

probably could have pierced my heart,

I swerved, the car would have skidded.

# Rescue mission: Policeman, 2 kidnappers killed in Edo

By Evelyn Usman

A Deputy Superintendent of Police attached to the Anti-kidnapping Unit of the Edo State Police Command died in the early hours of yesterday during a shoot-out with kidnappers in a forest in Ahor area of the state.

Also, two suspected members of a kidnap gang, who were trying to escape with some abducted victims, were gunned down during the ensuing gun battle. Recovered from the dead suspects were 49 rounds of AK-47 live ammunition.

Vanguard was informed that policemen

from the Anti-Kidnapping Unit were alerted of the kidnap of some persons on Tuesday. Consequently, a team of policemen from the unit combed the forest in Ahon, until late Wednesday night.

Police sources said the policemen traced the kidnapped victims through their footprints to a den in the forest. However, in the process of rescuing them, some of the kidnappers opened fire at both the policemen and the victims.

While the gunfire was on, some of the kidnappers reportedly escaped into the forest with some of their victims in other makeshift huts.

Police sources said: "During the shootout, we ran in different directions, to assemble at

a designated point. But we discovered that DSP Adams Michael was not at the meeting point. We could not reach out to him on the phone because there was no network inside the forest.

"By the time reinforcements arrived, we combed the forest until daybreak, when we saw his lifeless body. He ran into a swamp unknowingly because it was dark. There was no gun wound on him to suggest he was hot.

"DSP Michael was a committed and dedicated cop. He left behind a six-month-old baby with his widow. His body has been deposited in the morgue. We were able to rescue some of the victims and also killed two of the kidnappers."