

# Ruby Eulogized

## as an Avenger

Part I—SAT., JAN. 7, 1967

### Ruby Called 'Avenger' at Rites in Chicago

'A Misguided Patriot,' Rabbi Says as Family, Newsmen Witness Burial

CHICAGO (AP)—Jack Ruby, termed "an avenger—misguided patriot," was buried Friday with only his family present at graveside and with newsmen and a few of the curious looking on. All but the family—his three brothers and four sisters—were excluded

from the services conducted by Rabbi David Graubert and Cantor Pavel Slavensky in a Northwest Side funeral chapel. "On the surface Ruby was an avenger," Rabbi Graubert said. "He was an avenger of blood who pursued the manslayer while the blood was hot. He was a misguided avenger, a misguided patriot."

Newsmen, photographers and the public were barred from services in the chapel and at the cemetery. But a crowd of curiosity seekers—about 30 women, 15 men and a few children—gaped at the graveside rites from outside a wire fence. They were joined by some 40 newsmen and television cameramen.

"There goes Ruby," murmured one young woman as she watched the casket being lowered while she held in her arms an infant nursing from a bottle. The temperature was 34 degrees.

Ruby, who started life in Chicago's Maxwell St. slum area 55 years ago, shot Lee Harvey Oswald Nov. 24, 1963, in the basement of the Dallas police station two days after the assassin's bullet felled President John F. Kennedy. Oswald was named by the Warren Commission as the President's slayer.

Ruby was convicted of murdering Oswald but the conviction was reversed by the Texas Supreme Court. He was awaiting another trial on the charge when it was discovered that he was suffering from cancer. He died Tuesday in Dallas.

About 30 mourners were in the funeral party. Six policemen stood guard near the canopied grave and others were stationed at the cemetery entrance. Graveside services were brief.

Ruby's casket was covered with an American flag which was removed

before the coffin was lowered into the grave. All the mourners by then had gone except for one man who stood silently as cemetery workmen filled the grave.

**Use of Flag**  
Funeral directors said permission to use the American flag on Ruby's coffin was granted by the Veterans' Administration. Ruby served 33 months in the Army Air Corps during World War II. The flag was given to his sister, Mrs. Eva Grant, after the services.

Rabbi Graubert, presiding rabbi of Beth Din of the Chicago Rabbinical Assembly, read the graveside service.

The grave is next to those of Ruby's parents. "Jack Ruby was a misguided avenger," Rabbi Graubert said in the eulogy. "A misguided patriot. He loved the martyred President. But he made it his personal duty to avenge his death. We do not condone his act, but we dare not sit in judgment. That is God's business."

Rabbi Graubert said Ruby was "a man who knew affliction, suffering and sorrow from his childhood. He was not a man of evil. He was a man of kindness to his loved ones. We pray for Jack, son of Joseph and Fanny Rubenstein."