

# Mississippi Bomb Suspect Shot, Woman Slain in Police Ambush

By The Associated Press

MERIDIAN, Miss., June 30—Policemen guarding the home of a prominent Jewish businessman against nightriders wounded a young Alabama man and killed his woman companion early today.

A policeman and a bystander were critically wounded.

Police Chief Roy Gunn identified the Alabamian as Thomas Albert Tarrants 3d, 22 years old, of Mobile, and said he was a "prime suspect" in a series of bombings.

Found on Tarrants, he said, was a notebook that said:

"Gentlemen:

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

March, 1968, I, Thomas Albert Tarrants 3d, have been underground and operating guerrilla warfare. I have always believed in military action against the Communist enemy."

Tarrants' companion, found shot to death on the floor of their car, was identified as Mrs. Kathy Ainsworth, 26, of Jackson, Miss., a fifth-grade

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teacher in the public school system.

Chief Gunn said Ku Klux Klan membership cards and a loaded pistol were found in her purse.

Also wounded in a running battle through suburban streets were Patrolman J.M. Hatcher, 31, shot four times in the chest with a submachine gun, and Navy Machinists Mate 2d Class Robert E. Burton.

The shooting began about 1 A.M. at the home of Meyer Davidson, 51, a leader in the Jewish community, which put up a \$75,000 reward after the bombing of a synagogue here earlier this year.

Policemen had been guarding Mr. Davidson's home since his car window was shot out several nights ago.

Chief Gunn gave the following account:

Fifteen officers wearing black polo shirts were staked out around the ranch-style, yellow brick home when a car stopped on a shaded lane some 50 feet away. A man carrying a box got out and walked toward the carport.

The man was ordered to halt. But he dropped the box, which contained 29 sticks of dynamite wired to a clock set for 2 A.M., and pulled a pistol.

The man fled to his car and sped away with officers in pursuit.

Patrolmen Hatcher and T. E. Tucker led the chase over rolling hills in the wooded neighborhood. After 15 blocks, the two officers rammed their patrol car into the rear of the fleeing auto, knocked it into the yard of a home.

The man turned in his seat and began firing a German-



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Thomas Albert Tarrants 3d

made 9-millimeter submachine gun.

Patrolman Hatcher fell. The fugitive darted from one yard to another, firing at officers who converged on the scene. Petty officer Burton stepped out of his door and caught a stray slug.

Then it was over. Tarrants lay at the rear of a house across the street from where the car was rammed.

Mrs. Ainsworth lay on the floorboards of the car.

"I think we received a great reward for the stakeouts we've done for several months," Chief Gunn said. He said that other places had been guarded, but he declined to say where.

Tarrants is in critical condition. A warrant charging him with the attempted murder of Patrolman Hatcher was issued

by Lauderdale County Judge J. Emerson Harwell, who dispatched Sheriff Alton Allen to the hospital.

"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."

Chief Gunn said his department "now considers 11 recent acts of violence in Meridian as having been solved." He said additional arrests were contemplated.

### Seized With Klan Leader

Tarrants had been arrested for reckless driving at Collins, Miss., last Dec. 2 with Sam Holloway Bowers Jr., head of the White Knights of the Ku Klux Klan, who is now under sentence in two civil rights cases. A submachine gun was found in the car.

Chief Gunn said Tarrants has been "a prime suspect" in the

bombings of synagogues here and in Jackson, of a faculty cottage at predominantly Negro Tougaloo College near Jackson, of the residence of Rabbi Perry Nussbaum at Jackson, of the home of a Negro woman at Florence, Miss., and of the home of Robert Kochtitzky, a white civil rights advocate.

The car he drove, the chief said, was registered to Joe Daniel Hawkins of Jackson, who is charged in a 1967 bombing.

It was unclear to whom the notebook found in Tarrants' possession was addressed. It said he was forced to go underground because he had been "framed" on Federal firearms charges after his arrest with Bowers.

Mr. Davidson, who was not at home during the stakeout but who arrived later, said he thought the attempt on his home was connected directly with the bombings of the synagogues.