

09-01-2010 - Rio Cobre **Jamaica** – Vincent Bent – LEO – Suspect Chase

## **Corporal Vincent Bent**



### **Policeman Believed To Have Drowned In The Rio Cobre**

<http://www.jamaicanpolice.com/2010/09/policeman-believed-to-have-drowned-in-the-rio-cobre/>

September 2, 2010

A police Corporal from the Constant Spring Police Station in the Area 5 Division, is believed to have drowned in the Rio Cobre River early this morning. According to reports, the policeman was among a team of police who were chasing alleged gunmen in the Gordon Pen area of St. Catherine.

They were reportedly running along the western bank of a section of the Rio Cobre (which runs through Gordon Pen), when the river bank crumbled and two policemen fell into the water. One policeman was rescued by residents, however the other disappeared underwater before help could reach him.

A major search involving police personnel, members of the Jamaica Defence Force and civilians has since been launched to find the missing policeman, and also to capture the gunmen who are still at large.

### **Update On Missing Policeman**

<http://jamaica-gleaner.com/power/22256>

September 2, 2010

A policeman assigned to the Mobile Reserve is believed to have drowned while chasing gunmen in Gordon Pen St. Catherine this morning.

He's Corporal Vincent Bent.

The police say around 5.30 this morning Bent and some of his colleagues were chasing a group of gunmen who were reportedly involved in a robbery in the community, when the men ran onto the banks of the Rio Cobre.

Corporal Bent is said to have experienced difficulties and fell into the river and disappeared.

His body is yet to be recovered.

A colleague who tried to rescue him is now in hospital after he fell unconscious in a bid to save Corporal Bent.

Meanwhile, the police have since taken a number of persons into custody, including a man who they claim was a part of the group of gunmen.

They say they also seized two illegal guns from the nearby Monkey Town community where the chase had started.

## **Cop falls into Rio Cobre, drowns while chasing gunmen**

[http://www.jamaicaobserver.com/news/Cop-falls-into-Rio-Cobre-drowns-while-chasing-gunmen\\_7929326](http://www.jamaicaobserver.com/news/Cop-falls-into-Rio-Cobre-drowns-while-chasing-gunmen_7929326)

September 03, 2010 BY COREY ROBINSON Observer staff reporter

THE body of Corporal Vincent Bent was yesterday pulled from the Rio Cobre in the vicinity of the Gordon Pen community in St Catherine, hours after the policeman fell into the water while chasing a group of gunmen along the slippery bank.

Bent and another policeman, who along with several others had engaged the group of men in a gunfight, fell into the muddy Rio Cobre water as they attempted to apprehend the hoodlums. The incident happened at about 6:30 am.

Bent's colleague was saved by residents who responded to shouts for help from their frightened colleagues. After several hours of searching by his colleagues and residents of Gordon Pen, Bent's water-soaked body was found minutes after 6:00 pm, lodged beside thick vegetation along the river bank.



**Despondent policemen watch from one of the banks of the Rio Cobre as divers search for their colleague, Corporal Vincent Bent, who fell into the river while chasing gunmen. (Photo: Lionel Rookwood)**

Prior to the discovery of the policeman's body, Superintendent Wilford Gayle, one of the commanders of the police Area 5 in which Bent was stationed, said the unfortunate incident highlighted the challenges the police face in carrying out their duties.

"It's really sad; that officer (Bent) worked with us here for some time," he said. "It just goes to show you what the police face on the road daily, 'cause many people don't understand the challenges the police come up on," he continued.

According to the police, the incident began to unfold when a patrol team went to premises in a section of the community called 'Monkey Town' and was greeted with gunfire.

Unconfirmed reports are that two illegal firearms were taken from the premises in which the gunmen were hiding.

Yesterday, dozens of residents, members of the constabulary and the Jamaica Defence Force, searched on the ground, and from the air in a helicopter in an attempt to locate the missing policeman. Some hung their heads in grief as the hours passed by.

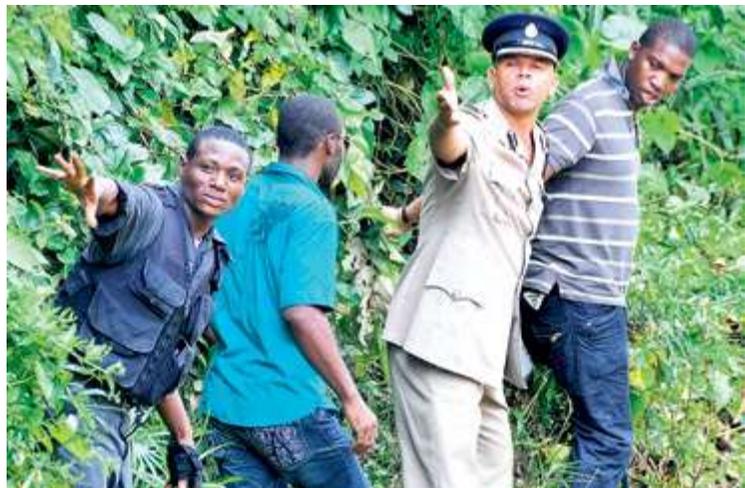


"Is the first I hear police bawling out for help so this morning. I mean, is them wake me up out of my bed," recounted one woman, who was among dozens of residents who braved the steep slippery river bank to peer into the murky waters.

"This part of the river is deep and, because of the heavy rainfall the other day, the river is running fast," interjected a male resident.

"If we lucky, him body probably float up further down the river," he continued, flashing his hand in the direction of the river flow.

There was an uproar of excitement from residents on the river bank when two divers combing the water thought they had found the missing policeman.



However, that excitement quickly turned into disbelief when they realised the divers had stumbled upon one of the alleged gunmen, who was hiding in bushes on the opposite riverbank.

For about 30 minutes, the divers fought with the suspected criminal, making use of strategies shouted at them by policemen standing helplessly on the opposite bank.

"Punch him inna him nose. Punch him and then you tie him up," one policeman shouted.

"Hold him down, don't let him escape," added another, instructing other officers on the scene to radio for support on the opposite bank.

The resisting fugitive was later handed over to the waiting policemen, who slapped him around briefly before taking him into custody at the Spanish Town Police Station.

Not even his capture could comfort the police, as grief etched on the faces of those who assisted in the search of their missing colleague.

## Cop's body recovered from river

<http://rjnewsonline.com/local/cops-body-recovered-from-river>

8:49 pm, Fri September 3, 2010



Owen Ellington, Commissioner of Police.

The body of the police Corporal who drowned while chasing criminals on the banks of the Rio Cobre in St. Catherine on Thursday has been found.

A statement from the Constabulary Communication Network says it was removed from the river Thursday evening by a team of divers.

The policeman has been identified as Corporal Vincent Bent of the Area 5 Headquarters.

Another cop who also fell into the river but was rescued by residents has been hospitalised in stable condition.

One of the gunmen who the police were chasing was found in bushes near the river.

A Taurus nine millimetre pistol with the serial number erased, along with 13 rounds of assorted ammunition was recovered during the operation.

### **Ellington regrets cop's death**

And Commissioner of Police, Owen Ellington has expressed sorrow at the death of Corporal Bent.

In a statement released Mr. Ellington said it is sad time for the Jamaica Constabulary Force and its auxiliaries especially given the circumstances under which Corporal Bent died.

He said the policeman displayed great courage and a willingness to perform beyond the call of duty.

The Police Commissioner praised Corporal Bent for his bravery and commitment to protecting his country.

He added that the actions of Corporal Bent and the rest of the team involved in Thursday's operation should be emulated by other members of the Force.

Mr. Ellington also wished a speedy recovery for the policeman who was injured.

## Police Federation and Security Minister react to Corporal Bent's death

<http://rjrnewsonline.com/local/police-federation-and-security-minister-react-to-corporal-bents-death>

1:17 am, Sat September 4, 2010



National Security Minister Senator Dwight Nelson.

The body representing the island's rank and file policemen and women says Thursday's incident in which a Corporal drowned while on the job underscores the challenges being faced by members in fighting crime.

The Police Federation Chairman, Sergeant Raymond Wilson notes that with the challenges, it is seeking the support of the public in assisting the police in carrying out their duties.

Sergeant Wilson while also expressing condolences to family and associates of Corporal Bent is wishing well for other cops injured in Thursday's incident.

And Minister of National Security, Dwight Nelson has reacted with sorrow to the unfortunate series of events which led to the death of Corporal Vincent Bent on Thursday.

Senator Nelson noted that Corporal Bent was actively executing his duties when tragedy struck in an unusual way.

He said the young policeman made the ultimate sacrifice in the pursuit of his mandate as a law enforcement officer and paid dearly with his life.

Senator Nelson said Jamaica should be grateful to have had a policeman with the mettle and dedication of Corporal Bent serving them.

The Minister also had high praise for Corporal Bent's colleague who also got into difficulty in the Rio Cobre but was rescued.

He said both policemen demonstrated great courage when they pursued criminals who had engaged them in a shoot-out and gave no thought for their lives.

Senator Nelson expressed hope that the surviving policeman will recover from the ordeal in the shortest possible time.

Corporal Bent who was among a police team chasing criminals on the banks of the Rio Cobre in St. Catherine fell in the water and drowned.

### **Bowen wants an apology**

<http://www.nationnews.com/nationnews/news/20428/bowen-apology>

08 September 2010

ST GEORGE'S, Grenada – Former deputy prime minister Gregory Bowen is calling for a public apology from the government after a United States Court of Appeal cleared him of any wrongdoing in a matter involving American investor Jack Grynberg over drilling rights in Grenada. Bowen is also calling on the Tillman Thomas administration to meet the legal bills associated with defending the allegation. (CMC) Police weapon found KINGSTON, Jamaica – Divers from Gordon Pen in St Catherine, where Police Corporal Vincent Bent fell into the Rio Cobre and drowned, have retrieved the cop's M-16 assault rifle from the river. "Yes we can confirm that divers from the area and police officers have retrieved the gun which was lodged at a section of the river bank," a Constabulary Communications Network spokesman said. Bent was part of a police team which was chasing gunmen along the banks of the river when the ground gave way beneath him and he fell in the river. He was washed away by the turbulent waters before he could be rescued. Bent's body was taken from the river hours later. Police also took into custody an alleged gunman who was removed from the water by residents who had gone to Bent's assistance. (Jamaica Observer - See more at: <http://www.nationnews.com/nationnews/news/20428/bowen-apology#sthash.HfdKV0OX.dpuf>