

Dare-devil Robbers Invade Apapa, Kill 8

In a commando-style operation, armed robbers stormed Apapa in the early hours of yesterday killing eight people, wounding several others and carting away over N50 million at the end of the operation.

The robbers, numbering over 18 and armed to the teeth, were said to have squalled

• *Cart away N50m*

By Ayodele Aminu and Yemi Akinsuyi

Apapa in a black Volkswagen (*danfo*) commercial vehicle a little after 7am yesterday, blocking all entry points after which they started shooting sporadically into the air. A development

that prompted policemen and other uniformed men to take off their uniforms and went into hiding.

Their first point of call was one of the banks located along Commercial Road, but they were not lucky as they could not gain entry.

From there, they moved into another bank where they succeeded in gaining entry, carting away several millions of naira and killing two people.

Thereafter, they moved straight to Flour Mills where they killed some of their distributors, wounded several others and again made away with several millions of naira. They

were said to have attempted to enter the company's strong room but failed.

While the operation was going on at the Flour Mills, officers and men of the Apapa Divisional Police Station, led by their Divisional Police Officer (DPO), Mohammed Ali, regrouped and headed to confront the robbers. A battle

ensued and when it became obvious that the men of the underworld could not have their way, they made to escape.

According to an eye witness account, while they were on flight, they attempted to enter a Zenith Bank branch where they were met with stiff opposition by the Mobile Policemen

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attached to the security department of the bank.

Not too comfortable with their loot, they headed straight to Access Bank which is situated in the same area as Zenith, opened fire sporadically and at the end of the day, about five people lost their lives, while several others were injured.

Although, it was not known whether the robbers succeeded in gaining entrance into the bank, reports had it that policemen from the Apapa division gave them a hot chase and that while trying to escape, they abandoned one of their vehicles.

Speaking on the robbery,

Ali said only three people were killed and that the robbers could not enter into any of the banks and offices in Apapa due to the stiff opposition they got from the police.

In his words: "Immediately we got information that armed robbers were shooting at Floor Mills Roundabout, we headed straight to the place and when we got there, we battled the criminals to the extent that they could not gain entrance into the company.

"Immediately they knew they were not getting any headway, they ran and we pursued them. They even wanted to enter into one of

the banks along Commercial Road but we pursued them and in the course of their escape, they abandoned one of the vehicles they came with.

"I want to say categorically that they did not enter into any office and apart from two men, which one of them was a lunatic and a woman, nobody was killed. We battled them to the end until they escaped through Liverpool", he said.

Recently, different areas of Lagos and banks in the metropolis had been attacked by armed robbers while many lives were lost and properties worth billions of naira had been lost to the attacks.