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\$8 Million Is Asked From Army Over Fatal Drug Test

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NEW YORK, Sept. 3—The daughter of a psychiatric patient who died here 22 years ago in an Army-sponsored experiment with hallucinogenic drugs has filed an \$8.5 million claim against the Army for what she said was the wrongful death of her father.

Elizabeth Barrett, a former fashion model who is now a medical education specialist, said her father, Harold Blauer, was given large doses of three types of mind-altering drugs against his will and had complained bitterly of his reactions to the drugs before he died Jan. 8, 1953, at the New York State Psychiatric Institute at Columbia-Presbyterian Medical Center.

At a press conference today at her West Side apartment here, she released a medical log containing written observations on Blauer's condition during the nine days before he died.

Barrett, a 35-year-old widow, said the log indicates that Blauer was "terrified all the way through the experiment."

Barrett and her sister, Amy, obtained the log and copies of other previously released documents in a meeting Thursday in Washington with Richard V. Kearney, deputy general counsel of the Department of the Army.

She said Army officials told her they were trying to determine who wrote the medical logs, which are unsigned. They cover a period from Dec. 11, 1952, until the death, which the Army attributed to "cardiovascular collapse," or heart attack.

The Army log, which was declassified on Aug. 28, shows that on Dec. 11, 1952, Blauer—

a 42-year-old former tennis professional who had entered the hospital for treatment of depression — was "apprehensive about getting (the) drug . . . Expected reaction."

Twelve days later, according to the document, Blauer was restless and asked, "Why do you do this, I have plans to go home tomorrow."

Later, according to the log, he said, "Oh it is terrible at first, shaking, but I feel okay now." The record depicts Blauer as a patient alternately complaining about his reaction to the drug and then saying he felt well.

At times, he complained that voices seemed extraordinarily loud and that light seemed unusually bright, and at other times he complained of fits of trembling, forgetfulness, and exaggerated fear, according to the log.

On Jan. 8, 1953, when the last injection was administered, Blauer was described as "protesting injection," and, according to the minute-by-minute entries, the injection was ended.

Minutes later, Blauer began frothing at the mouth and flailing his arms, and 1½ hours later he went into a coma, according to the record.

Hospital officials have said Blauer voluntarily took mind-altering drugs in a series of five tests for diagnostic purposes, a claim which Barrett disputed today.

She said her father had already been diagnosed as being depressed, and that diagnostic studies were unnecessary.

The Army has six months to answer the claim for damages, after which time Blauer's survivors can make a claim in Federal Court. Mrs. Barrett said her attorneys were considering further action against New York State, which in 1955 awarded an \$18,000 settlement to Blauer's divorced wife, who died about a year ago.