

Eight feared killed as robbers strike in Edo

• Attack bullion van

EIGHT persons, including some policemen, were feared killed yesterday when armed robbers struck in Edo State.

Delta State Police Commissioner Joseph Oshiomogho, whose convoy was also attacked, escaped unhurt.

But some of his aides were killed.

Among those killed was a driver of a first generation bank.

A bullion van was also attacked.

The driver, who was said to have been shot in the head, was attacked on James Watt Road, Benin-City.

The bullion van was con-

From Shola O'Neil, Warri and Osagie Otabor, Benin

veying money from Benin-City to Warri, Delta State, it was learnt.

Sources said the cream colour bullion van was attacked with a police pick-up van at Ologbo Junction, a boundary town between Delta and Edo states.

The hoodlums were armed with oxy-acetylene gas cylinders with which they tried to open the bullion van, it was learnt.

A source said: "The operation lasted for over one hour and all vehicles coming from Benin and the opposite

direction were stopped by the hoodlums who took their time.

"The police van was riddled with bullets but no one could say if anyone died, but there was loss of confidence in the Police."

The hoodlums left the scene and drove towards the Benin-City bypass amidst sporadic gunshots.

But there were conflicting reports about the success of the robbery.

A source at the Benin-City headquarters of Zone 5 of Police said policemen prevented the robbers from carting away their loot.

Yet, another source, who later visited the scene at about 4:00p.m., said the police van was riddled with bullet.

Oshiomogho was attacked at Igueben, an Edo community.

Some hoodlums reportedly opened fire on his vehicle.

The attack on the police boss is the second in less than one month.

His convoy was attacked at Igbanke, also in Edo State last month.

The Assistant Inspector-General of Police (AIG) in charge of the zone, Suleiman Faki, blamed the rising crime rate on the lack of adequate Armed Personnel Carriers (APCs).