

Western Front: Punch Sector

The region in and around the town of Punch is also rugged and heavily forested. Pakistan included a thrust against Punch in its overall offensive plan, in part to distract Indian attention from the main attack to be launched by II Corps, and in part to exploit the apparent vulnerability of the Punch salient. India, however, noticed a Pakistani buildup opposite the salient during November and moved 33 Brigade of 39 Division into the sector to support 25 Division's 93 Brigade. Strong Indian reserves were thus already on hand and prepared when the war broke out.

On 3 December, Pakistan's 12 Division took advantage of the terrain and vegetation to infiltrate two battalions (9 and 16 Azad Kashmir) as part of a two-brigade attack across the northern face of the Punch salient. Although the two battalions succeeded in threading their way past the Indian outpost line, the Indian defenses along the CFL held firm and reinforcements from 33 Brigade

