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# Ship Survivors Tell Of Mystery Attack On Way to Havana

## Gunboat Sets Vessel Afire, Kills Captain

Two Others Slain  
On Spanish Craft;  
7 Suffer Wounds

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico (AP) — Striking in darkness east of Cuba, two unidentified speedboats set a Spanish freighter afire and killed its captain and two officers with machine gun blasts, survivors said Tuesday.

Seven other members of the 20-man crew were wounded in the Sunday night attack as the 1,600-ton vessel, the Sierra Aranzazu, sailed toward Havana with a cargo of textiles, toys, cork and garlic ordered by the Castro government from Spain.

Survivors described the attack after they were flown here in U. S. planes from Mathew Town in the Bahamas and the U. S. Naval Base at Guantanamo in southeastern Cuba.

### Identity Not Known

There was no firm clue on the identity of the attackers.

A Cuban exile source in Panama said Monday that

anti-Castro Cubans attacked a ship in the Caribbean Sunday night. Two exile leaders, Manuel Artime and Manolo Ray, later denied that their people made the attack.

In Miami, Fla., an anonymous telephone caller said the attack was carried out by a secret organization and added: "This is the beginning of attacks on any ship that trades with Cuba."

Among the 17 survivors flown here to await commercial flights for Spain were three stretcher cases. All had been hit in the legs by what they said was the first blast of machine gun fire from the attacking boats.

### Attack Described

Ramon San Jalinto of Bilbao, Spain, the radio operator, said there were three bursts of fire—"a tremendous long burst at the start, a second one just before we abandoned ship and the third as we were rowing away."

San Jalinto said the freighter caught fire too quickly for him to send a message. He and the other crewmen said it was too dark to identify the attacking ships.

At Mathew Town the commissioner's office reported that the freighter "was supposedly machine gunned by Cubans" before it burned.

### Three Officers Die

"I was on the bridge with the captain when the attacks occurred off Grand Turk Island," said survivor Santiago Ibanez, of Bilbao, Spain.

"It was too dark to see the boats approach. . . . They fired machine guns at us and the ship caught fire.

"The attack lasted 5 to 10 minutes. We abandoned ship immediately for fear of an explosion. The two attacking boats approached us and remained nearby for awhile. The captain and two officers wounded by the machine gun fire died in the launch."

A Dutch ship, the P. G. Thulin, picked up the survivors from their launch 12 miles from the burning freighter and took them to Mathew Town. The coast guard in Miami said the freighter later was towed away by a Cuban tug to an unknown destination.

There was some speculation in government circles in Nassau, Bahamas, that Prime Minister Fidel Castro's own gunboats might have fired the shots.