

# TARRANTS FACES 30-YEAR TERM

## Guilty Verdict Returned Jury in Meridian

MERIDIAN, Miss. (AP) — A self-styled Ku Klux Klan guerrilla fighter faces a 30-year prison sentence after being convicted on charges of attempting to bomb a Jewish businessman's home here.

The sentence was lodged against Thomas Albert Tarrant III, 21, of Mobile, Ala., who was convicted by a circuit court jury of 11 whites and one Negro Wednesday night. The jury deliberated an hour and 50 minutes at the conclusion of the three-day trial.

On hearing the verdict, Tarrant's defense said a new trial will be sought and, if denied, an appeal will be filed.

Tarrant specifically was charged with "attempting to place a bomb" at the home of Meyer Davidson last June 30.

He was captured during an explosive gun fight in which a companion, Kathy Ainsworth of Jackson, was killed and the defendant, a policeman and a bystander injured. Police said both Mrs. Ainsworth, a 26-year-old teacher, and Tarrant were members of the White Knights of the Ku Klux Klan.

A plea of innocent by reason of insanity was entered for Tarrant, who was return-



—AP WIREPHOTO.  
SENTENCED TO 30 years in prison, Thomas Albert Tarrant III (left) leaves court during his trial in Meridian, Miss. A bi-racial jury convicted him Wednesday of trying to bomb a Jewish businessman's home.

ed to jail to await trial on three counts of assault.

The conviction was the first under an obscure anti-bombing law passed during a 1947 special session of the Legislature in an effort to curtail violence in a bus strike. The maximum penalty is death.

### WORM 12 FEET LONG

CHICAGO — There are some 2,000 species of earthworms, ranging from 3 inches long to 12 feet. Consuming their own weight in leaves, earth and grass herbage every 24 hours, earthworms produce an inch of topsoil every 10 years.