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DAILY NEWS

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NATO SECRETS SOLD TO SOVIET FOR A DECADE, OFFICIALS SAY

Conrad served 20 years

By NORMAN BLACK
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The former soldier arrested in West Germany on suspicion of espionage was a sergeant first class from Sebring, Ohio, who retired from the Army in 1985, service records show.

Clyde L. Conrad, born August 1947, enlisted in the Army on Aug. 9, 1965, and served 20 years of active duty.

The Army released a bare service record for Conrad late yesterday without confirming he was the man arrested in West Germany for allegedly leading an international spy ring that funneled U.S. and NATO secrets to the East bloc.

West German authorities identified the man arrested as a former U.S. soldier named Clyde Lee Conrad.

Army officials said yesterday Conrad retired with an honorable discharge in September 1985 while serving with the 8th Infantry Division in West Germany.

After enlisting in the Army and undergoing basic training, Conrad served in Vietnam from March 1966 to March 1967. He then went to West Germany, serving with an unspecified unit there from May 1967 to May 1970 and again from June 1971 to June 1974.

From November 1974 until August 1979, Conrad was assigned to the 8th Infantry Division's headquarters company in Bad Kreuznach.

Back home in '79
In September 1979, Conrad transferred to the 3d Battalion of the 17th Infantry at Fort Ord, Calif., where he remained until March 1980.

Conrad then was sent by the Army to the Defense Language Institute in Monterey, Calif., where he completed a course in basic German.

After school, he returned to 8th Infantry Division's headquarters and remained until his retirement.

Ex-G.I. accused as spy-ring head

By KEVIN COSTELLO
The Associated Press

FRANKFURT, West Germany — A former U.S. Army sergeant arrested in West Germany headed an international spy ring, officials said yesterday.

They said the ring sold NATO defense secrets to the Soviets at high prices for 10 years.

"We can't exclude the possibility that millions of dollars are involved," said Alexander Prechtel, spokesman for the chief federal prosecutor's office.

A second American soldier who was not identified received a "five-figure sum" of money for supplying the ring with military secrets, said Chief Federal Prosecutor Kurt Rebmann.

Prechtel said two Hungarian-born brothers, arrested Tuesday in Sweden with cipher keys, coded messages and radios, were a part of the ring.

It was too early to know how much damage was caused to the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, Prechtel said.

But the ring is believed to have stolen documents concerning NATO defense plans for Europe and U.S. Army contingency plans for a ground war with the Soviet Union in Europe.

'Especially grave'

Clyde Lee Conrad, the former sergeant, was arrested Tuesday. A statement from the prosecutor's office said he was charged with "compelling suspicion of espionage activities in an especially grave case."

Conrad was born in 1947 in Ohio and worked for the U.S.

military for 20 years, Prechtel said.

The spokesman said Conrad worked with classified military defense plans for seven years at a U.S. Army base in Bad Kreuznach in central West Germany and had access to secret documents.

Conrad allegedly continued espionage work after he left the service in 1983, Prechtel said.

Rebmann said Conrad had turned over the most recent batch of information to his Soviet bloc contact in Vienna

just last month.

In Washington, the State Department acknowledged West Germany had made an arrest but refused further comment.

Prechtel said the West German-based spy ring started in the late 1970s and used couriers from Sweden.

In Goteborg, Sweden, authorities said the two Hungarian-born brothers they detained had confessed to working for the Hungarian secret service.

The two men were physicians who immigrated to

Sweden in the 1960s, authorities said. Their names were not released.

Sven-Olof Hakansson, chief prosecutor of the Goteborg district, said the two had traveled several times to West Germany and had been under surveillance for several years.

He said the wives of both men were detained for questioning. One has been released.

The U.S. Army has about 250,000 military personnel in West Germany at more than 200 installations.

Just, er, kidding around



PICKING the right pocket? Dobbin catches youngster by surprise but isn't likely to get rich this way. Kids got to meet animal in vacant lot on

179th St., Bronx, as day-care center held Lots for Tots program. This lot will be converted to a playground before long. **ANTHONY GARELLA** DAILY NEWS

Bats driving them, er . . . batty

By DON FLYNN
Daily News Staff Writer

Steve and Lorraine Disburger are going batty. They would have bats in their belfry if they had a belfry. As it is, they have them in their house.

The New London, N.Y., couple has been driven from the two-story frame home where they had lived 15 years by thousands of brown bats.

"My bats . . . my friendly little bats," Lorraine sighed yesterday as she waited for state Health Department zoologist Steve Frantz to "assess the situation."

Lorraine, 42, and her husband,

Steve, 48, both state employees, fled their home July 15 when the bats spread from the unfinished second bedroom into the house itself.

Flew into kitchen

"One was flying around in the kitchen at 2:30 in the afternoon," Lorraine said yesterday.

"I'll never forget the night we left," Lorraine said. "I couldn't sleep. I was too scared. You could hear them. It was like the house was breathing."

"We had the lights on bright. The bats were right in the next room."

It. We went outside and slept the rest of the night in our camper. The next morning, I begged my mother-in-law to take us in."

The bats have been around five or six years since they nested under a peaked roof behind a wall in a second, uncompleted, bedroom. They came and went. "We didn't know they migrated," she said. "Every spring, they came back."

Returned in spring

Every spring there were more. This year, there were thousands.

They look like about the size of a

"But when flying—their wingspan is 6 or 8 inches—they look huge."

The Disburgers plugged up holes in the house. "We used smoke bombs, mothballs, ultrasound—this little box you plug in and it's supposed to drive the bats crazy," said Lorraine. "It didn't do nothing."

The Disburgers have been told it would cost \$4,000 to get rid of the bats and put on a new roof. They can't kill them themselves because at least one species, the Indiana brown bat, is protected.

"I just want my house back," said