

Sacco-Vanzetti Case Told in Story and Pictures

Sacco and Vanzetti - - - The Judge - - - The Death Place



Nicola Sacco (upper) and Vanzetti when first arrested.



Sacco (right) and Vanzetti when Judge Thayer pronounced their sentences. Their last photo.



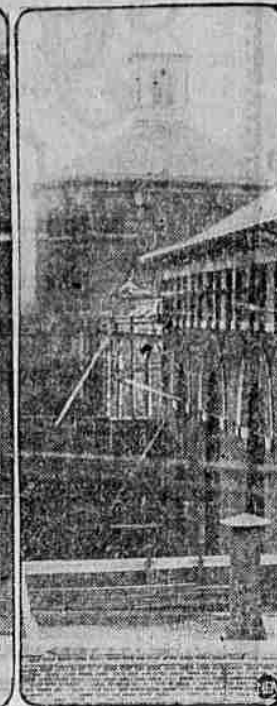
Judge Webster Thayer, who conducted the trial.



Father M.J. Murphy the state prison's Catholic chaplain.



The portal of the state prison at Charlestown, where Sacco and Vanzetti will die.



Another view of the Charlestown prison.

VOICE OF MILLIONS



The voice of millions, raised vainly in behalf of Nicola Sacco and Bartolomeo Vanzetti, is symbolized here. The photographs are of parades and mass meetings staged in New York immediately after Gov. Fuller of Massachusetts announced the two men must die. In Brooklyn, two thousand barbers left their work to march through the streets, carrying banners protesting against the execution. In set is a banner hoisted at a great mass meeting in Union Square, New York City, urging a general strike and a boycott of Massachusetts-made goods. Similar scenes are being enacted around the world.

Review of Famous Sacco-Vanzetti Case

(Associated Press Special Wire)

BOSTON, Aug. 10.—The crime for which Nicola Sacco and Bartolomeo Vanzetti were sentenced to die was a double murder.

On the morning of April 15, 1920, Frederick A. Parmenter, paymaster, and Alexander Berardelli, his guard, arrived at the factory of Slater and Morrill company, South Braintree, near Boston, to pay off employees. They carried in each car a \$20,000. As they were about to enter the factory door, two men approached and fired at them. Both fell mortally wounded.

The two robbers grabbed the satchels. An automobile, which had been waiting nearby, sped up to the curb. The satchels were thrown in and the two robbers clambered into the car, which was driven off at high speed.

The robbery and murders at South Braintree had been preceded by similar crimes. Police and detectives had definite suspicions, and they set a trap to catch the owner of an automobile which was in a garage at Brockton. On the night of May 5, 1920, Sacco and Vanzetti, with others, appeared at the garage and asked to take the car out. The garage keeper's wife slipped into her house and telephoned the police. Sacco and Vanzetti left the garage, without taking the car, and it was testified later that they followed the garage keeper's wife to her home when she made the call and that they acted in a queer manner. Police arrested them on a Brockton street car. Both had revolvers in their pockets.

Sacco was a shoemaker, and was employed in Stoughton, where he lived. Vanzetti lived in Plymouth, where he sold fish. Both were "radicals" and were active in spreading radical propaganda. It was their contention that they had gone to the garage with a friend to get his automobile in order to collect radical literature in the possession of other friends, so that

in case Department of Justice operatives raided their friends' homes such literature would not be found. The automobile they sought to use in this work, it developed, was not the car used in the hold-up and murder.

But on their arrest, both Sacco and Vanzetti told conflicting stories of their doings. They later admitted they lied to conceal their radical activities, through fear of deportation, and not because they had committed murder. At the time, the Department of Justice was active in deporting alien radicals, and numerous "roundups" and raids were being made and Sacco and Vanzetti had been advised by a lawyer to collect the literature.

Sacco and Vanzetti were indicted September 11, 1920, and went on trial at Dedham, May 31, 1921. In the meantime, radical sympathizers had taken up their case and demonstrations intended to aid them were staged in many countries. Their trial, held in Judge Webster Thayer's superior court at Dedham, attracted much attention. Fred H. Moore, of San Francisco, was chief of defense counsel.

Their radical activities were brought out at the trial, and it also was brought out that both were pacifists and had gone to Mexico during the war to escape the military draft. The prosecution, directed by District Attorney Frederick G. Katamann, explored their radical views, asserting this was made necessary by Sacco and Vanzetti inserting this as a defense.

Prior to the murder trial, Vanzetti had been found guilty, in Judge Thayer's court, of a robbery at Bridgewater, and for this he was sentenced. But evidence relating to this was excluded from the murder trial by stipulation. Sacco and Vanzetti pleaded not guilty and both gave alibis. Sacco told of being absent from employment on the day of the murder to

attend business in Boston, and produced evidence to support this. Vanzetti told of being at work delivering fish, and offered testimony to substantiate this.

The state produced witnesses who identified them as men they saw at the scene of the crime. Expert testimony was given to show that a bullet taken from the body of one of the murdered men "was consistent with Sacco's revolver." Defense experts gave opposite testimony. Both were found guilty, but sentence was stayed pending motions for new trial.

A Sacco-Vanzetti defense committee was organized, and financial aid was sought to help them. The cry was raised that the men had been found guilty because they were radicals. About this time the first of the demonstrations in their favor was made by a labor committee in Milan, Italy. In the seven years that dragged out before Governor Alvan T. Fuller made his decision on the case, numerous threatening letters were received by men prominent in the case, and bombs were placed near the American embassies at Paris and Buenos Aires, the American legation at Montevideo and other places in Mexico, Europe and South America.

On December 21, 1921, Judge Thayer denied the first of the motions for a new trial. This was met by demonstrations at home and abroad. Several supplementary motions for new trial were made from time to time, but all were denied. Meanwhile, Vanzetti was in the state prison. Sacco was held in Norfolk county jail at Dedham. In February, 1922, Sacco began a hunger strike. Allenists declared him sane and he was forcibly fed in March. This broke his hunger strike. While in the Psychopathic hospital at Boston, where he had been taken for examination, Sacco attempted suicide by beating his head against a piece of furniture. He did not

A SUFFERER



It was in brighter days that this photograph of Mrs. Nicola Sacco and her daughter Inez was made. Hopes of saving her husband from the chair then were strong. Now, facing widowhood, she is prostrated with suffering.

severely wound himself. In December, 1924, the question of Vanzetti's sanity was raised and he was taken to Bridgewater State hospital for observation. In April of that year he was declared sane. Moore withdrew as counsel for Sacco and Vanzetti in November, 1924. He was succeeded by Thomas F. and N. J. McAnarney. Later they withdrew and William G. Thompson, eminent Boston attorney, became counsel for the two men. Thompson argued before the supreme court of Massachusetts an appeal from Judge Thayer's denial of a new trial. All those who were making efforts to save Sacco and Vanzetti turned their eyes toward Governor Fuller.

The clamor eventually focused on Governor Fuller. He held the right of pardon, he could commute their sentences or he could prepare the way for a new trial. All those who were making efforts to save Sacco and Vanzetti turned their eyes toward Governor Fuller.

By this time the case had attracted world-wide attention and petitions of astonishing length, containing many thousands of signatures, had been addressed to the governor. When Judge Thayer was about to impose sentence he asked Sacco and Vanzetti if they had anything to say. Both made dramatic pleas of innocence and openly accused Judge Thayer of prejudice and of conducting their trial in such a manner that justice could not be had for them.

College professors had written books on the case. Criticisms of Massachusetts law were printed in newspapers of standing and men and women of importance openly questioned the guilt of the two men and the fairness of their trial. Thousands of words had been printed about the case in pamphlets and circulars. The general tenor of the more conservative criticism of the trial was that it was held at a time "the nation was suffering from war hysteria," and in other quarters the cry of persecution of radicals arose.

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LIFE AND DEATH AS VANZETTI SEES THEM



NEW DEFENDER—Arthur D. Hill, Boston attorney retained to make an eleventh hour appeal to the courts in behalf of Sacco and Vanzetti, is pictured here at his desk.

Doomed Philosopher Give "Universal Love" Theory In His Last Message

EDITOR'S NOTE: Several months ago, in Dedham jail, on the eve of the pronouncing of his death sentence, Bartolomeo Vanzetti gave to Gene Cohn, NEA Service writer, a remarkable outline of his creed of life and death. At that time an official investigation of the Sacco-Vanzetti case loomed, and it was requested that no personal expression from Vanzetti be released until definite announcement of his fate had come. The decision of Governor Fuller of Massachusetts that the two men must die makes it possible to release this last message given by Vanzetti to any newspaper man.

BY BARTOLOMEO VANZETTI

As told to Gene Cohn

I have read much and studied much—but all studies aimed to teach how to read the Book of Life. That is the book of books!

And so I have brought to my studies a continuous and inexorable observation of man, animals and plant life—of those things surrounding man.

Meditations upon life's book determined my principles of my conduct of life. I have never been able to bow to the creed of dog-eat-dog, or "every man for himself." I have championed the weak and oppressed and the persecuted ones. I believe in heroism and sacrifice only when directed toward the triumph of justice.

Man cannot trample with impunity upon the unwritten laws that govern his life; he cannot violate ties that bind him to the universe. Mountains, seas and rivers were formed before man by natural chemical processes and not—as so many seem to hold—with the intent of dividing man from man.

I believe in universal love. I maintain that whoever benefits or hurts a man, benefits and hurts a whole species. Equity of rights and duties is the only moral basis upon which can be erected a just human society.

As I understand it the supreme goal of life is happiness: the immutable bases of happiness are health, peace of conscience, the satisfaction of animal needs, and a sincere faith. True wisdom, I understand, lies in tolerance.

I have always sought to bring a roof to each family, bread to each mouth, education to each heart and mind, and light to every intellect.

I am convinced that human history has not yet begun; we find ourselves in the last period of the prehistoric. The sky suffused with the rays of a new millennium. Progress and change are to be determined by intelligence and the common convenience.

The learned psychologists tell us that 33 is the age of offenders generally. It was the age of Christ when he offended against the mob. It was my age when they scheduled me for prison and, in the end, for death.

Yet let me tell you this—were I to begin this journey life all over again ten minutes after death had been pronounced over me, still would I follow the same road, changing it only where it might lessen those minor sins and errors.

I am, and shall be at the last instant, an anarchist-communist, because I believe therein to lie the most humane form of human social contact.

Will you, please, send to my comrades, my friends and all good men my embrace and fervent greetings!

up to and including August 10.

The governor and the advisory council then began separate investigations of the case. A large number of witnesses were examined and Sacco, Vanzetti and Madeiros were questioned in the death house, where they had been taken after sentence. On July 17, while the investigations were under way, Sacco and Vanzetti went on hunger strike. The advisory committee concluded its investigation July 25, after examining witnesses and hearing arguments. (Continued on page 6.)