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Garrison's Army Record: Disability

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

The Pentagon said yesterday it has been bombarded by newsmen for information about the military background of Garrison, 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.

An inquiry is being made to determine if confidential material from Garrison's services files has been released without authorization, the Pentagon said.

Garrison continues to issue subpoenas in an attempt to prove that instead of a solo crime the assassination was the work of an extensive band of conspirators.

The Defense Department 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 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 Ft. Sill, Okla.; Camp Roberts, Calif.; Pecos, Tex.; Camp Rucker, Ala.; and the European Theater of Operations.

"He was separated at Ft. Dix, N.J. He was recalled to active duty on July 24, 1951, and serviced 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."