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MEDICAL RECORD RELEASE A-3

Army Probing Garrison Data Case

By ORR KELLY
 Star Staff Writer

The Army has begun an investigation to see if official Army sources released information from the military medical files of New Orleans Dist. Atty. Jim Garrison.

The investigation was ordered following the publication yesterday of reports that the flamboyant district attorney had been discharged from the Army in 1951 after doctors had found him to be suffering from "a severe and disabling psychoneurosis of long duration."

Personal medical records are not supposed to be released without the written permission of the person concerned.

Officer in Reserve

In announcing the investigation, the Defense Department confirmed that Garrison, who had been a captain, had been discharged by reason of physical disability on Oct. 31, 1951, but that he had since become an officer in the National Guard and is now a lieutenant colonel in the Army Reserve on inactive duty.

The reports of Garrison's medical record were published three days after Garrison, in one of his most free-swinging press conferences, accused President Johnson and FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover of keeping the truth about the assassination of President John F. Kennedy from his family.

Garrison, meanwhile, continued to press his probe. Yesterday he subpoenaed three men to testify, saying they had been in

unique position to observe activities relevant to the assassination," the Associated Press reported.

The three were identified as Loran A. Hall of Kernville, Calif.; Lawrence J. Howard Jr., 32, of El Monte, Calif., near Los Angeles, and Thomas Beckham, 27, of Omaha.

Will Fight Subpoena

Garrison said the three, wanted as material witnesses in his investigation, had not been questioned by the Warren Commission, which said Oswald acted alone in shooting Kennedy.

Hall, a bartender, denied he ever knew anyone connected with the assassination and said he would fight the subpoena.

Howard, a welder and fitter, was reported by his wife to be somewhere in Mexico and unavailable for comment.

Beckham, who lists himself as a bishop of the Universal Life Church and entertains with Western music under the name of Mark Adams, said he would

not return to New Orleans. Beckham said he worked as an investigator for Garrison for about three months in late 1962.

A Pentagon official said the investigation by the Army's inspector general into how Garrison's medical records were released would involve a check of those with access to the records and attempt to determine if they had been released in an unauthorized manner by someone in the Army, the National Guard or the Reserve.

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 Dated 12-30-67
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Kennedy Assassination

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His Record

Garrison first joined the National Guard in 1939 and served on active duty in the Army for five years during World War II.

Shortly after the war, while he was a law student in New Orleans, his service record shows, he began to suffer from severe exhaustion.

From October 1950 until February 1951, his record shows, he was under the care of a psychiatrist at Louisiana State University. He was told then that he was suffering from "a deep-seated, chronic severe psychoneurosis."

He rejoined the Army as a captain on July 24, 1951. Almost immediately, he complained that he "just couldn't make it" and was hospitalized at Fort Sill, Okla.

In mid-September of 1951, he was sent to the Brooke Army Hospital at Fort Sam Houston, Tex., and was discharged for medical reasons on Oct. 31 after medical tests and appearance before a Physical Evaluation Board.

Records accompanying Garrison from the hospital at Fort Sill showed a diagnosis of a "schizoid personality suspected, unproven."

Schizophrenia is a severe mental disease. The diagnosis by the doctors at Brooke of psychoneurosis is a less severe personality disorder.

In fact, the report said he was well-oriented and had no delusions or hallucinations, which would be characteristic of the more severe disease. He reportedly described his symptoms openly and would comment, "I know this sounds crazy, but this is how I feel."

In discussing his case, the report prepared by the physicians at Brooke said:

"This patient has a severe and disabling psychoneurosis of long duration. It has inter-

ferred with his social and professional adjustment to a marked degree.

"He is considered totally disabled from the standpoint of military duty and moderately severely incapacitated in civilian adaptability.

"His illness existed long before his call to active duty July 24, 1951, and is of the type that will require a long-term psychotherapeutic approach. . . . He can safely be discharged in his own custody."