

Garrison Left Army As 'Unfit'

By Russell Freeburg
© 1967, Chicago Tribune

Military medical records show that New Orleans District Attorney James C. Garrison was discharged from the Army as totally unfit for military duty and later was allowed to re-enter the National Guard.

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

Garrison, who disputes the findings of the Warren Commission on the death of President Kennedy now is carrying on a circus-type investigation of his own.

Detailed military histories on Garrison, kept in the Pentagon and at the Army Record Center in St. Louis, show that he was found by an Army physical evaluation board in October 1951 as "totally disabled from the standpoint of military duty."

A report to the evaluation board from an Army Medical Board at Ft. Brooke Army Hospital, San Antonio, Tex., said of Garrison:

"This patient 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

See GARRISON, A3, Col. 5

GARRISON—From Page A1

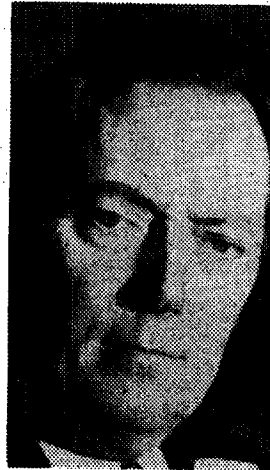
Garrison Left Army as

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 of the type that will require long-term psychotherapeutic approach, which is not feasible in a military hospital."

The report said psychotherapy for Garrison was begun in October 1950 by a psychiatrist on the staff of the Louisiana State University Medical School in New Orleans. At that time Garrison was a civilian.

Later National Guard records show that Garrison's psychiatric treatment continued for a total of 4½ years.

Since last February, Garrison has claimed that he has solved the Kennedy assassination as done by a group of persons working as part of a plot with Lee Harvey Oswald. The Warren Commission con-



JIM GARRISON

... discharge revealed

cluded that Oswald acted alone.

Garrison has arrested Clay Shaw, a retired New Orleans businessman, who he claims is

THE WASHINGTON POST

Friday, Dec. 29, 1967

A3

Unfit

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 Carl McIntire, an East Coast evangelist. Both 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 of training and reported for sick call. He was confined to quarters for two weeks, then hospitalized at Fort Sill, Okla. He was transferred to the Brooke Army Hospital on Sept. 16, 1951, and was given a medical discharge for physical disability in October.

A physical evaluation board at Brooke recommended 10 per cent permanent disability. It said the cause of the incap-

city was "chronic anxiety reaction manifested by hypochondriasis; chronic exhaustion syndrome . . . and psychogenic allergic manifestations."

Of Mental Origin

Psychogenic means having a mental origin. The Medical Board said Garrison then had "a rather bizarre allergic response to lint, especially wool lint." It said he could not wear undershirts or rough cloth. It said that if he did he choked up, had air hunger, and sometimes suffered hives.

The Medical Board listed details of Garrison's exhaustion syndrome. It said it started while he was in law school after the war. It said that even after Garrison started to work for a law firm he could only work half a day.

Garrison's records in the National Guard Bureau in the Pentagon disclose that he was under the care of Dr. Robert Matthews after his 1951 discharge. Dr. Matthews then was a neuro-psychiatrist on

the LSU staff. The records show the treatment continued until Garrison applied for re-entry 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. To a question asking whether he had ever been under the care of a physician, Garrison listed Dr. Matthews. The records also contain a letter from Dr. Matthews.

Dr. Matthews, who left LSU

shortly after Garrison re-entered the National Guard, was killed in an automobile accident in 1961.

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

Discharged from Both

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 first entered the National Guard in 1939. He applied for re-entry in 1955 while he was an assistant district attorney.

On April 19, 1955, based on a physical examination in New Orleans and details of his therapy, the Army Surgeon General ruled he was again physically qualified for the National Guard. On April 22, 1955, Garrison was given a waiver of his history of 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 Reserve refused to comment on the request.