



THE BLACK VAULT

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F/O, I, 64, 16

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31 August 1945

SUBJECT: TD

TO: The Director, Room 124 Administration Building

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1. For the past few months the subject of TD has been carefully studied at the _____ by a group of investigators all of whom possess an extensive background in the fields of psychology and psychiatry. Prior to embarking on the project, the group interviewed _____ from this organization concerning their knowledge of present day interrogation procedures. Shortly thereafter, our department was requested to send volunteers to New York at the rate of three a week which represented two complete days of investigation per man. The subjects selected at first were enlisted returnees and at _____ suggestion, no particular briefing was given to these men.

2. Plan of procedure:

- a. Each individual was given a fairly complete psychological examination.
- b. Attempts were then made by creating a friendly atmosphere to extract secret military information using an indirect subtle approach.
- c. TD was then administered, and it's results were carefully noted as to physiological and psychological effect and the output of additional information, particularly that which the individual apparently was formerly reluctant to discuss.

3. Results: TD produced a physiological disturbance in all the subjects to a minor degree. From the psychological standpoint, the general rapport appeared to be enhanced. No untoward results were encountered with the exception that one individual exhibited acute anxiety which necessitated the termination of the interview. Concerning the output of military information, all of the men displayed a surprising lack of security consciousness. They freely discussed intimate details of their work with OSS, both with or without TD. This naturally led some of the doctors to believe that in those instances where more information was obtained after TD, that the substance itself actually was responsible. However, a careful analysis indicated that in all probability the results would have been the same without TD, it just being a matter of time before the desired information was obtained.

4. In view of the fact that the enlisted men revealed so much information, it was decided to send only officer returnees. Before these men departed for New York, they were instructed by this department that they were not to reveal any information concerning their overseas activities with OSS. However, inasmuch as they failed to realize that they were being exposed to an interrogation procedure at the hospital, they unwittingly

dropped some information that should have been withheld. Because of this, it was again difficult to properly evaluate the role of TD. After consultations with the investigators in New York, the briefing was radically changed and it was decided to send only two officers a week which would allow an extra day of study per man. The subjects were carefully told in our office that what they were to experience in New York City was an interrogation procedure, and that they must always be on the alert, (naturally no mention was made of TD). It was also decided to write out a short synopsis of their real activities in OSS along with four other propositions all equally plausible but completely false. All five propositions were given to the group at _____ and it then became their concern to determine which of the five propositions was the correct one. At about this time a lie detector was procured and each subject was routinely tested on this machine.

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5. Results: Any classified military information became much more difficult to extract, both with and without TD. (The lie detector was quite successful in some instances.) TD certainly contributes to the establishment and maintenance of rapport and inspired a certain amount of confidence in the individual. However, it does not by any means destroy his personality pattern and will not cause an individual to deliberately reveal any matter which he considers secret. However, in several instances, it was felt that the individual, because of the loss of inhibition, may have dropped items of information which it is assumed he would not have done without the stimulus of the substance. There can be no question that if rapport is destroyed or if the individual is put on his guard, even to the slightest degree, that TD will have no effect whatsoever.

6. I conducted the entire investigation in New York City for the past ten days during which time three subjects were interviewed. My impression is that TD is an asset to interrogation and if I had to rate it on a scale of ten I would assign a rating to it of from one to two.

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7. The most important element in obtaining information is the establishment of rapport. This is accomplished (1) by using an indirect, subtle approach, (2) by creating a friendly, pleasant environment, (3) By avoiding any act that places an individual on his guard. TD seems to improve rapport and it has the advantage that the individual does not realize that he is under the influence of any foreign agent. TD does not render an individual a tool in the hands of an interrogator. Without the proper rapport and the environment, it is of no value. I have discussed this entire subject with _____ and indicated to him the limitations of TD and it was his impression that in view of the fact that TD was not an effective agent in destroying an individual's ability to withhold information that he could see no real indication for its use in the present set-up in

Medical Services Office