

An Explanation

Garrison Medical Report

New Orleans

District Attorney Jim Garrison yesterday declined comment on a newspaper report that he was once declared unfit for military service due to mental troubles.

But his top assistant, Charles A. Ward, issued a statement denying the report, published by the Chicago Tribune yesterday.

Garrison, aiming to prove the November 1963 assassination of President Kennedy resulted from a conspiracy, has charged two men with being involved in the plot. He has also implied United States Government officials knew of the plot.

According to the Chicago Tribune, an Army medical board in San Antonio, Texas, reported to an army physical

evaluation board in October 1951: "This patient has a severe and disabling psychoneurosis of long duration. It has interfered with his social and professional adjustment to a marked degree."

Ward said in his statement "there is nothing new in these statements. All of this was brought up and these charges were made when Mr. Garrison ran for District Attorney in the last campaign."

"Since Mr. Garrison's discharge from active duty with the U.S. Army, he has received two promotions as a member of the National Guard and the Army Reserve.

"He recently was promoted to the rank of Lieutenant Colonel in the U.S. Army Reserve, and the Army would

not permit a man who had a psychiatric illness to hold that rank as a reserve officer."

A source close to Garrison said the assumption that he suffered mental disorders arose after he contracted amoebic dysentery during World War II, when he served as an artillery spotter.

In 1950 he volunteered for combat duty in the Korean war without informing the authorities of his persistent illness. He was physically unable to stand up to the rigorous training program and crashed his plane, the source said.

A proud young man, he refused to disclose his illness to hospital authorities who diagnosed his condition as mental trouble, the source said.

Associated Press

Army Seeks Source of The Report

Washington

The Army is investigating how medical records on New Orleans District Attorney Jim Garrison reached the hands of a Chicago Tribune reporter, the Defense Department said yesterday.

Such records are supposed to be confidential unless the person concerned permits their release.

Chicago Tribune reporter Russell Freeburg, in a copyrighted story Thursday, wrote that Garrison was discharged from the Army in 1951 as totally unfit for military duty because of mental problems.

The Pentagon released a brief chronology of his service noting that he was "released from active duty by reason of physical disability in the grade of captain on Oct. 31, 1951."

Times-Post Service