the theatre command in Maiduguri, have not responded to text messages sent to them by Premium Times for this report.

SOFTC

... with Emi

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@preshi_

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another boyfriend,
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suspect say you get money



moyolawalofficial

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Happy weekend

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He removed my skirt
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