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Army Clears

General in

War Charge

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The Army yesterday announced dismissal of charges filed against Major General John W. Barnes by Lieutenant Colonel Anthony B. Herbert, who accused the general of covering up atrocities in Vietnam.

It said the dismissal was ordered by Major General Roland M. Gleszer, commander of the Military District of Washington, after an inquiry lasting six months and involving 3000 pages of sworn testimony from 52 witnesses.

The Army provided no details other than to say Gleszer concluded that "the available evidence did not establish the commission of alleged offenses."

Herbert brought charges against Barnes last March, accusing the general of covering up incidents of murder and torture of civilians in Vietnam in 1969. Similar charges against Colonel J. Ross Franklin were dismissed July 21.

Herbert said that during the 58 days he served as commander of the 2nd Battalion, 173rd Airborne Brigade, he reported specific incidents of torture and murder to the two officers. But, Herbert said he was told to mind his own business, called disloyal and relieved of his command after Franklin filed a damaging efficiency report.

Last week Secretary of the Army Robert F. Froehlke ordered the damaging efficiency report filed by Franklin thrown out, thus opening the way for Herbert to be considered for promotion.

Associated Press