

# DRUG DEATH DATA OMITS ARMY LINK

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City Records on '53 Fatality  
Don't Cite Military Test

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By JOSEPH B. TREASTER

The acting chief medical examiner of Manhattan said yesterday that the city's records on the death of Harold Blauer, who died in an Army-sponsored experiment with hallucinogenic drugs at the New York State Psychiatric Institute 22 years ago, made no mention of the fact that Mr. Blauer had been a participant in an experiment or that the Army had in any way been involved.

The medical examiner, Dr. Dominick DiMaio, said, however, that the records did confirm that the mind-altering drug mescaline had been a factor in the death of the 42-year-old tennis pro.

"Normally, if you were using a man in an experiment and he died you would call that to my attention," said Dr. DiMaio, who, happened to be present when the autopsy was performed on Mr. Blauer on Jan. 9, 1953, the day after he died.

Dr. DiMaio said that although doctors from the institute apparently had not flatly stated that Mr. Blauer's death had occurred during an experiment, they had reported giving him derivatives of mescaline for "diagnostic purposes"—which he said could be construed as meaning experimental. He said he felt that, on balance, "they didn't hide anything."

## Classified Secret

Dr. Sidney, Malitz, the acting director of the New York State Psychiatric Institute, 722 West 168th Street, who was not at the institute when the experiment involving Mr. Blauer was conducted, said that the work had been classified secret by the Army and that those directly involved in the project "probably didn't give all the background facts because of the secret nature." The work was done at the institute under contract with the Army.

The Army said in a state-

ment Tuesday that Mr. Blauer had been given injections of mescaline derivatives four times with "mild or no effects," but that he died two and a half hours after a fifth injection was given.

Mr. Blauer's daughter, Elizabeth Barrett, who lives in Manhattan, said her mother had told her that her father had suffered bad reactions twice before the fatal dose had been administered and that he had become "very upset."

She insisted that her father had not volunteered or given his permission to be a subject in any drug tests.

## Issue of Permission

Dr. Malitz said in an interview that he had been told by one of the doctors involved in the experiments that all the patients had given their permission but he said he wasn't sure "whether it was in writing or what."

Dr. DiMaio said the cause of the death in the autopsy performed by Dr. Benjamin Moran Vance had been given as "coronary arteriosclerosis, sudden death after intravenous injection of a mescaline derivative, Jan. 8, 1953."

Dr. DiMaio said that the medical examiner's office had not been able to detect the presence of mescaline in a series of chemical tests, but that doctors from the institute had reported that the drug had been given to Mr. Blauer.

Dr. Malitz said that in human experiments in the nineteen-fifties there was less supervision and control of researchers and that often subjects were given only a general notion of the effect or the potential danger of drugs given to them.

In the last 10 years or so, he said, the institute had pioneered in the establishment of medical research centers of committees on human investigation and other supervisory devices in an effort to insure that maximum safeguards were taken and that fully informed consent was obtained in writing from subjects.

In Albany yesterday, a review of records in the Court of 1953 the widow of Mr. Blauer had sued the State of New York for negligence in the death of her husband. She had asked for \$275,000 in compensation, the records show, but settled out of court for \$18,000.

In the records Mr. Blauer was quoted as saying that her husband has become "violently ill" after an "overdose" of "injections," but no drug name was given. There was also no mention of Army involvement in the court records.