

How They Traced Bank Bomb Suspect

By George Draper

The elderly mother of Ronald Kaufman, the suspected bomber with the Ph.D., said yesterday the charges against her son are false.

"I know he wouldn't do such things," said Sonia Kaufman, 70, her voice quivering with emotion.

Mrs. Kaufman, a widow from Milwaukee, was reached by telephone at Turlock in the San Joaquin valley, where she is visiting relatives.

She said she last saw her son in August, presumably just before he enlisted in the army under the name of James Edward Jensen.

At that time, nine of the bombs the FBI says he planted in banks in New York, Chicago and San Francisco were merrily ticking away.

"I don't believe he'd do it, it's completely shocking," Mrs. Kaufman said. "He is a good man, a gentle person, a smart person."

IMMIGRANT

Mrs. Kaufman, an immigrant who speaks with a slight trace of a Russian accent, said she was weary of being questioned about the whereabouts of her son.

She has been interviewed by the FBI, she told a Chronicle reporter, and added:

"I've already had one coronary and if you people don't leave me alone I might have another."

Mrs. Kaufman said she had just been released from a hospital last August when she saw her son, who holds a doctorate in psychology from Stanford University.

"He looked fine," she said. "We talked about things in general."

Mrs. Kaufman said he gave no indication that he contemplated any revolutionary activities.



UPI Telephoto

Ronald Kaufman (left) was a constant companion of Abbie Hoffman during the Democratic convention in Chicago in 1968.



UPI Telephoto

**RONALD KAUFMAN
Mother doesn't believe it**

LETTER

Mrs. Kaufman was asked about the handprinted warning letter sent to newsmen giving the location of the nine 217-day time bombs.

The letter warned that in the future more sophisticated time bombs would be placed in sensitive areas as a bargaining force for the release of so-called political prisoners.

"He would never write

such things," Mrs. Kaufman said of her son.

Meanwhile, it was learned that Kaufman, 33, passed

himself off as an eager 25-year-old when he re-enlisted in the army last August.

Kaufman was born on February 5, 1938 in Milwaukee.

RECORDS

But, according to army records, when he donned a soldier's suit at St. Louis in August he said he was born on May 20, 1946 at Kentfield, in Marin county.

The bright young recruit gave his name as James Edward Jensen and signed up for a three year hitch.

Private Jensen, the army said, was shipped off to Fort Leonard Wood, Mo., for an eight-week stint of basic training.

ROLE

Interestingly, he had taken basic training there once before — in 1956 under his real name of Ronald Kaufman.

During his earlier military duty, Kaufman was discharged as an anti-aircraft

missile fire controlman with the rank of Specialist 4.

In his new military role as Private Jensen, Kaufman completed his basic training and then took advanced individual infantry training at Fort Polk, La.

A public information officer at Fort Polk referred all questions about Private Jensen's brief tour of duty there to the FBI in New Orleans.

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He left there on leave on December 16 with orders to report by noon of January 9, 1972 at Fort Jackson, S.C., for shipment to Germany.

The FBI said Private Jensen never turned up at Fort Jackson.

BANKS

Two days earlier, bombs allegedly planted by Kaufman were found in banks in New York, Chicago and San Francisco.

Fingerprints and handwriting on safe deposit box slips and a print on the interior of one electric clock linked the bombs to Kaufman.

The link was not immediately established, however.

Kaufman had rented the safe deposit boxes in January, 1971 under the name of Christopher C. Mohr.

He had given a Chicago address of 560 Arlington place.

The fingerprints picked up at the bomb sites were single prints — not enough to make an identification of an unknown person.

The break, according to a copyright story in Chicago Today, came when agents found a post office change of address form.

ADDRESS

It was signed Charles C. Mohn and switched his address from Arlington place in Chicago to an apartment in San Francisco.

(The FBI in San Francisco refused to confirm or deny this story.)

Agents went to the apartment and discovered that a Ronald Kaufman had lived there once but never a Charles C. Mohr.

Residents of the San Francisco apartment, according to the Chicago Today story, recognized a photograph of "Mohr" taken by a bank surveillance camera.

Agents then knew they were looking for a man named Kaufman instead of Mohr. Kaufman's fingerprints, taken when he entered the army in 1956, matched the single prints found at the various banks.