



Arrow Spots Training Camp Site
... between Loop Road, Tamiami Trail

Haiti Invasion Camp Raided In Everglades

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Herald Staff Writers

Monroe County deputies followed a dead man's trail to a guerrilla camp deep in the Everglades Wednesday and arrested 12 soldiers of fortune in training for an invasion of Haiti.

The men, dressed in camouflage uniforms, surrendered without a fight. They had been living in rough shelters in a clearing hacked from the heavy brush about two miles into the Everglades off State Road 94 in Monroe County.

Authorities seized 16 rifles, sixteen .45-caliber pistols, jungle knives, ammunition, walkie-talkies and camping gear in the clearing.

"It was the prototype of a guerrilla warfare training encampment," said one deputy.

AT LEAST four of the 12 men were professional adventurers with previous arrests in Florida for participation in planned invasions of Haiti and Cuba.

"From the way they were dressed and armed, I'd say they were planning an invasion of Haiti," Monroe County Sheriff Robert Brown said.

One American, one Canadian and 10 Haitians were among the 12 being held at a Monroe County substation on Plantation Key.

All were being held as

material witnesses in the death of one of their number at the camp Tuesday, authorities said.

The existence of the camp came to light after police were called to investigate a shooting in the Everglades.

POLICE SAID one of the men at the camp apparently was shot in the chest during a training exercise. He was pronounced dead on arrival at Baptist Hospital in Miami Tuesday afternoon.

"He apparently was shot during a training maneuver in which live ammo was used," Brown said.

Police identified him Wednesday as Gerald Baker, 22, whose last known address was 4035 North Liberty Ave., Miami Beach.

When investigation disclosed Baker had been living at a training camp, four Monroe County deputies were sent to investigate early Wednesday.

The camp, 50 miles west of Miami, apparently represented the latest attempt by adventurers and exiles to overthrow Haitian President Francois (Papa Doc) Duvalier, who has survived eight actual invasions and innumerable abortive attempts.

THE APPARENT leader of the 12 men at the camp was William John Dempsey, 28, a Canadian. The sole American in the camp was Finnish-born Edmund Kolby, 34. Both Dempsey and Kolby were arrested in 1962 while training at No Name Key for a vest-pocket invasion of Cuba.

At the Plantation Key police station Wednesday, Dempsey was visited by a man named Martin Casey, who said he was one of the instructors at the camp.

Casey, who was not present when the police arrived,

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Camp Raid Flushes 12 In Glades

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was among 76 adventurers arrested by customs agents on Jan. 3, 1967, while preparing to embark for an invasion of Haiti from Coco Plum Beach in the Keys. He was sentenced to nine months in prison in February 1968.

Two Haitians arrested Wednesday also were captured at Coco Plum Beach. They were identified as Joel N. Filippi, 33, and Jacques Moringlane, 44.

AUTHORITIES SAID the men had apparently been living at the remote camp for some time. Trees had been felled to make a clearing. Beds and lean-tos were constructed of wood and jungle hammocks slung from trees. Police pinpointed the location of the camp at 13 miles from the eastern entrance of Route 94, which runs off the Tamiami Trail and is known as the Loop Road.

Agents of the Immigration Service and the Border Patrol were investigating for possible violations of weapons and neutrality laws.

Police identified the remaining men — all Haitians — under arrest as: Ernst Benoit, 28; Eddy Louis Miguel, 19; Robert A. Dominique, 22; Luc Morrin, 34; Joseph E. Bequiroir, 27; Rene Baptiste, 27; Robert Large, 26; and Arnold Salnave, 32.

Plantation Key is the nearest Monroe County substation to the site in the Everglades where the men were arrested. Authorities said they might be transferred later to Key West.

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