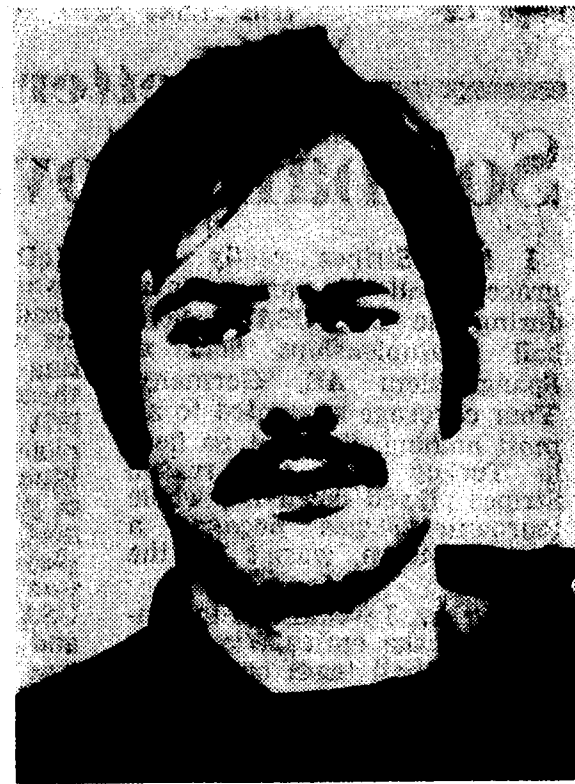




Ulrike Meinhof: the real leader? ^{AP}



Andreas Baader "liked to destroy." ^{AP}

West Germany's 'Bonnie and Clyde' Desperadoes

By **HOWARD A. TYNER**
 United Press International

THEY SEE themselves as "urban guerrillas." But police who have hunted West Germany's own Bonnie and Clyde gang for more than a year take another view.

"There hasn't been a bunch of desperadoes like this since the war," said Guenther Nollau, head of the Interior Ministry's Public Security Section in Bonn.

The "Baader-Meinhof group," as it has come to be known, is an anarchist gang, consisting primarily of former university students. Together they form a collective public enemy number one in West Germany today.

A rumor that one of the 35 or so members is in the area is enough to mobilize hundreds, sometimes thousands of tommy-gun-toting policemen who man roadblocks or conduct house-to-house checks.

AS DIEHARDS from the student disturbances which swept West Germany in 1968, the gang originally had political motives.

"Their line of reasoning was that only radical action could bring change in this society," one acquaintance explained.

But increasingly they have turned to auto and weapons thefts, burglaries and bank holdups. On a single day in September, 1970, police claim they robbed three West Berlin banks of 217,000 marks (\$60,000). Five months later police reported they foiled a gang plot to kidnap Chancellor Willy Brandt.

As the subject of almost constant manhunts, group members don't hesitate to shoot it out when authorities close in.

In July, Petra Schelm, 20, a hairdresser with ties to the gang, was shot dead in a gun battle with Hamburg police. In October, policeman Norbert Schmid, 33, was fatally shot on a Hamburg street, allegedly by a gang member.

Altogether 15 of the group are in jail. But the two alleged leaders — whom some West German newspapers have compared to the American gangster couple of the 1930s, Bonnie and Clyde — remain free.

FRIENDS SAY Andreas Baader, 28, is a charismatic one-time sociology student and convicted arsonist who "liked to destroy."

A former fellow student of Baader said: "He has a very convincing manner of speaking. But he always was a negative thinker. He could never approach a problem from the positive side. He always liked to destroy."

Baader's consort and in the view of many people the gang's real leader, is Ulrike Meinhof, a 37-year-old divorced mother and leftwing journalist.

Her former husband, Hamburg publisher Klaus Rainer Roehl, described her as a "gentle, extremely loving and tender, but very earnest" person. "She never laughed," he added.

The group dates back to the 1968 student riots, when both Baader and Meinhof were active. But while most leftwing leaders preached the "long march" against traditional capitalist society, the tiny group went violent.

In a tape recording that Meinhof gave a French journalist in 1970, she complained that leftwing intellectuals "have gone far enough in their theory to know armed action is necessary for the revolution, but they are afraid to take the step."

She wasn't afraid. Sometime early in 1970 the group formed what they called the "Red Army Faction" whose purpose was, as a gang pamphlet said, "to awaken the revolutionary awareness of the masses" with its daring acts.

Police have attributed a number of bombings to the gang, including an attack on the America House in West Berlin. The desperadoes also freed Baader from a prison escort in West Berlin, where he was serving time on an arson conviction.

IN THE SUMMER of 1970, Baader, Meinhof and two fellow gang members managed to slip out of Germany and go to Jordan and Syria to "study" Arab guerrilla tactics.

"They admired Al Fatah, especially, and also the Tupamaros. They were convinced an urban guerrilla movement could be set up here, too," said one journalist who knows the gang.

But the group apparently has lost the support of the left in West Germany. "They want to destroy everything. No one supports that," said Juergen Laubscher, a leftwing lawyer in Heidelberg.

The journalist acquainted with some gang members put it another way: "They are now the handmaidens of the reactionaries. They give them every argument to say leftists are criminals — they take drugs, they kill cops and what they want to do is take away your house and refrigerator."

Still, group members usually have been able to evade police, mostly by traveling in two's and three's, staying only one night in a place, usually with students. "I don't agree with what they are doing," a bearded Heidelberg university student said, "but they oppose the establishment and for that I might put them up for a night."

Student Radicals Regroup

By **PETER REHAK**, Associated Press

A POLITICAL struggle is shaping up in West German universities between a Marxist student organization and more conventional student associations.

The new group, called the Spartacus Marxist Students Union, has close ties to the Communist Party. It has moved into a vacuum left by disintegration of the Socialist German Students Union or SDS.

Unlike SDS, which operated outside existing university institutions, Spartacus has set out to infiltrate them. It is named after a 1917 revolutionary organization set up by Communist leaders Karl Liebknecht and Rosa Luxemburg.

THE GROUP was founded last May. With less than 1,500 members, it has gained control of student councils at leading universities largely because of good organization and discipline.

It is facing its first challenge at Bonn University which called a convention to amend its laws governing student groups.

Spartacus disrupted two attempts to hold the public meeting. The university administration has decided to hold the session behind closed doors, if necessary under police protection.

The Christian Democratic Student Association complained of "methods which the Nazis used to come to power in 1933."

The old SDS lost support when students tired of street and campus violence. The violence reached its climax in 1968 following an attempt to kill its most prominent leader, Rudi Dutschke, in West Berlin. Leftist students across

West Germany vented their anger by throwing rocks and setting fire to trucks and buildings belonging to the Springer newspaper chain, which they blamed for inspiring the assassination attempt.

One extremist group, calling itself "Red Army Faction," remains underground. It is known to police as the Baader-Meinhof gang and has turned to criminal acts such as bank holdups.

SPARTACUS has built up support among Marxist students willing to support the newly constituted Communist party, formed in 1968. It was permitted to function legally after it gave up as an aim the violent overthrow of the government.

By May, Spartacus rounded up enough support to become a national organization. Its disciplined cadres stick closely to the line of the Communist Party, which in turn takes its impulses from Moscow and East Berlin.

Chancellor Willy Brandt's government has not shown any official concern. Officials regard Spartacus and the Communist party alike. They say it makes no sense to ban Communists since they would only go underground, so far the party has failed to attract any significant voter support.

The Christian Democratic opposition does not share this view. Juergen Echternach, leader of its youth organization, contends Spartacus is more dangerous than the rock-throwing, fire-setting students of 1968.



New political struggle is shaping up since 1968 student-police encounters. ^{UPI}