

ATTICA  
**Damages Charges  
Dropped Against 9  
In Kent State Case**  
NYTimes AUG 9 1975

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 dis-  
missal of the claims against the  
nine dropped the number of de-  
fendants to 32, including Gov.  
James A. Rhodes; the former  
Kent State president; Robert I.  
White; former Adj. Gen. Syl-  
vester T. Del Corso, and Guard  
Brig. Gen. Robert H. Canter-  
bury.

In testimony on the first day  
of the defense's case, the for-  
mer Kent Police Chief, Roy  
Thompson, said that civil au-  
thorities 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 en-  
forcement groups, but Mr.  
Thompson also denied hearing  
Mr. Rhodes tell officials pri-  
vately before a news confer-  
ence that he was taking perso-  
nal command.

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

Continued on Page 1, Column 1