

Garrison Has Record Of Psychiatric Care

By Russell Freeburg
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Washington

Military medical records show that New Orleans District Attorney James C. Garrison was under the care of a psychiatrist in the early 1950s.

Medical histories on Garrison kept in the Pentagon and at the Army Record Center in St. Louis, show that he was discharged from the Army as unfit for military duty, but later was allowed to re-enter the National Guard.

On Feb. 28, 1967, Garrison resigned from the Guard giving as his reason "incompati-

ble occupation." He asked to be transferred to the Army Reserve.

The records disclose that Garrison, who disputes the findings of the Warren Commission on the death of President Kennedy and is carrying on a probe of his own, was found by an Army physical evaluation board in October, 1951, to be totally unfit for military duty.

A report to the valuation board from an army medical board at Brooke Army hospital, in San Antonio 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 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.

SYNDROMES

The term psychoneurosis

used in the medical report on Garrison has come to refer to those types of symptom-complexes or syndromes in which disturbances of behavior do not affect a person with enough severity to terminate his chances of making some kind of social adjustment. Psychoneuroses as a group are to be distinguished from psychoses. Psychoses are usually intense disorders that lead to commitment to mental hospitals.

Since last February, Garrison has claimed that he has solved the Kennedy assassination. He claims a group of persons working as part of a plot with Lee Harvey Oswald were responsible. The Warren Commission concluded that Oswald acted alone.

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.

DISABILITY

A physical evaluation board at Brooke recommended 10 per cent permanent disability. It said the cause of the incapacity was "chronic anxiety reaction manifested by hypochondriasis; chronic exhaustion syndrome... and psychogenic allergic manifestations."

Psychogenic means having a mental origin. In connection with the allergies, 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 exhaus-

tion 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.

As late as 1962, just before he was elected district attorney, he still was known around the Orleans Parish Court House in his assistant attorney days as a man who liked to come to work at 11 and leave at 2.

Editorials

Garrison's Wild Conspiracy Tale

THERE MAY WELL BE millions of people all over the world who are afflicted by a compulsion to believe that the murder of President Kennedy was the work of a conspiracy in which Lee Harvey Oswald was but one participant, or even a non-participant.

It is anyone's privilege, of course, to run in the face of the general, and official, conclusion that Oswald alone was the author of the wretched event. But what rational person could believe District Attorney Jim Garrison's version of it?

The attempt on the President's life, he says, was predicted well ahead of time — by none other than the FBI itself, in a telegram of November 17, 1963, sent out to its offices. (Where is the telegram? Garrison said he could prove its existence if he went with you into a closed room, but he is "not going to allow" such evidence to get out now.)

NOTWITHSTANDING this alleged warning which is said to have gone to J. Edgar Hoover a director of the FBI, the New Orleans prosecutor suggests that Mr. Kennedy was not only not apprised of it but was suffered by his Federal protectors to ride fully exposed "without a bubbletop."

There were 15 persons in on the conspiracy he says, and none of them were Communist (though Oswald was an agent of the CIA).

"The Federal Government is protecting the assassins every day," and President Johnson not only "knows very well that Oswald did not pull the trigger" but, further, is actively concealing evidence about the murder.

THESE INSINUATIONS against President Johnson, J. Edgar Hoover and others in the government are appalling and abominable. Unsupported by anything but Garrison's word, they are cruelly libelous — cruel because a President has no effective possibility of appealing to the courts to remedy the damage in the unproved statement that he is covering up on the Kennedy murder.

We continue to be astonished that New Orleans puts up with its reckless and vicious constructor of the theory of a 15-man presidential murder plot.

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Although Garrison has an aggressive image in his assassination investigation, the Army report described him as shy and introverted.

Garrison's record in the National Guard Bureau in the Pentagon discloses 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. Dr. Matthews died in an automobile accident in 1961.