

4 INDICTMENTS FACE TARRANTS

Lauderdale Grand Jury
Returns Charges

(Special to The Times-Picayune)

MERIDIAN, Miss. — Thomas Albert Tarrants III was indicted here Wednesday on charges of placing a bomb at the home of a Meridian businessman and three charges of attempted murder in the running gun battle which followed.

The Lauderdale County grand jury returned the four indictments Wednesday charging Tarrants with placing a bomb at Meyer Davidson's home and attempted murder of Meridian patrolmen Mike Hatcher and Tom Tucker and Navyman Robert Burton.

Hatcher was critically wounded during the June 30 incident but recovered after undergoing open heart surgery at Emory University Hospital in Atlanta. Tucker escaped the blast from the 9-mm machine gun as he ducked below the dashboard after ramming the car which sped from the Davidson home.

Burton — an innocent bystander — was hit in the liver by a slug as he walked from his home to investigate the shooting going on outside. He is still hospitalized in a Navy hospital in Pensacola.

The June 30 incident began as officers saw a man attempt to place a homemade bomb composed of 29 sticks of dynamite at Davidson's home.

Officers shouted warnings to stop, but the man jumped in a car and fled amid a hail of bullets. A woman companion — Jackson school teacher Mrs. Kathy Ainsworth — was found dead in the car after it was rammed by Tucker and Hatcher some 15 blocks from the scene.