

**DETROIT TRAGEDY**  
(Continued from Page 4)

has served to focus attention anew on an American youth burgeoning with unrest against its Jewish climate. The affliction that had come upon Rabbi Adler will be ameliorated only if it serves to awaken our Jewish community to the need of mending its fences, of forging value-purposes that will be palatable to our young in a changing world.

By Rabbi Samuel Silver

A thousand tributes could not do justice to the sweetness, the sparkle and the brilliance of Rabbi Morris Adler, target of the shot of that Detroit youngster who went berserk.

The newspaper articles tell about his career and his achievements. His career is resplendent; his achievements are uncountable. But it is hard to capture, unless you were with him, the splendor of his personality and the sweep of his Jewishness.

He volunteered for the chaplaincy in World War II, AND HE WAS SHIPPED TO AN ISLAND IN THE Phillipir Leyte. Back in Detroit, he did not wear a beard. In Leyte he grew one. Asked why, he replied that the insignia on his uniform was so small the GI's couldn't see it. He wanted a larger insignia so that no Jewish boy would pass him by. And those who met him felt the Adler stamp for years.

For Morris Adler's warmth was encompassing. Learned he was. He handled Hebrew, English and Yiddish with enviable fluency, Eloquent he was, Erudite he was. But many people are stuffed with learning and steeped in their lore but they lack laughter. Rabbi Adler always took seriously his aim to spread Jewishness, but he did not take himself solemnly. His jublance and Jolly nature and wit matched his erudition. What a combination! What a wonderful person to be with!

Distinguished though he was, nationally renowned though you will find that Rabbi Adler always avoided wearing anyone's collar. His denomination was Conservative, but you will find him criticizing his own group, when necessary, and hobnobbing with those of other denominations as well. An ardent Zionist, with a love for Eretz which was crowned recently by a long sabbatical there, he always avoided becoming a "party-liner." His mind was always playing on any group, on any doctrine, on any assumption.

A lover of Yiddishkeit, Rabbi Adler lived his faith in his family relationships. His gifted wife and devoted daughter and her husband felt at all times the heart-to-heart affection of one who not only preached idealism but vividly translated it into daily living.

A thousand tributes cannot do full justice to the loveliness and liveliness of Rabbi Morris Adler. What a wicked twist of fate that he should be the target of a demented gun-wielder. Those who knew and loved the rabbi were not surprised at his concern for the Bar-Mitzvah boy whom he rescued from danger. For years that noble rabbi has been bringing deliverance to his people.

*Austrian Phonies*

by Morton Yarmon  
PARIS, Jan. 13...While top Austrian Government officials tell the world they want to wipe out Nazism and anti-Semitism, Austrian jurors are thwarting justice by freeing Nazi war criminals or giving them light sentences, indicating a widespread state of mind that is dangerous for democracy in Austria.

This is the essence of a report just issued by the European office here in Paris of the AMERICAN JEWISH COMMITTEE, which states: "Four times in the past year, Austrian jurors have sat in decision on important cases involving Nazi and new-Nazi murders. Four times their verdicts have been such as to make a mockery of justice and arouse international indignation."

The criminals involved in the four cases are:

1. Franz Novak, SS assistant of Adolf Eichmann who organized the transport of Jews to the gas chambers during World War II. An eight-man panel in December, 1964, found Novak guilty by a 5-3 vote, yet ruled only that his action had been responsible for "danger for the health and bodily security of the persons deported," refusing to indict him for having "directly incited to murder." The sentence of eight years was quashed recently by the Austrian High Court as unsatisfactory, making a retrial mandatory.

2. Erich Rajakowitch, another Eichmann aide, responsible for the deportation of Dutch Jews. Uncovered two years ago in Italy as a prosperous importer going under the name of Erico Raja, he fled to Switzerland, was expelled to Munich, and finally was returned to Austria. Despite the evidence of a telegram signed by him ordering the deportation of 83 Dutch Jews from the Drancy camp in France to Auschwitz, from which only one came out alive, the jury verdict of 5-3 in March, 1965, found him guilty only "for having created, with malevolent intention, a situation putting hu-

man life in danger" and not of "complicity in murder." He was sentenced to two and a half years.

3. Gunther Kimmel, a 25-year-old avowed neo-Nazi student. When a Viennese professor named Taras Borodajkewycz last April asserted to his students that he had been a pre-war member of the Nazi party and uttered anti-Semitic remarks, a protest demonstration was touched off. During a counter-demonstration of neo-Nazi elements, Kimmel knocked down one of the anti-Nazi protestors, an old man, who died as a result. Witnesses testified that Kimmel has acted without provocation, but a jury cleared him of the murder charge and found him guilty only of exceeding his legitimate rights of self-defense. He was sentenced early in December to ten months.

4. Robert Jan Verbelen, former Flemish SS colonel, a Belgian from Flanders who was a member of the German - Flemish movement called De Vlag, all of whose members swore loyalty to Adolf Hitler. In 1947, the Brussels War Council condemned him to death for war crimes that included responsibility for a hundred assassinations and reprisals in Belgium, recruitment of 1200 Waffen SS, aid to the Nazis in hunting down Jews, and work as head of the Flanders Police Battalion charged with "maintaining order" during von Runsted's Ardenne offensive in the last months of the war.

By 1947 Verbelen was in Austria, hiding under the name Albert Kluge. Posing as a journalist, he ultimately acquired Austrian citizenship. Austrian President Franz Jonas, then mayor of Vienna, sought to have this citizenship set aside on the ground that it had been acquired under false pretenses, thus allowing him to be sent to Belgium, which had asked his extradition. But the Austrian courts refused to annul the act of citizenship, and Verbelen was brought to trail in Vienna.

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