

# Old memo depicts participants, *F Post 7-14-75* cover story of LSD experiment

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A long lost memo describing the retreat meeting where reportedly Frank Olson and four other Ft. Detrick scientists were covertly given LSD by Central Intelligence Agency employes has been located by Olson's family. It contains the complete list of participants and the official cover story under which secrecy of the drug experiment was carried out.

Meanwhile, the acting Chief Medical Examiner in New York, Dr. Dominick DiMaio, has said that as a result of new revelations in the 1953 death of Olson, he was reopening the case which has remained on file for 22 years without a definite ruling.

According to the memo, the retreat meeting was held Nov. 17, 18 and 19 at Deep Creek Lake (Garrett County) with Ft. Detrick personnel Lt. Col. Vincent Ruwet, Dr. John L. Schwab, Dr. Frank Olson, Dr. John Stubbs, Dr. Bert Tanner and Ben Wilson apparently present. Ruwet has said that five of these men were given the LSD and one, because of medical reasons, was not.

A separate column on the memo includes two recognized employes of the CIA — Robert Lashbrook and Sidney Gottlieb — and two others listed as A. Hughes and H. Bortner. According to Schwab, they previously were unknown to the group, but are believed, by the Olson family, to be possible CIA employes.

The cover story given reads —

"Camouflage: winter meeting of script writers, editors, authors, lecturers, sports magazines. From Eastern Shore, Baltimore, Washington. Remove C. D. Tags."

C. D. tags were the Camp Detrick identification tags used on vehicles and persons at Detrick, according to the family.

When contacted last Thursday by The News-Post, Schwab, who now lives in Columbus, Ohio, at first refused comment on whether the Special Operations division at Detrick, of which he was lab chief in 1953, had any CIA connections or had experimented with LSD.

However, Schwab now has admitted to

See MEMO, page A-5

being at the meeting, knowing of the CIA presence in his program and learning shortly after Olson's death that it was related to LSD.

"I was under restrictions at the time," Schwab said, adding that he would save any further public comment until after he consults military counsel.

Schwab denies that he was one of the scientists secretly given LSD and did not divulge the identities of co-workers who might have received the "laced" after-dinner drinks.

However, based upon the word of an Olson co-worker, the Olson family concludes that besides Olson and Ruwet, Tanner and Schwab also were given the LSD.

Although admitting LSD was involved in the 1953 incident, Schwab and at least one other Special Operations scientist have denied that ongoing experiments with LSD were being conducted at Detrick.

LSD, lysergic acid diethylamide, was invented in 1938 by Dr. Albert Hofmann of the Sandoz Research Laboratories in Basel, Switzerland. It was first introduced in the United States only a few months before Dr. Olson's death in November, 1953.

At the time, Dr. Howard A. Abramson, the psychiatrist entrusted by the CIA to treat and diagnose Olson, was recognized as one of very few researchers involved with LSD in the U.S. Abramson has since told Olson's family that he had very little knowledge of LSD at the time.

Abramson reportedly made arrangements on the day preceding Olson's death for the biochemist to enter Chestnut Lodge sanitarium in Rockville,

Abramson described Olson as suffering from severe psychosis and delusions.

LSD also was listed as one of several psychochemicals under study by chemical warfare researchers of the U.S. Army at Fort Detrick and Edgewood Arsenal near Aberdeen.

The Rockefeller commission report says that "(Olson) had participated in discussions where testing of such substances on unsuspecting subjects was agreed to in principle." A commission member has said the meeting took place at the Deep Creek Lake retreat.

The two identified CIA employes, Lashbrook and Gottlieb, who, according to an Olson co-worker, administered the LSD have not been located for comment. While they had been closely associated with the Special Operations division at Detrick, Olson's family has learned that the two CIA men soon left the area and have not been seen here since.

The Rockefeller report mentions only that the two CIA employes were reprimanded but gives no further details. The Olsons were told of CIA presence at the biochemist's death but never received any explanations beyond the fact that he "fell or jumped" to his death.

Ruwet and Schwab, according to the family, went to CIA officials threatening to tell the true events of the LSD incident if Olson's widow Alice was not given Army compensation.

The family received compensation for a work related accident, and the CIA, along with Ruwet and Schwab, who were sworn to secrecy, kept the true details from the unknowing and troubled family for the next 22 years.