

Shootout kills Latin, 2nd one in week here

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Miami police dug deeper today into the facts of the second fatal Latin shooting on Flagler Street within a week after discounting the version of an admitted participant.

Hector Duarte Hernandez, 38, an exiled Cuban adventurer once accused of murdering two Batista police officers, was slain yesterday in the latest burst of shooting. Two other Cubans were seriously wounded.

A week earlier, Norberto Gonzalez, 40, was shot to death and Miami officers

were still looking for his accused assailant, Julio Costanzo.

Gustavo Battle, 30, was shot in the head and Manuel Chacon, 19, was struck in the stomach and chest during the same running gun battle that killed Duarte.

Battle, a food store employe, and Chacon, a student dental technician and handyman, both were in serious condition today at Jackson Memorial Hospital.

Four hours after the shooting, according to Detective Sgt. William Bonner, Battle's

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brother, Pedro, called police and said he killed Hernandez after he saw the latter shooting at his brother. Pedro was in another car at the scene, but had left before police arrived.

No charges were filed against Pedro Battle, however, and a spokesman at Miami homicide said "as far as I know" he had not been picked up. He had not been booked through the city jail.

The two slayings a week apart had curious parallels although police emphasized they had not been linked up.

Both were committed on West Flagler Street, the heavily Latinized main east-and west thoroughfare of Miami. Gonzalez was killed at a filing station at Flagler and 8th Avenue and Duarte at Flagler and Red Road, both in daylight.

In each case, a previous shooting had preceded the fatal one. Costanzo, sought in the Gonzalez case, was mowed down in November of 1968 by a group of men in a car but survived with a slug in his heart. He vowed re-

venge and Gonzalez was believed to have been his first target.

Duarte, killed in the Red Road shootout, had only gained his release from the hospital Christmas Eve as a result of an attempt on his life two weeks ago.

Police said that Duarte leaped from a car at the busy intersection yesterday and began firing over the roof of the car behind. Chacon, riding in the second car, got out and fired a rifle in retaliation. Gustavo Battle, riding with Duarte, joined the fray, witnesses said,

The battle ended with the lead car crashing into a car not involved in the shootout. Duarte lay dead in the street.

Records showed he was jailed for illegally entering the country in 1957 but a request that he be sent back to Cuba for killing two policemen was refused. He later was charged with 30 other men of preparing to invade Cuba from a heavily armed yacht.