3 Soldiers Killed

HEIDELBERG, Germany (UPI) — Two time bombs, so powerful they blew a door-like hole in a building 150 feet away, exploded in parking areas at the U.S. Army's European headquarters Wednesday, killing an officer and two enlisted men.

Five other persons—all American servicemen or wives—were injured, none seriously.

Security at the military base already was stepped up following a wave of bombings throughout West Germany involving police stations, private cars and another U.S. Army installation in Frankfurt. An Army colonel died in that explosion.

A West German police spokesman said the bombs Wednesday apparently had been left in civilian automobiles parked inside the sprawling headquarters compound.

The police spokesman said authorities were seeking six cars seen in the area around the time that the bombs went off at 6:10 p.m. but he said there were no other clues as to who had planted the time bombs.

Police have blamed a leftwing group calling itself the "Red Army Faction" for the previous bombings and also for a series of bomb threats in the past two weeks.

The first thing Sgt. Bill Erwin thought of when he heard the window-shaking "whump" was a sonic boom—and a strong one.

"I waited for a jet to come over, but none came," the 25-year-old Shreveport, La., native said. "Then I heard another boom. We saw smoke through the window and suddenly I knew they were bombs."

An Army spokesman said the two explosions Wednesday came within 10 or 15 seconds of one another. One, in the northwest corner of the compound, killed the three soldiers, damaged the building and destroyed several cars.

The second went off in the main parking area, several hundred feet from a building containing eating and a recreational facilities, including a movie house which was scheduled to show the evening's feature film 20 minutes later.

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