Anarchist Leaders Seized in Frankfurt

By DAVID BINDER Special to The New York Times

BONN, June 1—The state and federal police captured two ringleaders of a West German anarchist band in Frankfurt early today who are believed to have been responsible for a wave of bombings that killed four American soldiers and injured 30 persons last month.

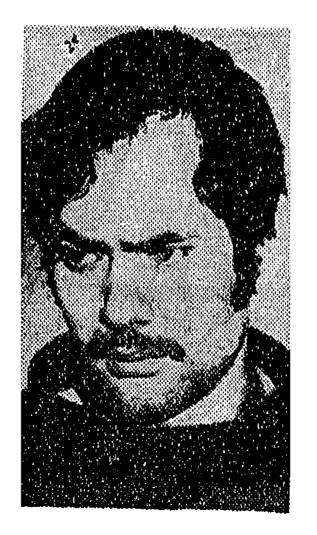
The two were identified by the authorities as Andreas Baader, 29 years old, and Holger Meins, 30. Two other suspects were seized but not immediately identified and one was later released. The group is popularly known as the Baader-Meinhof gang.

Baader and Meins had been sought in a countrywide dragnet along with 17 other alleged gang members, including a former journalist, Miss Ulrike Meinhof, 37, in connection with a series of terrorist actions dating from 1963.

The Baader-Meinhof group had declared its participation in these bombings and other terrorist acts as members of an assemblage of leftist-anarchists the Red Army Faction. This group preaches terror against "imperialism" as a means of achieving "revolution."

Group Clashed with Police

They are believed in police circles here to have international connections to like-minded groups in Italy, Japan and France. Baader and Miss Meinhot and others reportedly received weapons training in the Middle East from Palestinan guerrillas during the summer of 1970 after Baader was freed from jail in Berlin by masked gunmen. He had been sentenced for setting fire Frankfurt department to a store in 1968. Last year the group turned for a time to bank robbery, operating with fast cas, and



Andreas Baader, sought by German police as ringleader of gang believed responsible for six bombings in two weeks, was captured in Frankfurt,

armed with automatic rifles, and amassing hundreds of thousands of marks. Then came a series of clashes with the police that left at least three gang members and three patrolmen dead.

The well-appointed threestory apartment house in north Frankfurt where today's action took place had evidently been under police observation for some time.

Shortly after 5 A.M. a spe-

When there was no response, tear-gas grenades were fired into the building from an armored car in the courtyard. The suspects began firing with pistols and automatic rifles. Some of the bullets were later found to have been filed down to dumdums. The police fired a few rounds in return. When the armored car started to ram the closed garage door the man identified as Holger Meins came out. He was stripped to his undershorts and led away.

Then out came Andreas Baader, shooting wildly with a .45-caliber pistol.

Baader was hit in the right hip by a police bullet and he cried out twice.

From a stretcher he called the police "pigs, pigs." With huge sideburns and bleached hair, he was scarcely identifiable from the police photo that showed him with short dark hair.

The two were later identified by fingerprints. Like other members of the gang under arrest, they refused to answer interrogators.

A red Porsche Targa outside the apartment was found to contain hand grenades and a large homemade bomb, police officials reported later.

Other Cars Are Sought

West German authorities who are overseeing the dragnet disclosed the license numbers of five other cars being sought and warned that they might contain bombs. A bomb went off in a West Berlin apartment this afternoon and was also attributed to the terrorists. A bomb threat in Frankfurt this evening, reportedly by a cell of the Red Army Faction, caused the police to strengthen patrols, close theaters and warn people to avoid the downtown area.

cial squad of Frankfurt, Hessian state and federal police cordoned off the corner building and called on the suspects to leave their hideout, a garage on the property. "Come out, your means are limited but ours are unlimited." called an officer through a bullhorn, as recorded by West German television.

The New York Times

Published: June 2, 1972 Copyright © The New York Times