

West Germany Has Its 'Bonnie, Clyde'

BONN, Germany (AP) — Her anarchist gang smashed, Ulrike Meinhof now awaits a trial expected to shed light on a life that began in a family of clergymen and intellectuals and went on to frustrated revolution and charges of crime and terror.

The slender 37-year-old former journalist and mother of twin girls is in prison in nearby Cologne.

Police who arrested her June 15 after a violent struggle accuse the divorcee of helping lead a gang that tried to terrorize West Germans and overthrow the state.

Police say she provided the political theory for leftist urban guerrillas who escalated their violence last month in a bombing rampage that left four U.S. servicemen dead and at least 36 Americans and Germans injured.

The gang also has been linked to bank robberies netting at least \$67,000, shootouts that killed two policemen, car thefts and even a plot to kidnap Chancellor Willy Brandt.

Miss Meinhof's arrest in Hannover came two weeks after accused coleader Andreas Baader was seized in a shootout with Frankfurt police. Capturing the Bonnie and Clyde-type duo raised hopes in Bonn that the back of the gang was now broken.

Although dubbed the Bonnie and Clyde of West Germany, there has been no evidence of any romantic link between Baader and Miss Meinhof.

Another suspected gang leader arrested this month, former movie actress Gudrun Ensslin, 31, has been identified as Baader's girl friend.

Federal prosecutors are now preparing their case, and the material they are sifting through is expected to provide details of the guerrilla woman's life.

The dark-blond woman was born Oct. 7, 1934, into a North German middle-class family many of whose forebears were Protestant clergymen. Her father, an art historian, died when she was 5. Her mother died when she was 10.

Ulrike Meinhof was raised by Renate Riemeck, a woman history professor.

At the age of 25, at a 1959 student ban the bomb congress, Miss Meinhof met Klaus Rainer Roehl, editor of a left-wing magazine. They married two years later.

She became assistant chief editor of his magazine and wrote revolutionary manifestoes.

She soon became one of this country's best known woman journalists and television script writers.

While urging revolution, Miss Meinhof gave parties attended by prominent literary figures at her comfortable, upper middleclass villa in Hamburg.

She and her husband are said to have disagreed over magazine editorial policy and later separated.

Baader went on trial in Frankfurt for arson in 1968, and in her last column for the magazine Miss Meinhof

sought to justify Baader's action as a protest against the Vietnam war.

Baader was convicted, released pending appeal and rearrested after going underground when the appeal failed.

At this point, police say, Ulrike Meinhof engineered the daring 1970 escape of Baader from a West Berlin library his prison warders had let him use.

During the escape, shots were fired and a Justice Department employe was wounded. Baader and Miss Meinhof disappeared.

Then followed months of bank robberies and thefts from police and city government offices all considered the work of urban guerrillas which by this time became known as the Baader-Meinhof-gang.

Details from her trial could show what effect, if any, she has had on this basically conservative nation.