CUBAN GUN RUNNERS CAUGHT

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HOME FINAL

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Two Jump As Cruiser Leaves Port

By JOHN HOPKINS

Thirty-two Cubans were thwarted last night as they tried to take a large cache of arms and ammunition to Fidel Castro's rebel forces on a 60-foot cabin cruiser through Port Everglades.

Dressed in combat gear, the Cubans from Tampa and New York were arrested last night as they tried to take a large cache of arms and ammunition to Fidel Castro's rebel forces on a 60-foot cabin cruiser through Port Everglades.

As the agents boarded the Harpoon, loaded with the Rebels, the pilot, William Wright, 53, and a Cuban jumped overboard.

The Cuban was apprehended later by a rooftop sniper but the pilot still is missing. He presumably swam to the mangrove swamps south of the port.

The Cubans and the agents narrowly missed possible death shortly after the boarding when one of the Cubans attempted to explode a can of gunpowder by crimping a dynamite cap with a pair of pliers.

Frank Bernard, 57-year-old Cuban from Miami, failed to reach the black powder on the cap crimped in his hand but a chunk of metal from the cap hit the pilot's right hand and killed.

Burnett was reported in "satisfactory" condition at Broward General Hospital this morning.

After the shoot incident, the agents boarded the Harpoon but the pilot without additional resistance followed the course of five or six to the North Channel jetty. All were booked about 4 a.m.

Directing the operation were W. B. Litchfield, a Customs agent; Narrand Shute and Wallace D. Shrumley, both of the Border Patrol.

Two Photos, Story on Page 1B

Agents first learned of the plot last Friday when Delta Fields Chief George Williams advised them that he had received a tip from an anonymous person that a boat was being loaded with arms and ammunition at the Dania Docks.

Agents put a 24-hour surveillance on the boat and it was seized in the Dania Beach harbor about 9 a.m. yesterday a group of men boarded the cruiser and it sailed north on the Intracoastal Waterway.

Litchfield, wood and Shrumley along Border Patrol Inspector Cide Shute, Tyler Funke, Inspector Provost and Charles Williams followed the Harpoon in a 30-foot Border Patrol craft, the Durante C. Steele, armed with 30 caliber machine guns.

At south of the port channel, the Steele pulled alongside the Harpoon and the seven agents jumped aboard her.

Burnett rushed to the pilot, who left the wheel and jumped overboard.

In cabin

More rebels were crowded into the pilot's cabin and the men were jammed in the forward hold.

Burnett attempted to steer the boat with the flag in front but an unidentified Cuban suddenly whipped the wheel and opened up on the pilot and others in the hold jumped.

(Continued on Page 18-21)

Arms Consigned to Cuban Rebels Intercepted

60-foot Harpoon loaded with arms steers through Port Everglades
Gun Smugglers

Cubans Clam Up On Arms Source

Cuban rebels seized as they started to leave the Port Everglades channel to join Fidel Castro forces refused to reveal from where they obtained their arms, ammunition and supplies.

However, the ammunition was crated in boxes bearing the stamp "Interamento," Alexandria, Va. It apparently was brought into Miami by Acme Fast Freight whose labels partially were torn off.

Three doctors were among those arrested last night and early this morning by agents working under direction of Charles E. Wyatt, Supervisor of the Customs Agency Service, and Richard E. Batchelor, chief of the U. S. Border Patrol, Miami.

The doctors were Rafael T. Gonzalez, 29, Miami, and Francisco Garcia, 37, and Rodolfo Vasquez, 33, both of Tampa.

Those who gave their addresses as Miami were Jesus Otero, 27; Enrique Pazos, 21; Hector Delin, 24; Rafael A. Cueva, 24; Miquel Roche, 19; Frank Puyol, 32; Dionisio A. Esteban, 24; Alberto Cuero Lara, 30; Pascoslo L. Lopez, 38.

OTHERS NAMED
Carlos Fonseca, 23; Carlos L. Hernandez, 22; Ramero R. Raskl, 55; Abelardo Suero, 32; Hector C. Llano, 19; Carlos Santana, 21; Placido Gonzalez, 49; Julio C. Lleros, 23; Humberto Sanchez, 22; Glacide M. Ramos, and a "John Doe." 31.

Gector M. Cornilcot, 49, said he came from Miami Beach while Anibal Velaz, 23, gave Tampa as his home. Julio L. Hernandez, 18, listed his home as "Cuba."

Three stated they were from New York City. They are Gino Pastora, 24; Jose Garcia, 18; and Pedro Gonzalez, 33.

More About

Dania Chief’s ‘Tip’ Credited

DANIA—A tip from Police Chief George Williams to customs officials today was credited for the dramatic raid on the Cuban-filled cruiser captained by Bill Wright.

Williams said he told customs men he suspected Wright's boat was carrying arms, but federal authorities needed more definite information before the raid.

On Saturday night, Dania Patrolman John Roderick arrested Wright on a speeding charge.

While the captain was in custody, Williams and the customs man amassed the information they needed to swoop down on the craft this morning.

[Continued From Page 1-A]

the mechanism.

The tow rope snapped and a Cuban who had taken over the wheel deliberately rammed the Harpoon into the west bank.

During this flareup and after Bestard, blasted the dynamite cap, the rebels threw overboard packages of rifles and ammunition and other paraphernalia which Provenza later recovered in several dives into 20 feet of water.

After the towropes were replaced and the Cubans settled down, the agents eased the boat into a berth from which the rebels were taken to jail and the unloading operation started.

The number of men and the amount of arms were the same as seized last November 18 in the Keys. These were the largest seizures in men and arms agents that have been made.

However, agents said the arms last November were of smaller caliber while the Harpoon carried 81 millimeter mortars and 57 millimeter anti-tank weapons in addition to 30 caliber rifles, carbines, small arms and ammunition for all of the guns.

Grenade casings, cans of explosive powder, walkie talkies and knives were piled up on the dock beside the boat along with personal clothing, rolls of cotton, band aids and even heat lotions.

They wore armbands and carried flags and pennants denoting Pri o's Organizacion Autenica [known as O/A and interpreted as the authentic organization or the last government] and Castro's 26 de Julio, liberation day as proclaimed by the rebel chief.

Agents said the Cubans will be charged with conspiracy to violate the U. S. neutrality act and illegal export of arms.