

Report on Army's Drug Tests Tells of Efforts at Concealment

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An internal Army report made public yesterday tells of a Government effort to conceal the Army's sponsorship of experiments with hallucinogenic drugs that resulted in the death of a civilian subject in New York 23 years ago.

The report quotes one of the physicians in charge of the fatal test as saying that the drug was administered not for the benefit of the patient, but "in an attempt to create an exaggerated mental state (schizophrenia)."

The death of the civilian, Harold Blauer, 42 years old, was disclosed by the Army last August at a time when the drug experiments were being investigated by Congress and by journalists.

There are conflicting accounts in the report as to the extent of the physical examination given to Mr. Blauer, a professional tennis player, but an Army colonel and one of the doctors in charge are cited as

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indicating that the examination was not thorough and that if they had had more information the drug, a derivative of mescaline, would not have been administered.

Furthermore, the report quoted a Department of Justice memo as saying that "neither the patient nor his family were advised of the proposed therapy [sic] or gave permission."

Diagnostic Use Alleged

In its disclosure last August, the Army said it appeared the drug was being used for "diagnostic" purposes.

Representative Thomas J. Downey, Democrat of Suffolk County, made the report available to reporters and said it had been compiled by the Inspector General of the Army. He said that the decision to keep secret the Army's role in the test had been made "in the interests of national security and to avoid adverse publicity."

A spokesman for the Army said that the Army had not been aware that the report was being released and could not immediately comment on it.

She said that the report, which was completed last September, had not been made

public by the Army because of litigation against the service by members of the Blauer family.

Mr. Blauer's daughter, Elizabeth Barrett, a 36-year-old widow who lives in Manhattan, has filed a Federal tort claim for \$8.5 million for the "wrongful death" of her father and \$85 million civil suit alleging that Government officials, Army officers and doctors conspired to cover up a "wide scale experimental drug program on human subjects."

Mr. Blauer died on Jan. 8, 1953, at the New York Psychiatric Institute, which is affiliated with nearby Presbyterian Hospital and the Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons.

Four days after the Army's disclosures last year about the death, Mr. Downey told The New York Times that he believed the Army had deliberately tried to cover up its involvement in the incident for more than two decades.

Then, in September, The Times told in an article how officials of the New York State Attorney General's office, the United States Department of Justice and the Army had maneuvered to keep the Army's role secret as a New York state lawyer arranged an \$18,000 out-of-court settlement with Mr. Blauer's widow, who had filed two claims for a total of \$525,000. The Inspector General's report appeared to confirm the earlier reports in The Times.

Daughter Sees Fraud

When Miss Barrett, who uses her middle name rather than that of her husband and does not use the honorific Mrs., filed her claims, she maintained that any releases obtained from her mother in the case had been obtained fraudulently.

Miss Barrett has said that her father admitted himself to the psychiatric institute in early December 1952 suffering from "depression and tension" after her mother divorced him and went to Mexico. She said he had been improving and had been scheduled to be re-

leased from the institute the day after the fatal experiment.

Documents explaining the experiment with Mr. Blauer indicate that he protested the injections and Miss Barrett says she believes he was forced to take the drug.

In the latest report, Dr. James P. Cattell, one of the three doctors listed as "principal investigators" in the experiment and the only one still alive, is said to have told Army investigators that the drugs administered under Army contract to patients at the institute were "in addition to diagnostic and therapeutic treatment."

Dr. Cattell, who is believed to be in private practice now in southwestern Massachusetts, is quoted as saying that his recollection was that the drugs were being given to simulate schizophrenia to give "researchers an opportunity to develop a treatment for this condition."

Reports on Examination

Dr. Cattell reportedly told the investigators that Mr. Blauer had been given the same kind of physical examination that other incoming patients at the institute had received. But an Army colonel testified that two doctors, one employed by the Army, had told him that Mr. Blauer had not been given a thorough examination.

"If he had, the colonel was quoted as saying, "and they found out his previous condition [cardio-vascular], they would not have used him as a subject in this case." One of the institute doctors also said that Mr. Blauer would not have been given the mescaline derivative if there had been knowledge of an arteriosclerosis condition.

The Government's experiments with hallucinogenic drugs first came to public attention in July 1975 with the disclosure by a committee investigating the Central Intelligence Agency that Dr. Frank Olson, a civilian biochemist working for the Army, had plunged to his death from a 10th floor hotel window in New York shortly after being surreptitiously given LSD in an after-dinner drink by C.I.A. employees.

Dr. Olson's wife and three children said they intended to sue the Government. But earlier this year they said they hoped to receive \$1.25 million in compensation through a private Congressional bill. The legislation was unanimously approved by the Senate in May, a lawyer for the family said, and is now pending before the House.