

ATTICA
**Damages Charges
Dropped Against 9
In Kent State Case**
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CLEVELAND, Aug. 8 (AP)—Damages claims have been dropped against nine former members of the Ohio National Guard in the \$46-million civil suit stemming from the 1970 Kent State University shootings.

Eight of the nine had not been called to the witness stand and the other testified that he had not fired.

The plaintiffs' voluntary dismissal of the claims against the nine dropped the number of defendants to 32, including Gov. James A. Rhodes; the former Kent State president; Robert I. White; former Adj. Gen. Sylvester T. Del Corso, and Guard Brig. Gen. Robert H. Canterbury.

In testimony on the first day of the defense's case, the former Kent Police Chief, Roy Thompson, said that civil authorities had never surrendered command to the troops who later killed four students and wounded nine to break up a campus antiwar rally.

The troops were ordered to Kent on the second night of the demonstrations sparked by the United States invasion of Cambodia. The victims and their families brought the suit.

Thompson's testimony matched that of Mr. White and the generals, who said that the decision to ban assemblies had been agreed to by city officials, Guard officers and the local authorities.

The plaintiffs contend that the Guard unlawfully usurped the powers of other law enforcement groups, but Mr. Thompson also denied hearing Mr. Rhodes tell officials privately before a news conference that he was taking personal command.

Mr. Thompson also said it was he and not General Del Corso who had warned at the news conference that the authorities would shoot if necessary to keep the peace. The plaintiffs' attorneys had said guardsmen could have heard the general make the remark on radio newscasts.

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