

30 DEC. 67
NY TIMES

28

C

GARRISON RECORD SHOWS DISABILITY

It Led to His Release From
Active Duty, Pentagon Says

WASHINGTON, Dec. 29 (AP)—The Defense Department said today that James C. Garrison, New Orleans District Attorney, "was released from active duty by reason of physical disability" in the rank of captain.

The Pentagon said he was released on Oct. 31, 1951, and that he served as a member of the National Guard on four separate occasions beginning with his enlistment in June of 1939 and ending with his resignation last Feb. 28.

"Information contained in personal, medical and similar files will not be released to the public without the written permission of the person concerned," the Defense Department said.

It added that the Army was "conducting an investigation to determine if any such information about James C. Garrison's service has been released from official Army sources."

Mr. Garrison has charged that the assassination of President Kennedy in Dallas Nov. 22, 1963, was the result of a conspiracy, which originated in part in New Orleans.

The Warren Commission, which investigated the assassination, named Lee Harvey Oswald as the lone killer and said it had found no evidence of a conspiracy.

PENTAGON STATEMENT

James C. Garrison, currently a lieutenant colonel, United States 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 States, at the time of resignation. Automatically (and by law) he became a member of the United States 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 Fort Sill, Okla.; Camp Roberts, Calif.; Pecos, Tex.; Camp Rucker, Ala., and the European Theater of Operations.

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

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

Information contained in 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.

Aide Responds to Article

Special to The New York Times

NEW ORLEANS, Dec. 29—District Attorney Garrison refused today to respond directly to a copyrighted article by The Chicago Tribune saying he was under care of a psychiatrist for four and a half years in 1950 to 1955.

However, Charles Ward, Mr. Garrison's assistant, replied by quoting his chief's response when similar charges were made against him in 1965 by a political opponent.

At that time Mr. Garrison said he had volunteered for combat duty in the Korean War as a plane spotter.

"I had contracted amoebic dysentery in Europe during World War II, which resulted in exhaustion and intestinal trouble," Mr. Garrison was quoted as having said.

"The Army diagnosed this as an anxiety reaction during the Korean War. They subsequently concluded that if it was there, it's gone now."

Mr. Ward said: "the Army would not allow a man who had psychiatric illness to hold the rank of lieutenant colonel in the Army Reserve."

'Totally Unfit'

The Tribune article said that Mr. Garrison was "discharged from the Army as totally unfit for military duty but in 1955 he was allowed to re-enter the National Guard."

The account went on to quote from an Army medical board report on Mr. Garrison made at Brooke Army Hospital in San Antonio.

The report was quoted as follows:

"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."

3 'Witnesses' Subpoenaed

NEW ORLEANS, Dec. 29 (Reuters) — District Attorney Garrison issued subpoenas today for three "material witnesses" in the alleged plot to assassinate President Kennedy.

Mr. Garrison charged that 10 men were arrested in Dealey Plaza in Dallas minutes after President Kennedy was shot, "some of whom we have identified as participants in the assassination."

They were "quietly released" following the murder, later in the day of Patrolman J. D. Tippit in another part of Dallas, he said.

The three subpoenaed were identified as Loran E. Hall of Kernville, Calif., Lawrence J. Howard of Los Angeles and Thomas E. Beckham of Omaha.

Mr. Garrison's statement said that Mr. Howard was also known as Alonzo Escurido and that Mr. Hall was known as Lorenzo Pascillo and Skip Hall.

The subpoenas issued by Judge Matthew S. Braniff in Criminal District Court ordered the men to appear before the New Orleans Parish grand jury Feb. 1 and 2. The men were guaranteed immunity from arrest for anything that happened before their entry into Louisiana.