

Thornley Files Not Guilty Plea

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A Marine Corps buddy of Lee Harvey Oswald charged with perjury by denying he met with Oswald in New Orleans pleaded not guilty to the charge at his arraignment in Criminal District Court Friday.

Dist. Atty. Jim Garrison had charged Kerry Lee Thornley, now of Tampa, with lying in Kennedy death probe testimony of Feb. 8 before the Orleans Parish grand jury. In a separate court action

Friday private investigator William Gurvich also pleaded not guilty to a Garrison charge—that of theft of a copy of the master file of the Kennedy probe from the district attorney's office.

Judge Frank J. Shea granted Gurvich 10 days in which to file pleadings.

Thornley pleaded not guilty before Judge Oliver P. Schulingkamp through attorney George Fust. He was also accompanied by Tampa attorney Arnold D. Levine.

Thornley, a free-lance writer, said he also works at a gas station in Tampa.

He said his involvement in Garrison's investigation has become "a national incident in

the papers there."

Judge Schulingkamp reduced Thornley's bond from \$3,000 to \$1,500. He was released after posting bond, and given permission to return to Tampa.

Thornley was charged on Feb. 21 of lying when he said he did not see Oswald in a New Orleans bar in September, 1963.

According to testimony included in the perjury charge, Thornley testified that a French Quarter resident, Barbara Reid, had told him she had seen him with Oswald in the bar.

However, he concluded, according to the testimony, that he was sure she was wrong.

Thornley said he has not been in touch with the woman for several years.

Oswald and Thornley served together in the Marine Corps in 1959. He claimed he never saw Oswald again after that.

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