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Deception, brainwashing and a suit over suffering

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MONTREAL — Eighteen-year-old Robert Logie, on an October day in 1956, went to a prestigious institute at McGill University for psychiatric help.

"I had an arthritic leg," he said. "I guess the doctors thought it might be psychosomatic."

But Logie did not get the psychotherapy he expected at the Allan Memorial Institute.

Instead, he was given massive Page-Russell electric shocks, 70 to 100 times stronger than the shocks ordinarily used in psychotherapy, medical records indicate. He also was given combinations of powerful drugs, including LSD and sodium amobarbital — truth serum.

What happened to Logie, and perhaps 100 other unsuspecting Canadians, was that they were duped by doctors who used them as human guinea pigs for their research in secret, CIA-financed experiments in brainwashing and mind control.

As a result of the treatment, Logie said, he has had amnesia and insomnia. Others have reported trouble reading and concentrating, and many cannot hold steady jobs.

Almost 30 years after the fact, Logie and eight others are suing the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency for \$1 million each for their suffering. The trial is scheduled to begin this summer in U.S. District Court in Washington.

The CIA has refused to comment on the case, and a spokesperson for Canada's State Department of External Affairs said officials were trying to assist the plaintiffs, but had no comment on the case.

According to CIA documents that came to light in the 1970s, the agency began its mind-control studies in the late 1940s in an effort to learn how to crack the mental defenses of enemy agents and to program operatives, both enemy and its own, to carry out missions against their will. In 1953, the CIA began a \$10 million secret program called Artichoke, which was later renamed Mkultra.

Mkultra used private foundations as fronts to finance 149 research projects on behavior control and brainwashing at 86 universities and other institutions. Such CIA-financed programs were conducted not only in the United States and Canada, but also in European countries.

Among the programs was one conducted by Dr. Ewen Cameron, the director of the Allan Memorial Institute and considered one of Canada's most prominent psychiatrists at the time. Investigators have learned that from 1957 to 1961, the CIA provided Cameron \$60,000 for his work.

During the same period, McGill University itself received \$35,000, mostly in the form of grants to the psychiatry department, which was also headed by Cameron.

In the late 1950s and early 1960s, Logie and the other eight involved in the suit went to the institute for a variety of reasons. Some felt depressed after giving birth, and others were alcoholics seeking detoxification. Another was a doctor who came to the institute hoping to get a fellowship, but who was made a patient after she was judged to be "nervous" during her interview.

They paid hefty fees for their treatment. One, Jeanine Huard of Montreal, had to mortgage her house to

make the payments.

But they did not get the help they wanted.

Logie, like the others, only later was able to piece together his experience, which involved two stays at the institute totaling five months. He said the doctors first tried to blot out his memory.

Medical records also show that he was put into a drug-induced sleep for 23 days. During that time, he was played a tape recording that repeated the same message for 16 hours a day.

"I think I remember what was on the tape. . . 'You killed your mother,'" Logie recalled recently.

The research writings of Cameron, who was killed in a mountaineering accident in 1967, explained that the drugs and shocks were used to wipe

out unwanted memories and behaviors. The repeated tape-recorded messages, which he called "psychic driving," were then supposed to instill new behaviors.

Some patients got up to half a million of the psychic-driving messages, followed by a period of prolonged, drug-induced sleep to erase the memory of the experiments.

Some of the patients accepted those experiments, perhaps thinking that the doctor knew best. But Logie said he tried, unsuccessfully, to escape several times.

Today, Logie, who lives alone in Vancouver, British Columbia, says the experiments still torture him. Logie has described bouts of amnesia, an inability to sleep without drugs, anxiety, depression and a recurring nightmare about Cameron.

"I picture him coming at me with a larger-than-life syringe of LSD. And just before he jabs it in my arm, I wake up," said Logie.

Others in the group that is suing have talked of being unable to read or concentrate. Some are incontinent. One has been permanently institutionalized. None holds a steady job.

"It ruined my life completely," said Jean-Charles Page, 53, of St. Andre-Est, Quebec. He once was a successful salesman, but has been unable to hold a job since the experiments.

Page, who sought treatment for alcoholism, was given 36 days of psychic driving with a message that said in part, "You do not trust women . . . you feel small and inferior. You are unable to compete with other men."

In her psychic driving, Jeanine Huard was taunted: "You are running away from your responsibility. You are no good to your children. You are no good to your husband."

Harvey Weinstein, a psychiatrist at Stanford University, told of his father, Louis, a successful businessman who went to the institute and "came home the shell of a person."

"The transformation was not only abrupt, but horrifying," Weinstein said in an interview. "He never worked again a day in his life. He lost his friends. He lost his family."

"My father's life ended at the age of 49."

Continued



**Dr. Ewen Cameron
Led CIA-financed experiments**

Looking back, Logie is astounded by what happened.

"You read about this kind of thing happening in Russia," he said. "But you never think about it happening in Canada and the United States."

Logie and the others did not learn what had happened to them until the late 1970s. In 1980, they filed their \$9 million civil suit against the U.S. government.

During that time, the CIA released documents on the experimental programs after a request from author John Marks under the U.S. Freedom of Information Act. Newspapers, magazines and television picked up the story. Marks wrote his book, *The Search for the Manchurian Candidate*, about the CIA and mind control.

The documents describe a \$25 million CIA program to study mind control that had gone on for 25 years. They detail a project known as Mkultra that funneled money through a private foundation for Cameron's experiments at the institute.

Suddenly, the victims understood what had happened.

"For all nine of us, none were all that ill," Logie said. "Christ, if anything, it [the experiments] created mental illness."