

Rap Brown Wounded Here In Shootout After Holdup

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By JAMES F. CLARITY

H. Rap Brown, the fugitive black militant leader, and two policemen were shot early yesterday morning in a gun battle following a robbery at a West Side bar.

The Police Department said Brown was in critical condition in Roosevelt Hospital. The police said he was shot twice in the stomach during the battle on 85th Street between Columbus and Amsterdam Avenues.

They said Brown, who had been missing for 17 months, was being held as a suspect in the robbery. Brown was on the Federal Bureau of Investigation's "most-wanted" list.

One of the wounded patrolmen, Gary Hunt, was also shot in the stomach and was in critical condition at Roosevelt. There was no immediate indication which of the five robbery suspects, had shot the patrolman.

Also wounded was Patrolman Salvatore Rosato. He suffered a bullet wound in a hand as he chased and shot at the suspects. He said he did not know whether his shots had hit any of them.

Three of the five suspects were taken to the West 68th Street station. The fifth escaped. Except for Mr. Brown, the suspects were not identified. Nor was Mr. Brown's alleged role in the robbery explained in detail.

Brown, former head of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee, has been a fugitive since April, 1970, when he failed to obey an order to appear in court in Ellicott City, Md., to stand trial on charges

of inciting to riot and arson in Cambridge, Md., in 1967.

He was added to the F.B.I.' "most wanted" list shortly after his failure to appear. Brown had last been seen in public in March, 1970, in the Washington, D.C., area.

According to the police, the gun battle here took place at 3 A.M. after the robbery at the Red Carpet bar, 174 West 85th Street.

The police said that so many shots had been fired during the battle that they could not esti-



H. Rap Brown

mate the number, but that bullets had hit parked cars and ricocheted off buildings. An estimated total of 50 policemen were at the scene of the shooting.

Police Commissioner Patrick V. Murphy visited the hospital while the patrolman and Brown were being treated, but made no comment on the shooting.

William M. Kunstler, counsel for the militant on the charge of inciting to rioting and arson in Maryland, sent the following

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Rap Brown and 2 Policemen

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telegrams yesterday to Commissioner Murphy:

"I understand that your department may have my client, H. Rap Brown in custody. If so, demand to know his location and insist that he not be interrogated by any person or agency unless his counsel is present."

A copy was sent to the office of District Attorney Frank S. Hogan.

Mr. Kunstler said he was not yet certain Brown was one of those involved in the shootout. For the time being, he said, he preferred to say no more about the case.

In the past he has said that, despite rumors that Brown might have been killed when an auto exploded in Bel Air, Md., he thought Brown was alive. This, he said, was not based on personal knowledge, but on "Vibrations."

He declared he had not heard from his client since his disappearance and had not talked to anyone who had seen Brown.

The arrest of Brown recalled the arrest of another black militant fugitive who was taken into custody on charges stemming from a "street crime," as opposed to an overtly political act.

On June 5, Richard Moore, the 27-year-old Black Panther who was being sought for jumping bail in the Panther conspiracy trial and who was widely believed to be in Algeria, was apprehended with three other men holding up an all-black social club in the Bronx.

The four pleaded guilty to the crime, which caused them to come under criticism in the black community for preying on their own people. Moore defended it as "a political act."

The police gave the following account of yesterday's events:

Two men about to enter the Red Carpet shortly before 3 A.M. saw that a robbery was apparently taking place and called the police. Inside the bar, its co-owner, Willy Harley, and about 50 patrons were forced at gunpoint to lie on the floor while their valuables were taken. Persons who had been in a dice game outside the bar had also been forced inside and robbed.

As the suspects were leaving the bar, Patrolmen Hunt and Rosato arrived in a patrol car. Patrolman Hume was shot in the abdomen, apparently with a sawed-off shotgun. Patrolman Rosato was shot in the hand as he chased the suspects along 85th Street.

"I chased them down 85th Street," Patrolman Rosato said. "I fired at one . . . don't know if I hit him . . . fired three more shots and then chased three men into a building."

The suspects ran east toward Columbus Avenue, but their escape was blocked by more patrol cars. Four of the suspects then ran into 102 West 85th Street, a 12-story apartment building. Policemen followed them into the building, shooting at them up stairways.

Three of the men were captured on a stairway. A fourth was found on the roof of the building, wounded in the stom-

ach. He was apparently shot, the police said, by Patrolman Ralph Minetta, who suffered a sprained wrist during the chase. The police said that, in addition to the shotgun, several hand guns had been taken from the suspects. None of the patrons of the Red Carpet was believed to have been injured.

Hurt in Shootout Here