

Naval Officers, Robbers Killed in Rivers

• Brave Policeman Foils Banks Raid

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TWO Naval officers and two armed robbers were feared dead yesterday following a botched bank robbery at Rumuokuta, a suburb of Port Harcourt, the Rivers State capital.

Witnesses told *The Guardian* that robbers armed with sophisticated weapons stormed a

new generation bank along Ikwerre Road, close to the Rumuokuta Roundabout at about 9.am and attempted to rob it.

As soon as the robbers arrived at the bank, they started shooting sporadically into the air to scare the people around. Due to the persistence of the gunshots, policemen at a nearby station allegedly deserted their

base.

The Guardian, however, learnt from witnesses that a mobile policeman resolved not to escape and so decided to thwart the robbery. The policeman dashed to the bank, which was just a stones throw and confronted the robbers for several minutes.

During the gun duel that ensued, it was learnt that the robbers'

bullets could penetrate the policeman, who later shot dead one of them. As another of his colleagues was trying to carry away his remains, he was struck by a bullet that killed him as well.

Amid the fierce gun battle, the robbers, whose effort had been checkmated, managed to escape with the remains of their colleagues. As they zoomed off in their vehicles, they were said to have shooting indiscriminately at all directions.