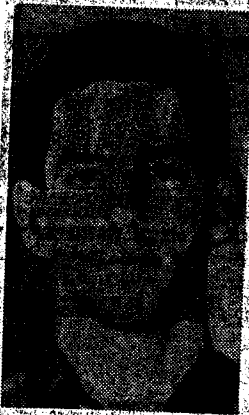


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Klan Girl Dies In Police Trap



Albert Tarrants III

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**Klanswoman
Dies in Miss.
Police Trap**

MERIDIAN, Miss., June 30 — Police began a trap on suspected members trying to bomb the home of a prominent Jewish businessman early today and in the process killed a young woman, the Klanswoman partner.

Also shot and in critical condition were an officer and a neighbor who stepped out on his porch to see what was happening.

Thomas Albert Tarrants III, 27, was hit at least 20 times by rifle and shotgun fire as he emptied a .45 caliber Thompson submachine gun at police.

His companion, Mrs. Ralph (Cathy) Ainsworth, 28, was struck in the head, loaded 25 caliber pistol and membership cards in the Klan and the Americans for Preservation of the White Race were found in her purse.

Police Chief Roy Gunn identified Tarrants, fugitive from two armed robbery charges, as a prime suspect in at least a dozen bombings, burnings and shootings that have occurred in the Meridian and Jackson areas in the past eight months. The bombings included two synagogues — one in Jackson and another in Meridian — and a rabbi's home in Jackson.

The capture of Tarrants represented the first break officers have had in a lengthy Federal, State and local investigation of the violence. Chief Gunn said other arrests are expected.

Found in Tarrants' pockets, the Chief said, was a notebook which said

"Gentlemen:
"I have committed myself totally to defeating the Communist-Jew conspiracy which threatens our country — any means necessary shall be used. Please be advised that since 23

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March, 1968, I, Thomas Albert Tarrants III, have been underground and operating guerrilla warfare. I have always believed in military action against the Communist enemy."

The statement added that the Federal Government had framed him and planned to send him to prison on a charge of violating Federal firearms laws. It said he was following the example of Robert de Pugh, "a great patriot," the head of the Minutemen, who for months has been fugitive from a bank robbery charge in Seattle, Wash.

Last December Tarrants, accompanied by Sam H. Bowers Jr., Imperial Wizard of the White Knights of the Ku Klux Klan, was arrested in Collins, Miss., in a stolen car. On the seat of the car officers found an M3 submachine gun.

Bowers, one of seven Klansmen, convicted in a Meridian Federal court last year of a civil rights conspiracy in the 1963 lynching of three civil rights workers in Neshoba County, is free on an appeal bond. His Klan group has been linked by the FBI to numerous acts of racial violence, including at least eight murders.

Tarrants, originally of Mobile, Ala., formerly worked at a factory in Laurel, Miss., where Bowers recruited a number of his White Knights.

Mrs. Ainsworth, wife of a manager of health clubs, was a teacher in a private school set up by a White Citizens Council in the face of Federal pressure for public school desegregation. (Associated Press said she was a fifth grade teacher in the Jackson public school system.)

Chief Gunn said policemen had been staked out at the home of Meyer Davidson since his car window was shot out several nights ago. Davidson, president of Southern Pipe and Supply Co., has been active in helping rebuild bombed Negro churches and homes. The homes of several other prominent Meridian

Jews also have been under guard.

The Chief gave this account of the shootout today.

Fifteen officers wearing black polo shirts were staked out around Davidson's home. About 1 a.m. they observed a car stopped on a shaded lane some 50 feet from the house and saw a man get out and walk with a box toward the carport.

The man was ordered to halt. But he dropped the box — later found to contain 29 sticks of dynamite wired to a clock — and ran. He pulled a pistol. The man fled to his car and policemen began shooting.

Tires screeching, the auto sped away with officers in pursuit.

Officers J. M. Hatcher and Patrolman T. E. Tucker led the chase. After 15 blocks the two officers rammed their patrol car into the rear of the fleeing auto, knocking it into the yard of a Negro residence.

The man turned in his seat and began firing a German-made 9mm submachine gun.

Hatcher, fell, his chest pierced four times.

The fugitive darted from one yard to another, firing at officers who converged on the scene. A Navy petty officer, Robert E. Burton, stepped out of his door and caught a stray slug.

Then it was over. The shooting stopped. Officers found Tarrants lying in a pool of blood. He was in critical condition, with his right arm almost shot away. Mrs. Ainsworth was found dead on the floorboards of the rammed auto.

Burton was listed in critical condition in a hospital.

Hatcher was in undetermined condition and the Chief said, "One bullet is in his heart."

The car Tarrants was driving, the Chief said, was registered to Joe Daniel Hawkins of Jackson, who is charged in a 1967 bombing of a Jackson real estate firm. Gunn said the car had been observed cruising past the Davidson home on several previous occasions.

A warrant charging Tarrants with attempted murder of Officer Hatcher was issued this afternoon by Lauderdale County Judge J. Emerson Harwell, who dispatched Sheriff Alton Allen to the hospital to serve the document on the wounded man.

"For his safety," the Judge told the sheriff, "I don't want anybody else permitted in that hospital room, with the exception of his wife or child, if any, hospital personnel and lawyer. You may post guards around the clock."