

Bulletin board 127

Pentagon Gives a Report On Garrison's Army Career

Washington — (AP) — Physical disability has been cited by the Defense Department as the reason for New Orleans District Attorney James C. Garrison's discharge from the Army in 1951.

Garrison is the flamboyant prosecutor who says the Warren Commission erred in its conclusion that Lee Harvey Oswald, acting alone, was the assassin of President John F. Kennedy four years ago. Garrison says there was a conspiracy.

The Pentagon said, yesterday that an inquiry is being made to determine if confidential material from Garrison's service files has been released without authorization.

The Pentagon statement followed publication by the Chicago Tribune of a copyrighted story concerning Garrison's release. The Tribune article said a psychoneurotic condition was involved.

[Garrison refused to comment directly on the Chicago Tribune story, the New York Times News Service reported. An aide said in New Orleans that similar charges were made by a political opponent in 1965.

[At that time, Garrison said he suffered amoebic dysentery in Europe during World War II, which resulted in "exhaustion and intestinal trouble," according to Garrison. He was quoted as adding: "The Army diagnosed this as an anxiety reaction during the Korean war," the Times News Service reported.]

Details Withheld

The Defense Department yesterday refused to elaborate on the sort of "physical disability" that caused Garrison to leave the service in 1951, only three months after he had been recalled to active duty. He had served five years during World War II.

The Pentagon said medical records are not released without the permission of the person involved.

The statement:

"James C. Garrison, currently a lieutenant colonel, U. S. Army Reserve, not on active duty, served as a member of the Louisiana Army National Guard and the National Guard of the United States on four separate occasions beginning with his initial enlistment in June 1939 and terminating with his resignation on Feb. 28, 1967.

"He was a lieutenant colonel, National Guard of the United



James C. Garrison

States, at the time of resignation. Automatically, (and by law) he became a member of the U. S. Army Reserve at the time of resignation from the national guard of the United States.

"He was on duty as an enlisted man from Jan. 13, 1941, to June 22, 1942. He was commissioned on June 23, 1942, and served to March 1, 1946. He was stationed at Ft. Sill, Okla.; Camp Roberts, Calif.; Pecos, Tex.; Camp Rucker, Ala.; and the European Theater of Operations.

Recalled in 1951

"He was separated at Ft. Dix, N. J. He was recalled to active duty on July 24, 1951, and served until Oct. 31, 1951. He was initially assigned to Ft. Sill, Okla. During the period August 1951 to October 1951 he was assigned to the U. S. Army Hospital, Ft. Sill, Okla., and to Brooke Army Hospital, Ft. Sam Houston, Tex.

"Published orders state that he was released from active duty by reasons of physical disability in the grade of captain on Oct. 31, 1951.

"Information contained in the personal, medical and similar files will not be released to the public without the written permission of the person concerned. The Army is conducting an investigation to determine if any such information about James C. Garrison's service has been released from official

Army sources."

3 Are Subpenaed

In New Orleans, Garrison yesterday subpoenaed three men to testify in his probe, saying they had been "in unique position to observe activities relevant to the assassination."

The three were identified as Loran A. Hall of Kernville, Calif.; Lawrence J. Howard, Jr., 32, of Elmonte, Calif., near Los Angeles; and Thomas Beckham, 27, of Omaha, Neb. They were directed to appear before the Orleans Parish (county) grand jury on Feb. 1 and 2.

Garrison said the three, wanted as material witnesses in his investigation, had not been questioned by the Warren Commission.