

The Man Who Rented Bank Boxes

By Marshall Schwartz

Christopher Charles Mohr, the man—or men—who rented the safety deposit boxes here in New York and in Chicago where bombs were found yesterday—has been the subject of an FBI search for several months.

Dan Madori, the former manager of the apartment house at 560 West Arlington place in Chicago, which "Mohr" gave as an address in renting several of the boxes, said he had been questioned by FBI agents as long as six months ago.

"Mohr" rented an apartment in the three story, 60-year old building in a middle-class neighborhood in December of 1970, moved some furniture in, but then left within a few days.

"He was a well mannered, clean-cut, Ivy League type who said he was a physicist from Boston," Madori said.

'IDEAL'

"He seemed like a really nice guy," the former manager said. "He was an ideal tenant, he was employed by a large firm, he had ideal references."

The day after he signed the lease, "Mohr" introduced another man—both were about 22 years old, Madori said—to the manager as his "part-time roommate."

The "roommate," whom Madori refused to identify further, was supposedly a student at Southern Illinois University in Carbondale.

But soon after, "Mohr" told Madori that he had "lost his job and was moving back to Boston."

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apparently busy renting safety deposit boxes. The three boxes here — at financial district offices of the Wells Fargo Bank, Crocker Bank, and Bank of America — were all rented in January 1971, police said at a press conference yesterday.

In all cases, he used the 560 West Arlington place address, police Lieutenant Clement de Amicis said. The names varied slightly, however.

At the Wells Fargo Bank, Christopher Mohr paid \$9 for a year's rental on box No. 3114. At the Crocker Bank, Christopher Charles Mohr paid \$10 for box No. 2511. And at the Bank of America, Charles Mohr paid \$7 for box No. 1508.

Bombs were found in the first two boxes, but the Bank of America bomb had gone off prematurely, at 12:45 a.m. on September 7.

The explosion — in which the doors were blown off four neighboring boxes — was kept secret at the request of the FBI.

That incident focused more police attention on "Mohr." The motive was a mystery until yesterday.

"Mohr" apparently made his last visit to the Bank of America box last July 16. The same day, "Christopher C. Mohr" made his final visit to one of the Chicago boxes.

Because Chicago is two hours ahead of San Francisco, and because banks here remained open until 6 p.m. on July 16 — since it was a Friday — it is possible that one person could have appeared at both banks that day.

BOUNCED

Madori didn't think much of the incident until the two checks "Mohr" had given him for his rent bounced. He tried to trace "Mohr" through a collection agency, but was unsuccessful.

He did discover, however, that the roommate was not a Southern Illinois student, but formerly had attended the Chicago Circle campus of the University of Illinois.

Some mail "from banks" came for Mohr after he left, Madori said, but "we had no idea who Mohr was, so we generally just threw it out."

Roy K. Moore of the FBI in Chicago said agents there were investigating the possibility that the bombs might be connected with a Students for a Democratic Society convention there in December 1970.

The Chicago boxes were rented that month, while the ones here and in New York were obtained in January.

DEALINGS

"Mohr" apparently had no other dealings with the three banks here. Crocker Bank and Bank of America said

INCOMPLETE