

Robbers kill three policemen, two others in Edo

From **Alemma-Ozioruva Allu,**
Benin City

FIVE persons including three policemen, an auditor of a bank and a vulcaniser were killed yesterday in Ekpoma, Esan West Local Council as armed robbers stormed a first generation bank at Isidahome junction by Royal Market Road, the business hotbed of the university town.

The robbers were said to have stormed the bank at about 9:30 a.m. yesterday and shot to death the three policemen on duty and the auditor of the

bank. The branch manager, who was hit by their bullets, is in critical condition, *The Guardian* learnt.

A stray bullet was said to have hit a vulcaniser along the Benin-Auchi Road when the robbers completed their operation and shot sporadically into the air apparently to scare people away.

As a result of the incident, other banks in the entire town closed shop for several hours.

Witnesses said the robbers, seven in number stormed the bank in a commando style, gained entrance into the bank

and carted away undisclosed sums of money running into millions of naira. They were said to have exited through Opoji Road towards Agbor in Delta State.

"You know that area is the commercial nerve of the town and when the robbers invaded the area, there was pandemonium. The policemen tried to resist them that may have led to their being shot. Of course, the robbers came with superior weapons and for several hours after the incident, business came to a halt in the whole area."