

SF Examiner

Slain Man Leads To Invasion Camp

KEY WEST (Fla.) — (AP) Following a dead man's trail officers slogged deep into the Everglades yesterday and arrested 12 heavily armed men they say were training at a jungle camp for an invasion of Haiti. The men, dressed in camouflage uniforms, included 10 Haitian exiles and two men identified as Americans in charge of the camp.

Sources said the Americans are former members of the Green Berets.

Sheriff Robert Brown said the raiding party was alerted to the existence of the camp some 50 miles into the swamp by Florida Highway Patrol troopers.

Troopers answering a telephoned report of shooting in the area stopped a car carrying a wounded man. Whoever was with the wounded man told the officers about the camp.

Gerald Baker, who had been shot in the chest, was dead on arrival at a Miami hospital.

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

The former Green Berets were identified as Edward Koldy, 33, and William J. Dempsey, 26.

The occupants of the jungle camp surrendered without firing a shot. Deputies then confiscated 16 rifles, a similar number of .45-caliber pistols and knives as well as walkie-talkies and camping gear.

All 12 of those arrested are being held as material witnesses in Baker's death.

SF Examiner 13 Mar 69

SF Chronicle

'Invasion Camp' In Everglades

Key West, Fla.

Police investigating a fatal shooting uncovered a secret military training base for Haitian exiles deep in the Everglades yesterday and arrested two Americans said to be in charge of the camp.

Ten Haitians also were arrested.

Unofficial sources said the Americans were former members of the Green Berets — the Army's elite Special Force unit that specializes in guerrilla warfare training.

"They gave up without a fight," said Monroe County Sheriff Robert Brown, whose men confiscated 16 rifles, 16 pistols and a collection of knives.

SHOOTING

Brown said his men became aware of the camp, 50 miles west of Miami and two miles from the nearest road,

when Florida Highway Patrol troopers Tuesday stopped a car carrying a man who had been shot in the chest.

The man, identified as Gerald D. Baker, was dead on arrival at a Miami hospital.

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

IDENTIFICATION

The sheriff identified the Americans as Ed Koldy, 33, and William J. Dempsey, 26. He stated that the Americans were in charge of the camp.

Brown said the FBI had been notified and the U.S. Border Patrol was trying to determine whether the Haitians had entered the country illegally.

Last May, Haitian President Francois Duvalier's government said it had smashed a 35-man force that invaded Haiti.

Associated Press

SF Chronicle 13 Mar 69