

BOMBER SENTENCED

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Tarrants Given 30-Year Term

NO NITP MENT

MERIDIAN (AP)—Thomas Albert Tarrants III was sentenced last night to 30 years in prison for trying to bomb the home of a Jewish businessman.

Tarrants, 21, of Mobile, Ala., who called himself a guerrilla fighter against "the Communist enemy" and who police said was a member of the Ku Klux Klan, was convicted by a Circuit Court jury of 11 white persons and one Negro. It deliberated an hour and 50 minutes.

Roy Pitts of Meridian, a defense lawyer, said a new trial would be sought and, if it is denied, an appeal would be filed.

THE THREE-DAY TRIAL was limited to the official charge of "attempting to place a bomb" at the home of Meyer Davidson last June 30.

Tarrants was captured in a running gunfight with Meridian police after officers keeping watch at the Davidson house saw him approach it lugging the homemade time bomb. However, there was no mention of the gunfight at the trial.

Charges of assault with intent to murder are pending in connection with the gunfight. Kathy Ainsworth, 26, a Jackson school teacher riding with Tarrants, was shot to death. He, a policeman and a bystander were critically wounded.

POLICE SAID Mrs. Ainsworth and Tarrants were members of the White Knights

of the Ku Klux Klan.

A plea of innocent by reason of insanity was entered for Tarrants.

In final arguments, Joe Dan Hamilton, the Lauderdale County attorney, said there was no evidence of legal insanity — just the claim that Tarrants "had a religious or political obsession."

Thomas Haas, a defense lawyer from Mobile, asked that Tarrants be sent to a mental institution. "Do not free the man," he said. "Do not let him return to society."