

Cult Boys Kill Soldier In A Beer Joint

EMMUNA/ Calabar

A soldier serving with the 13 Amphibious Brigade, Private Idowu, has been stabbed to death by cultists in a notorious beer joint in Calabar known as The Kraab.

P.M. News gathered this morning that the soldier along with two of his colleagues, Lawrence Akpa and Femi, were said to have gone to the bar situated along Marian Road for a drink on Sunday evening and were there until early Monday when the incident that led to his murder took place.

A Chaplain with the Brigade attached to the Catholic Church, Lance Corporal Imoke, told *P.M. News* that soldiers have been warned against late nights in Calabar whether for beer drinking or *okada* business but such warnings have always fallen on deaf ears "perhaps because it is

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ecution proved penetration.

On issue number 4 the Court of Appeal was correct in upholding the verdict as the appellant did not present any cogent evidence in defence.

Mallam Adamu contended on issue number five that the appellant was given fair hearing.

After listening to the argument of the two parties, the Supreme Court in a unanimous decision read by Justice Niki Tobi, said the appeal involves the beastly, barbaric and bizarre offence of sodomy (commonly referred to as homosexuality) against the appellant, former Major Bello Magaji, with staff number N/6604 in the Nigerian Army.

"I think, I have taken all the issue raised by the learned Senior Advocate. What the appellant decided to do was to dare nature in his craze for immoral amorphous satisfaction. By his conduct, the appellant has brought shame to himself. By his conduct, the appellant reordered God's creation. Has he got the power to do that? "Although a bit of the dent is on the Army, I am not prepared to hold that force guilty for the conduct of the appellant.

"The Army did not ask him to commit this heinous and atrocious offence. He is a terrible criminal and he is clearly alone.

"In sum, I do not see the slightest merit in this appeal. I dismiss it and affirm the conviction and sentence of the General Court Martial," the Supreme Court ruled.

from the pulpit".

A source said Lawrence and Femi, who had just returned from peace keeping mission in Liberia, went to the bar "to celebrate their successful return. They were there from early Sunday evening to early Monday morning. While they were drinking, one of the girls brought by the soldiers went to ease herself and one of the boys grabbed her chair but the soldiers asked him to keep the chair as their girl was sitting on it. The boy asked them if they brought the chairs from their homes."

This remark was said to have infuriated the soldiers who slapped the boy and his friends decided to intervene. This led to a free-for-all. In the ensuing confusion, a team of policemen on patrol came in and arrested the soldiers who refused to go with the police but the police insisted and dragged the drunken soldiers towards the gate.

Idowu, who sat in a separate chair, did not join in the fray until one of the attendants alerted the boys that he too was a soldier, said our source.

"When the boys knew that Idowu was also a soldier, they slapped him. When he tried to put up a fight, he was stabbed by the boys and left to bleed to death," the source said.

He said the body was left there until late Monday morning when he was discovered and taken to the mortuary.

According to the Chaplain, Lance Corporal Imoke, "The police team that took Femi and Lawrence to the police station were not aware that their colleague had been killed. When the soldiers heard on Monday morning what had happened, they wanted to attack the place but I advised them not to. They obeyed me as a man of God; Calabar people have no respect and love for soldiers. An attack in that place would have led to more bloodshed."

The Army Public Relations Officer for the Brigade, Captain Eteng, was away when *P.M. News* visited his office. Idowu was a staff of the public relations unit.

Meanwhile, revelers have deserted The Kraab in the past two nights while the attendants have failed to open for business to avoid being attacked by aggrieved soldiers.

The Police Public Relations Officer for the Cross River Command, ASP Thomas Opene said the two arrested soldiers along with some *area boys* are being held at the State CID.

Police

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wind of the raid, they raced to the scene and foiled it.

Sources said some of the robbers escaped with bullet wounds. The robbers shot a soldier in the stomach while he was collecting his salary at the bank. A policeman was also shot.