

OFFICE OF STRATEGIC SERVICES

INTEROFFICE MEMO

TO: General William J. Donovan

DATE: 21 June 1943

FROM:

SUBJECT: Development of "Truth Drug"

On January 1, 1943, requested that experiments be carried out so that definite recommendations could be made concerning drugs which might be useful in the interrogation of prisoners of war. As a result of this recommendation, various meetings were held by a committee composed of:

and at a later time, sat in on the meetings. Messrs. were also present at these meetings. At times, consultants of the was used as a

It was decided that the first set of experiments should be made with mescaline as the drug.

and volunteered for and reported for tests with mescaline on Saturday, January 30 and Sunday, January 31, at a hospital. At the hospital, they were given certain preliminary tests, then experimental quantities of mescaline were administered. The results of the tests were negative in producing a proper relaxation of the men and, on the contrary, brought about physical discomfort without causing the men to divulge any information whatsoever.

After further discussion by the committee it was considered desirable to proceed with tests using scopolamine instead of the drug. Consequently, a request was made of

(per our letter of April 2) to supply four unlisted men, who would first be given certain basic tests as to their physical condition. Four men volunteered and then reported to the where the experiments were carried out under the direction of

21 June 1943

In the course of these experiments, the men were fed a certain amount of the cannabis tincture by mouth. The results of these tests were also unsatisfactory, in that the men suffered considerable physical discomfort without disclosing confidential information which had been furnished them.

B It was then decided that a further set of tests should be made at the \_\_\_\_\_, wherein we would give cannabis by mouth, increasing the dose gradually in the hope that there would be a certain point at which the subjects would talk freely and yet not suffer physical discomfort. Treated cigarettes were used as an adjunct in the experiments.

C Through \_\_\_\_\_ we were able to secure eight enlisted men who volunteered for the purpose. However, the results of these tests were again negative in that the men suffered physical discomfort and would not discuss confidential matters. It developed that one of the men, \_\_\_\_\_, suffered some after effects and so was sent to the \_\_\_\_\_.

3324  
3 C However, \_\_\_\_\_ stated that this man was of unstable temperament and that he had been given unusually good treatment in the \_\_\_\_\_ Hospital. \_\_\_\_\_ felt that the return from such treatment to the camp might have been a more important factor in causing the man's condition than the drug itself. (As of this date, approximately six weeks after the experiments, the man appears to have almost entirely recovered and will likely be ordered back to camp.)

C At a further meeting of the committee, it was decided that oral administration was an unsatisfactory method and that experiments should be made with various methods of inhalation. \_\_\_\_\_ then conducted tests by putting tetrahydrocannabinol acetate (extracted from Indian hemp) on charcoal which was then lighted and the vapors were allowed to penetrate in the room; also by spraying the acetate into a room. In both cases members of our own staff were used as subjects in the treated atmosphere. The results of the charcoal test were negative, but it was thought that the spray method offered some promise. Nevertheless, it was decided that the use of cigarettes, treated with the acetate, might be the best method of operation. Therefore, \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ carried on extensive experiments with our own staff and with members of the committee, to determine the effects of such an administration, and also to determine the quantities of drug to be used.

C These tests gave good results in that it appeared possible to administer an amount of the material which would bring about a state of irresponsibility, causing the subject to become loquacious and free in his

21 June 1943

impartation of information (some of which it was felt he would certainly not divulge except under influence of the drug), yet without causing unpleasant symptoms during, or after, the tests. Another test was carried out by [redacted] in which he gave treated cigarettes to a New York gangster, but without the subject knowing of the treatment. The gangster became voluble and imparted much secret information as attested by the attached copy of [redacted] report. However, the gangster attributed his volubility to the fact that he had drunk some brandy.

The cigarette experiments indicated that we had a mechanism which offered promise in the relaxing of prisoners to be interrogated. As the committee agreed with this conclusion, we then went to General Donovan and at his suggestion talked with [redacted] who then channeled us to [redacted] of MIS. At the time of our visit to [redacted]'s office, [redacted] of CE talked with the General for some time, but we did not talk with [redacted] informed us that the General apparently did not want to know more about the subject. Thereupon, General Donovan channeled us to [redacted] with whom we discussed the subject in some detail and who proved to be quite interested. Shortly after this meeting with [redacted] he and [redacted] visited our offices and we then gave them the story again fully. [redacted] then sent to us [redacted] of ONI, to whom we gave the whole story, together with a package of the treated cigarettes. The Commander was very much interested but doubtful as to how far he could go with the method.

A

Assistant Director  
Research and Development

Memorandum on T.D.

2 June 1945

On May 27, 1945 I conducted a field test with cigarettes containing Loewe's acetate upon a subject who did not know he was the subject of experimentation and who, because of his position, had numerous secrets he was most anxious to conceal, the revelation of which might well result in his imprisonment.

This subject was named

Subject is about 40 years of age, in good health, and is an occasional user of opium. He is known as a "pleasure" smoker, which means that while he is not addicted to the use of opium he might smoke once or twice during a month.

Subject is a notorious New York gangster, and in his youth has served prison sentences

[REDACTED]

54 M In connection with a plan to utilize members of New York Italian frequent occasion to talk intimately with the subject during the past six weeks. During the course of these conversations, we have also frequently discussed the narcotic situation in New York in general terms. Upon no occasion did the subject show willingness to provide any concrete information whatsoever which might be of value to the government as evidence against narcotic law violators. The subject prides himself on the fact that he has never been an informer and that he has been instrumental in killing some persons who have been informants. He is intimately acquainted with all the major criminals in the New York area.

On the day of the experiment, I requested subject to visit me at my apartment in New York on the pretext that I wanted to talk further about plans to utilize his services in Italy. I had previously prepared cigarettes of the same brand I knew him to smoke loaded with both .04 grams of Loewe's acetate and .02 grams of Loewe's acetate. Subject entered the apartment at two p.m. and at that time stated that he could not remain long as he had a friend waiting for him in an automobile outside. After a short conversation regarding the pretext on which he had come to the apartment, I gave him an .04 cigarette at 2:10 p.m. At 2:30 p.m., having noticed no perceptible effects, I gave him a .02 cigarette. Shortly thereafter subject became obviously "high" and extremely garrulous. He monopolized the conversation and was exceedingly friendly. I turned the conversation into "Enforcement" channels, whereupon with no further encouragement subject divulged the following information:

[REDACTED]

The foregoing information was given over a period of approximately two hours. On one occasion, the subject said, "Whatever you do, don't over use any of the stuff I'm telling you". Subject knew that all of the persons he had named were well known to me and had been the objects of close investigation and scrutiny by the Treasury Department over a period of years.

During this conversation subject exhibited no signs of discomfort and apparently did not realize he was under the influence of a drug. He had completely forgotten the man who was waiting for him in the automobile outside. At 4:30 p.m. I found it necessary to interrupt the flow of conversation because other persons were expected and he then left reluctantly. Once started on the subject of criminal activities subject required no encouragement to continue talking and monopolized the conversation.

The following day subject again came to my apartment of his own volition and stated that upon leaving the previous day he had felt "woosy" and did not feel that he was capable of driving his automobile. He stated that he had taken a vigorous physio the previous morning and attributed this condition to that circumstance.

No attempt was made to repeat the experiment that day, but on the following day subject again came to the apartment. On this occasion, at 3:30 p.m. subject was given a cigarette containing .04 grams Loewe's acetate. No perceptible effect was noticed for approximately 20 minutes, whereupon he was given a cigarette containing .04 grams Loewe's acetate.

At about 4:15 subject suddenly complained that what he termed a "strange" feeling came over him. He had been engaged in playing a game of chess with the writer and suddenly leaned back in his chair and closed his eyes. He said he felt that the "room was going around" and that his scalp, hands and feet felt like they had "pins and needles sticking in them".

I suggested subject take a small quantity of brandy. Subject does not drink, but agreed to take the brandy for medicinal purposes. Upon drinking it he then immediately attributed his symptoms to the brandy. He said that he had not eaten for three days and that he had also taken a heavy physio that morning.

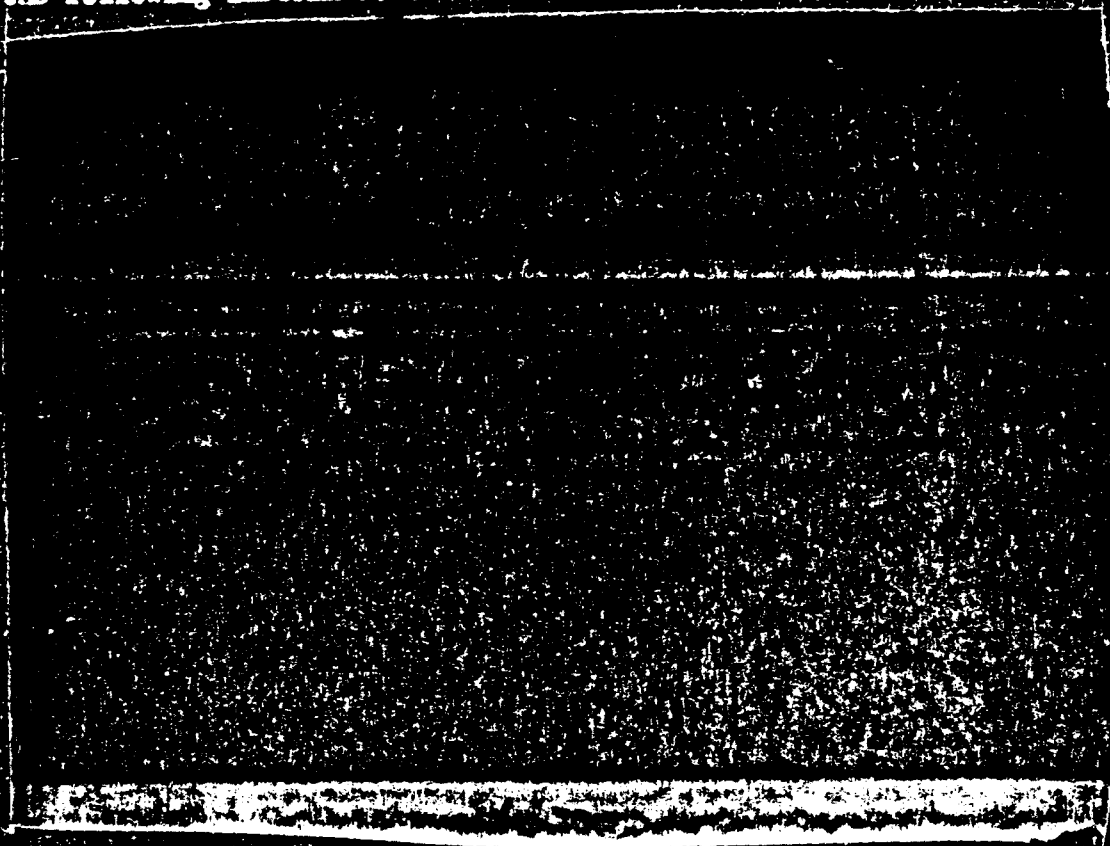


I suggested that subject lie down and led him to a couch where he collapsed and was apparently unconscious for a period of approximately one hour. At the end of that time, subject sat up and some discussion was had relative to the cause of his trouble. I suggested that his condition was due to weakness from having not eaten, combined with the amount of physic he had taken and he agreed that this probably was the case. We then went to dinner, at which time he ate a hearty meal. Approximately an half-hour later he stated that he felt fine.

H During the period prior to his collapse very little conversation was had of significance excepting that just prior to his collapse subject volunteered that he could arrange to have murdered, if I thought that would be helpful to the war effort. I explained that any such action would merely make a martyr, but he repeated that he could have it accomplished by some employees of Union. I dissuaded him from such activity.

H The following day, on May 31st, subject came to my apartment at noon and offered to drive me to Long Island where my wife was convalescing from illness. En route to Long Island, I gave subject an .02 cigarette. He was driving and exhibited no visible effect. He engaged in conversation, however, and on this occasion gave me the following information:

H  
H  
H



Although subject's condition the previous day was frequently mentioned and discussed, he did not have a perceptible effect from the .02 cigarette administered in this case and did not comment on any abnormalities of feeling.

All of the foregoing information could be damaging to the subject and is a class of information that subject would never give under ordinary circumstances. There is no question but that the administration of the drug was responsible for loosening the subject's tongue.

It is believed that in the future administration of the drug should be held to the .02 cigarette over a period of time sufficient to bring about desired results. Experiments should be conducted under such conditions that sufficient time will be allowed for the milder cigarettes to take effect, and no interruptions should be permitted to occur.

A  
Captain, AUS

Copied 6/19/43 by m.a.c. for  
A