Slayer of Nazi Leader Is Freed

Pulaski, Va.

John Patler, ambush killer of American Nazi party leader George Lincoln Rockwell, yesterday became the first political slayer of the 1960s to be freed.

The state of Virginia paroled Patler from the Pulaski correctional unit in southwest Virginia. He had served eight years of a 20-year sentence for the Aug. 25, 1967, shooting of Rockwell at a shopping center where the self-styled American "Fuehrer" was washing his clothes at a laundromat.

Patler, 37, was a former captain in the American Nazi Party.

Rockwell, 49, a Navy aviator during World War II and the Korean War, formed the American Nazi Party in 1959.

Patler, who was expelled from the party for "Bolshevik leanings" only five months before Rockwell was killed, was convicted of the murder by an Arlington, Va., court.
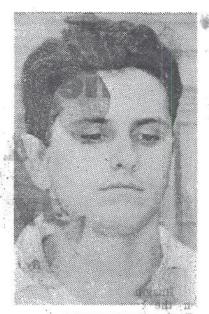
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JOHN PATLER
He shot George Rockwell