

Mount Clipping in Space Below

Bare Garrison's Long Illness

PSYCHIATRIC PATIENT MORE THAN 4 YEARS

Ruled 'Totally Unfit' by Army

BY RUSSELL FREIBERG
(Chicago Tribune Staff Writer)
1967 by The Chicago Tribune

Washington, Dec. 28 — Military medical records show that District Atty. James C. Garrison in New Orleans was under the care of a psychiatrist during the 4½ years from the fall of 1950 to the spring of 1955.

Detailed medical histories on Garrison kept in the Pentagon and all the army records center in St. Louis show that he was discharged from the army once as totally unfit for military duty, then later allowed to reenter the national guard.

Found Unfit for Duty

On Feb. 28, 1967, Garrison resigned from the guard, giving as the reason "incompatible occupation." He asked to be transferred to the army reserve.

The records disclose that the controversial Garrison, who disputes the findings of the Warren commission on

death of President John F. Kennedy, was found by an army physical evaluation board in October, 1951, to be totally unfit for military duty. During his investigation, Garrison has made sensational charges against President Johnson, J. Edgar Hoover, director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation; Atty Gen. Ramsey Clark; and others.

Got Therapy as Civilian

A report to the evaluation board from an army medical board at Brooke Army hospital, San Antonio, said:

"This patient [Garrison] has a severe and disabling psychoneurosis of long duration. It has interfered with his social and professional adjustment to a marked degree. He is considered totally disabled from the standpoint of military duty and moderately incapacitated in civilian adaptability. His illness existed long before his call to active duty July 24, 1951, and is the type that will require long term psychotherapeutic approach, which is not feasible in a military hospital."

The report said that psychotherapy for Garrison was first begun in October, 1950, by a psychiatrist on the staff of Louisiana State university medical school in New Orleans. At that time Garrison was a civilian.

The term psychoneurosis used in the medical report on Garrison has come to refer to those types of symptom-complexes or syndromes in which the disturbances of behavior do not affect a person with enough severity to terminate completely his chances of making some kind of social adjustment. Psychoneuroses as a group, based on emotional conflicts, are to be distinguished from psychoses. The psychoses are usually

intense disorders of the mind that lead to commitment to mental hospitals.

Charges Against 2 Men

Garrison since last February has claimed that he has solved the Kennedy assassination as done by a group of persons, some rejects from the Warren commission, working as part of a plot with Lee Harvey Oswald. The Warren commission concluded that Oswald acted alone.

In addition, Garrison has arrested Clay Shaw, a retired New Orleans business man, who he claims is the mysterious "Clay Bertrand" of the assassination probe. Earlier this week he issued a warrant for the arrest of Edgar Eugene Bradley, 49, a field representative for the Rev. Carl McIntire, an east coast evangelist. Both Shaw and Bradley deny any connection with the case.

Garrison served five years in the army in World War II. In July, 1951, after a short stint with the FBI, he volunteered for active duty for the Korean war. He states in his medical record that he became aware that he "just couldn't make it" after the first day's routine and he reported for sick call.

Rated a Hypochondriac

He was confined to quarters for two weeks, then hospitalized at Fort Sill, Oklahoma. He was transferred to Brooke Army hospital on Sept. 16, 1951. He was given a medical discharge for physical disability in October.

A physical evaluation board at Brooke recommended 10 percent permanent disability. It said the cause of the incapacity was "chronic anxiety reaction manifested by hypochondriasis;

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

PAGE 1

CHICAGO TRIBUNE

CHICAGO, ILL.

Date: 12-29-67

Edition:

Author:

Editor: W.D. MAXWELL

Title: ASSASSINATION

PRESIDENT JOHN F. KENNEDY DALLAS, TX

11-22-63

Character:

AFO

Classification: 89

Submitting Office: O., LA

Being Investigated

chronic exhaustion syndrome . . . and psychogenic allergic manifestations."

Psychogenic means having a mental or emotional origin. In connection with the allergies, the medical board said that Garrison then had "a rather bizarre allergic response to lint, especially wool lint." It said that he could not wear undershirts or rough cloth. It said that if he did he choked up, had air hunger, and sometimes hives.

The medical board detailed Garrison's exhaustion syndrome. It said it started while he was in law school after the war. It said that even after he started to work for a law firm he could work only half a day. As late as 1962, just before he was elected district attorney, he still was known around the Orleans parish courthouse in his district attorney days as a man who liked to come to work at 11 and leave at 2.

Called Shy, Introverted

Altho Garrison has the image of an aggressive man in his assassination investigation, the army report described him as a shy, introverted individual.

Garrison's national guard records in the national guard bureau in the Pentagon disclose that he was under the care of a Dr. Robert Matthews after his 1951 discharge. Dr. Matthews then was a neuro-psychiatrist on the L. S. U. staff. The records said that the treatment continued until Garrison applied for reentry into the national guard in April, 1955.

On a form 89 in his national guard records, Garrison, in his own handwriting, stated that the "psychiatric matter" had been cleared up. Under a question asking whether he had ever been under the care of a physician, Garrison listed Dr. Matthews. The records contain a letter from Dr. Matthews.

No Disability Pay Sought

Dr. Matthews left L. S. U. shortly after Garrison re-entered the guard. He was a medical official for the state of Pennsylvania from 1956 to

1959. He then became head of the psychiatry department at Jefferson Medical college, Philadelphia, and was killed in an automobile accident on July 21, 1961.

Garrison's army records do not show that he applied for any disability pay.

National guard records show that Garrison was relieved from active duty on Oct. 31, 1951, and was discharged from both the national guard and the army, effective Jan. 9, 1952. Garrison had first entered the national guard in 1939. He applied for re-entry in 1955 when he was an assistant district attorney.

On April 19, 1955, based on a physical examination in New Orleans and details of his therapy, the surgeon general of the army ruled he was again physically qualified for the national guard.

Gets Discharge Waiver

On April 22, 1955, Garrison was given a waiver on separation from the army. The waiver was signed by the army surgeon of the national guard and was based on the findings of the army surgeon general.

National guard officials in the Pentagon explained that Garrison had to have his case reviewed by the army surgeon general because of his illness. Garrison took his re-entry physical in New Orleans. It was given by the medical detachment of the 935th field artillery battalion. Garrison re-entered the guard as a captain with the 935th field artillery in New Orleans. He became a major on July 14, 1959, and a lieutenant colonel on May 11, 1964.

On Feb. 13, 1967, shortly before he resigned from the guard, Garrison asked for a transfer to the judge advocate general's corps in Washington. Upon his resignation he asked to be placed in the army reserve with a mobilization position in the advocate general's office.

The army reserves refused to comment on the request.



Jim Garrison