

# Dead Wrong

Straight Facts on the Country's Most  
Controversial Cover-Ups

**Richard Belzer and  
David Wayne**

Afterword by **Jesse Ventura**



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*This book is dedicated to all those who defend the increasingly rare proposition that this country belongs to The People (not corporations, military contractors or “the best politicians that money can buy”) and it’s still up to The People to determine how it should be governed.*

**“History is the version of past events  
that people have decided to agree upon.”**

**—Napoleon Bonaparte**



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# CHAPTER 1

## Frank Olson – November 28, 1953

*Head of Special Operations Division  
(Top-Secret Research), CIA*



Photo courtesy of *Frank Olson Legacy Project*,  
[FrankOlsonProject.org](http://FrankOlsonProject.org)

### VICTIM

### FRANK OLSON

Cause of  
Death

Fell from the thirteenth-story window of his hotel in New York City.

Official Verdict

“SUICIDE”: Coroner cited autopsy findings indicating that the victim jumped from his window. In 1975, the CIA admitted doping Olson with LSD that led to his suicide (what is known in intelligence parlance as a “limited hangout”) and settled out of court with the Olson family for \$750,000 precluding further investigation. Olson’s family had the body exhumed and re-autopsied in the 1990s and forensic experts concluded that Olson was murdered; the New York District Attorney’s office conducted a murder investigation but never filed criminal charges.

### Actual Circumstances

Olson's death was a clear-cut case of "National Security homicide." As head of CIA bio-weapons research, he had extensive access to "state secrets." One of those secrets was that bombs with the anthrax virus had apparently been dropped on North Korea. He'd become increasingly outraged and vocal by what he saw as an immoral use of his research. He told colleagues he was disturbed about evidence of CIA torture-to-death interrogations in Germany and bacteriological warfare on North Korea. He was deemed a security risk and was interviewed by Military Intelligence. He was drugged with LSD without his knowledge (or permission) and further interrogated about his plans. On the Monday immediately preceding his death, he informed his boss that he was quitting his job (he died the following Saturday). That weekend, he was booked into the Hotel Statler in New York City accompanied by a CIA agent who was constantly guarding him. He was then visited by a military doctor, and once again drugged, and apparently clubbed and pushed out the window of the hotel (the window was closed at the time) and found dying on the sidewalk. A phone call was placed by the CIA agent immediately afterwards (and overheard by a hotel operator) in which the agent stated only: "Well, he's gone." Exhumation and autopsy revealed that he had suffered a severe hematoma to the skull (blow to the head) prior to the fall. It was a textbook murder taken directly from the CIA Assassination Manual.

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### Inconsistencies

1. A second autopsy demanded by relatives confirmed 'blunt force trauma' and that the victim was rendered unconscious *prior* to his fall. Forensic findings were also that there were no indications that the trauma could have come from the window and that the forensic evidence was "rankly and starkly suggestive of homicide."
  2. The U.S. government conceded in an out-of-court settlement that LSD was administered to Olson without his knowledge or permission.
  3. Forensic experts conducting a second autopsy concluded that the first autopsy report intentionally misrepresented the true facts in order to make it appear a suicide.
  4. Contrary to the first autopsy report, no lacerations were found upon the victim, even though he had supposedly crashed through and out of a plate glass window at high
-

speed, plus a canvas shade and cloth curtain covering the shade. Even if the window shade had protected his body from cuts on the way through the window, the forensic literature reveals that individuals receive the most lacerations as parts of their body withdraw from the glass, not as they crash through it (i.e., on the way *out* of the window, not on the way through it), specifically causing multiple lacerations, especially upon the legs of the victim. Olson had none.<sup>7</sup>

5. The hotel room was so small that it would have been impossible for the victim to build up sufficient running speed, then catapult over the twin beds that intersected the room and crash through a plate glass window upon impact, especially one that was not very high.
6. Forensic examination determined that the body of the victim was medically consistent with the body having been dumped out the window in a semi-conscious state, rather than having intentionally crashed through it.
7. The CIA agent, Robert Lashbrook, who was “shadowing” the victim, kept changing his story about how the victim went out the window. The night manager at the hotel immediately realized that something was clearly amiss:

“And here is Lashbrook sitting on a john in his skivvies and the police thought to question him and I heard him say, ‘Well all I heard was a crash.’ I walked around the room to look around. Nobody ever jumps through a window. They open the window and they go out, not dash through a shade and a sheer drape. You know, there’s no sense to that.”

8. Instead of calling the police or the hotel desk after “the accident” as might be expected, the CIA agent called his superior, CIA scientist Dr. Harold Abramson (who had sedated Olson earlier) and, in a conversation enabled and overheard by the hotel operator, stated only:

“Well, he’s gone.”

9. Olson had been interviewed by Military Intelligence and deemed a security risk.
10. Nine days before his death, Olson was drugged (without his knowledge or permission) with LSD and a drug known to make a person more open and talkative and then, in a drugged state, was interrogated utilizing secret interrogation techniques garnered from *Artichoke*, the mind-control operation that Olson had been part of.

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<sup>7</sup> James E. Starrs with Katherine Ramsfeld, *A Voice for the Dead: A Forensic Investigator’s Pursuit of the Truth in the Grave* (New York: G. P. Putnam’s Sons 2005).



11. Shortly before Olson's death, the CIA distributed its Assassination Manual to agents (it was declassified in 1997) which details the precise method of Olson's death as the most preferable method of assassination.
12. In training for the assassinations unit of the Israeli Mossad (Institute for Intelligence & Special Operations), the Olson murder has been used as an example of a perfect assassination.

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**"Frank Olson's murder is like a nuclear bomb in an 18th century naval battle. It stands out because of its context ... In the absence of oversight or accountability, sadism and stupidity compete for domination."<sup>8</sup>**

Would it surprise you to learn that the CIA drugged an entire French village with LSD? Or that it "tested" LSD on unknowing U.S. citizens right in the middle of Manhattan; and on our own soldiers, prisoners, and mental patients locked-up in hospitals?<sup>9</sup> How about that the U.S. tested anthrax on American factory workers and used BW (Bacteriological Warfare) on civilians in North Korea? Or that the CIA secret prisons now known as black sites for "extraordinary rendition" (translation: kidnap-torture) bear their roots in the research of the 1950s? You won't be seeing those facts in high school history books any time soon, but they *did* happen; and Frank Olson was the man who attempted to intervene on behalf of humanity—an act which cost him his life.

Frank Olson, a gifted chemist, was a CIA officer and Acting Chief of Special Operations for the Central Intelligence Agency at the top-secret Special Operations Division at Camp Detrick in Detrick, Maryland. Biological warfare, LSD as a mind-control technique, terminal interrogations and assassination techniques were the realm of the Special Operations Division. Olson was an expert in the use of psychoactive drugs and biological warfare, including anthrax and other viral agents, and he had top security clearance.

A special CIA operation code-named Artichoke "involved the development of special, extreme methods of interrogation." Robert Lashbrook was the identity of the CIA agent shadowing Olson, day and night.

## Historical Perspective of Operation Artichoke

### ▶ World War Two

The "sweeping up" by the Allies following the fall of Nazi Germany includes Operation Dustbin, Operation Trashcan, and Operation Paperclip. The Allies perceived that both Russian and China were already enemies. Some generals recommend continuing on from

<sup>8</sup> David Swanson, "LSD, Murder and the CIA: Frank Olson, Enemy Combatant," *Counterpunch*, 26-28 Mar. 2010

<sup>9</sup> H. P. Albarelli Jr., *A Terrible Mistake: The Murder of Frank Olson and the CIA's Secret Cold War Experiments*, (Trine Day, 2011)

Berlin to Moscow in order to keep Eastern Europe from going Communist, while other generals counsel that land wars in Asia are unwinnable (wisdom that the U.S. later ignores in its wars against Vietnam-Laos-Cambodia, Iraq & Afghanistan).

Therefore, a contest ensues to capture the best of Nazi technology for use in the coming Cold War.

### ▶ **Operation Paperclip**

Operation Paperclip “saved” Nazi scientists. It was a mission to determine those scientists of value to the West in the Cold War. We interviewed Nazi scientists, including those who had conducted experimentation on human subjects in concentration camps such as Dachau, to determine what research was of value and potential use. One of these men was the infamous Kurt Blome. They were shielded from conviction at the Nuremberg war trials (although the evidence against them was substantial and they were clearly Nazi war criminals) and they were quite literally “rescued” from the gallows in exchange for their help with US research programs.

### ▶ **Operation Artichoke**

Artichoke continued where the research had left off in Nazi Germany, and Kurt Blome worked with the scientists on the program. Frank Olson, as Acting Director of CIA Special Operations Division, oversaw the work of this program. Artichoke largely dealt with mind-control techniques and brutal interrogation methods often ending in the death of what the CIA termed “expendables” (prisoners, suspected double agents, etc.). Olson witnessed these interrogations and apparently considered them immoral and very disturbing. “Tests” under Artichoke included combinations of hypnosis, torture, LSD and other hallucinogens, and “mind-opening” and “tongue-loosening” agents. These tests were in the direction of mind-control, maneuvering subjects into controllable states to manufacture “Manchurian candidates” (programmed killers) or, in the case of interrogations, will-less subjects who became totally compliant. Tests sometimes left victims in vegetative states and were other times fatal.

### ▶ **Use of BW (Bacteriological Warfare) Against North Korea**

Top secret order JCS 1837/26 dated September 21, 1951 from the US Joint Chiefs of Staff Command clearly authorized the “field testing” of anthrax weapons and there is evidence that testing was conducted on the civilian population of North Korea.<sup>10</sup> Eyewitnesses to the testing verify the reports.<sup>11</sup>

<sup>10</sup> Joint Chiefs of Staff 1837/26, “Biological Warfare: Memorandum by the Joint Advanced Study Committee for the Joint Chiefs of Staff,” 21 September, 1951, Combined Chiefs of Staff 385.2, sec. 13, RG 330, NARA: JCS 1837/26, “Statements of Policy and Directives on Biological Warfare,” 3 July 1952, Combined Chiefs of Staff 385.2, sec. 15, RG 273.

<sup>11</sup> Stephen Endicott & Edward Hagerman, *The United States and Biological Warfare: Secrets from the Early Cold War and Korea*, 1998

### ▶ Murder of Frank Olson

Olson became disturbed at the macabre events to which he was privy and became openly talkative and critical about the secret work the CIA was conducting. Among the things Olson apparently talked about, in addition to the lethal interrogation techniques, were the use of anthrax as a bacteriological weapon during the Korean War, and the fact that the “recanted confessions” of dozens of returning POWs who witnessed BW in North Korea were the apparent result of “debriefings” utilizing techniques garnered from Operation Artichoke.<sup>12</sup>

A close associate and colleague of Olson at Ft. Detrick, Norman Cournoyer, testified that Olson personally told him that in the course of Operation Artichoke, he had witnessed torture interrogations in Europe that had disturbed him deeply at a moral level, so much so that he was disgusted with the CIA and intended to leave. Cournoyer also stated Olson was convinced that, despite official denials, the U.S. had employed the use of biological weapons, including the use of anthrax, during the Korean War. A film, *Code Name ARTICHOKE*, documents the events surrounding the secret program and can be accessed on *YouTube*.

Close friends, family, and coworkers document that Frank Olson was a very decent man boxed into a corner by a very indecent position, who became increasingly outraged by what he saw.

Olson was deemed a security risk. The same advanced interrogation techniques under LSD and talk-inducing drugs that were perfected by his Special Operations Division were then used on Olson himself. He then informed the CIA that he was resigning his position, and a few days later he was apparently again drugged, subdued, and thrown out of a 13th floor window.

The methods of Operation Artichoke did not disappear. Quite to the contrary, some have apparently been applied at Guantánamo, Abu Ghraib, and most notably, in the CIA secret prisons for extraordinary rendition. Some have accused the government of using Artichoke-type techniques on José Padilla prior to his terrorism conviction in 2007 that made him into a “human vegetable.”<sup>13</sup>

<sup>12</sup> Walker M. Mahurin, *Honest John: The Autobiography of Walker M. Mahurin*, (New York: G. P. Putnam's Sons, 1962)

<sup>13</sup> Amy Goodman, “An Inside Look at How U.S. Interrogators Destroyed the Mind of Jose Padilla,” August 16, 2007, *DemocracyNow.org*, [http://www.democracynow.org/2007/8/16/exclusive\\_an\\_inside\\_look\\_at\\_how](http://www.democracynow.org/2007/8/16/exclusive_an_inside_look_at_how) (accessed 14 May, 2011)

## Events Leading to Death of Frank Olson

### ▶ Late 1940s

In a secret facility at Fort Detrick, Maryland, a massive arms program was underway to develop bacteriological weapons, primarily anthrax spores, which were proven to be highly resistant and therefore suitable for biological warfare.

### ▶ 1949

As Acting Director of CIA's highly secretive Special Operations Division, Olson was privy to many secrets. As a leader of Operation Artichoke (brainwashing & mind control interrogation techniques via drugs, hypnosis & torture), he witnessed unscrupulous experiments on human beings that resulted in their deaths. The experience leaves a noticeable mark on him, according to friends and family, and he begins to question the morality of their work.

### ▶ October, 1949

Olson's free-thinking and talkative lifestyle was considered dangerous in relation to his work in military secrets. He was suspected of disclosing government secrets (an accusation that was never proven) and interrogated by Military Intelligence. Olson was from then on considered a security risk. The Military Intelligence report stated that:

"Olson is violently opposed to control of scientific research, either military or otherwise, and opposes supervision of his work. He does not follow orders, and has had numerous altercations with MP's ..."

Norman Cournoyer, a co-worker who was close to Olson, summarized:

"He was very, very open and not scared to say what he thought. For that matter, to the contrary. He did not give a damn. Frank Olson pulled no punches at any time ... That's what they were scared of, I am sure."

### ▶ April, 1950

Olson was given a diplomatic passport, highly unusual for an Army scientist, and began making frequent trips to Europe, especially to Germany.

### ▶ 1950–1953

In CIA safe-houses in Germany, Olson witnessed horrific brutal interrogations on a regular basis. Detainees who were deemed "expendable"; suspected spies or "moles"; security leaks, etc., were

literally interrogated to death in experimental methods combining drugs, hypnosis, and torture to attempt to master brainwashing techniques and memory erasing ... The “live” testing on human beings was designed to extract information from the detainee and then leave him in a blank mental state in which he was unaware what happened to him.

▶ **June, 1952**

Family and co-workers report that Olson’s behavior had markedly changed. He became openly critical and talkative about the work being conducted at the CIA.

▶ **1952–1953**

CIA established that large doses of LSD are much better “tongue-looseners” than alcohol. They test the technique on unsuspecting victims right in New York City’s Greenwich Village section, having prostitutes slip the drug into the drinks of customers who are then interrogated.

▶ **August, 1953**

After returning from another trip to Germany where he witnessed the CIA’s torture-to-death interrogations, Olson became extremely moody. Friends and family comment that he began to behave like he was boxed into a corner and could not do anything about it. He informed close friend and co-worker, Norman Cournoyer, that he was planning on resigning his CIA position:

“He said ‘Norm, you would be stunned by the techniques that they used. They made people talk! They brainwashed people! They used all kinds of drugs, they used all kinds of torture.’” “He said, that he was going to leave. He told me that. He said, ‘I am getting out of that CIA. Period’”

Olson and Cournoyer are both aware of two disturbing truths:

1. The use of anthrax as a biological weapon during the Korean War;
2. The fact that the “recanted confessions” of dozens of returning POWs who witnessed BW in North Korea were the apparent result of “debriefings” utilizing techniques garnered from Operation Artichoke.

▶ **Thursday, November 19, 1953**

The same LSD interrogation technique that was perfected by his Special Operations Division was then used on Olson himself. At a work retreat just prior to Thanksgiving, the CIA’s “Dirty Tricks” Division met with ten of its scientists at a remote location. Olson was given a large

dose of the drug, without his knowledge or permission, and was then interrogated under the influence of LSD using Artichoke techniques.

▶ **Friday evening, November 20, 1953**

Olson returned home to his family and was visibly and deeply disturbed. He told his wife that there were very serious problems with his work and that he had made “a terrible mistake.”

▶ **Saturday & Sunday, November 21–22, 1953**

Olson stayed inside all weekend and was very quiet and thoughtful all weekend long. His children recall the weekend as being very somber and serious and vividly remember their father at that time as sitting for hours on the sofa and staring thoughtfully out the window.

▶ **Monday, November 23, 1953**

Olson informed his boss, Lieutenant Colonel Vincent Ruwet, that he “wanted out of the germ warfare business” to “devote his life to something else” and that he, therefore, was resigning from his position. LTC Ruwet refuses to accept Olson’s resignation.

▶ **Tuesday, November 24, 1953**

Olson returned to the office of LTC Ruwet and again informed him that he was resigning from his position. Lt. Colonel Ruwet advised Olson not to resign and told him that they will take him to New York City to get treatment for his depression about his work.

▶ **Friday, November 27, 1953**

Olson was brought to New York City by Lt. Colonel Ruwet and was also in the constant accompaniment of a CIA agent who was assigned as his shadow. They check Olson and the CIA agent into room 1018a (which is actually the thirteenth floor when the first three unnumbered floors are counted) of the Hotel Statler (which is now the Hotel Pennsylvania). They are visited there by a CIA doctor who administers medication to Olson.

▶ **Saturday, November 28, 1953 at 2:30 AM**

In the early morning hours of Saturday night/Sunday morning, Frank Olson went through the closed thirteenth floor window of his hotel room, crashing through a canvas window shade, a cloth curtain covering the shade and a closed plate glass window, before landing on the 7th Avenue sidewalk.

▶ **Saturday, November 28, 1953, 2:30–2:35 AM**

Hotel manager Armand Pastore rushed outside, attempting to comfort the victim, who died in his arms.

▶ **Saturday, November 28, 1953, 2:30–2:35 AM**

CIA agent Robert Lashbrook phoned Dr. Harold Abramson (the doctor working with the CIA who had sedated Olson earlier) from the hotel room. Via the system in use in 1953, Lashbrook had to use the hotel operator to place the call to a number in Long Island. The hotel operator stayed on the line and heard the call in its entirety. After the call was connected and answered, the caller only stated the following:

“Well, he’s gone.”

The other party then stated:

“Well, that’s too bad.”

Both parties then hung up.

▶ **Saturday, November 28, 1953 at 2:40–3:00 AM**

Hotel manager Armand Pastore notified police and also determined that the victim must have fallen from Room 1018a on the thirteenth floor and that there was another occupant of that room. Pastore leads police to 1018a and opens the door for them. The police enter, guns drawn, and encounter the room’s other occupant, Robert Lashbrook, seated on the toilet. The police say “What happened?” and Lashbrook responds: “I don’t know, I just heard a crash of glass and then I see that Frank Olson is out of the window and he is down on the street.”

▶ **Sunday, November 29, 1953**

The case was classified as a suicide and immediately closed.

▶ **Post-Mortem—Summer, 1975**

The report of The Rockefeller Commission was released in which it was made public that the CIA had drugged U.S. citizens with LSD without their permission. The Olson family investigated the information contained in the report and confirmed that one of the subjects referred to was indeed Frank Olson. They held a press conference and demanded that the case of their father’s death be investigated.

▶ **Post-Mortem—Summer, 1975**

Donald Rumsfeld and Richard Cheney, aides to President Ford, confidentially recommend to the President that he contain the “Olson matter” by settling out of court to preclude “the possibility that it might be necessary to disclose highly classified national security information,” because it has become known that the CIA did indeed drug Frank Olson with LSD just prior to his death. Therefore, in what is known in Intelligence parlance as a “limited hangout,” the CIA settled out of court with the Olson family for \$750,000 retribution

for past wrongdoing. Ten days after the memo from Rumsfeld and Cheney recommending retribution and an apology, President Ford hosted the Olson family at the White House for photos and handshakes with the family after the President apologizes on behalf of the U.S. Government.

### ► **Post-Mortem**

Former longtime CIA agent Ike Feldman investigated the circumstances of Olson's death:

"The source that I have was the New York City Police Department, the Bureau of Narcotics Agents and the CIA agents themselves. They all say the same thing: that he was pushed out of the window and that he did not jump.

People who wanted him out of the way said he talked too much and he was telling people about the things he had done which is American secret. If you work on a top government secret, a city secret, a state secret, and it spills out to people who should not know, there is only one way to do it: kill him."

### ► **Post-Mortem—June 2, 1994**

Olson's body was exhumed and autopsied at the insistence of relatives suspicious of foul play. Eminent forensic scientist James Starrs, Professor of Law and Forensic Science at the National Law Center at George Washington University, led the autopsy team, also selecting a diverse team of scientific experts in the appropriate fields. The team determined that the original medical report in 1953 was "manipulated" and "totally inaccurate in some very important respects." Forensic finding is that the victim suffered a severe hematoma, i.e., a blunt force trauma to the head, prior to his fall through the window:

"That is only reasonably explainable as having occurred by reason of his being shall we say silenced, being rendered unable to defend himself, so that he could be tossed out of the window."

Official finding of Professor James Starrs, George Washington University:

"HOMICIDE"

Regarding the assassination method detailed in the CIA Assassination Manual, Professor Starrs further states:

"What was spelled out in that 'Assassination Manual' was almost letter for letter what happened to Doctor Olson and it was a protocol, as we call it, for an assassination, which fit like the fingers in a glove."



Source material for the above chart was derived primarily from the following:

"The Frank Olson Legacy Project," <http://www.frankolsonproject.org/Contents.html>

*Code Name: Artichoke; The CIA's Secret Experiments on Humans*, film by Egmont R. Koch & Michael Wech, 2002, <http://topdocumentaryfilms.com/code-name-artichoke/>

*A Terrible Mistake: The Murder of Frank Olson and the CIA's Secret Cold War Experiments*; H.P. Albarelli Jr.; 2009, Trine Day.

"The Case of Frank Olson," Oliver Boothby, February 11, 1996: <http://www.frankolsonproject.org/Student%20papers/Oliver.html>

"Scientist was 'Killed to Stop Him Revealing Death Secrets'; So Did Cheney and Rumsfeld Cover Up a CIA Assassination?," Gordon Thomas, London Sunday Express, August 25, 2002.

"Frank Olson: Did a government scientist jump to his death from a New York hotel? Or was he pushed?," [http://www.unsigned.com/ajax-files/une\\_frank\\_olson.htm](http://www.unsigned.com/ajax-files/une_frank_olson.htm)

*"LSD, Murder and the CIA: Frank Olson, Enemy Combatant," David Swanson, Counterpunch, March 26-28, 2010*

*The Biology of Doom: The History of America's Secret Germ Warfare Project, Ed Regis, 2000*

Rumsfeld & Cheney's Dirty Little Spy Secret, Fintan Dunne, Editor, *GuluFuture.com*, March 6, 2006:

<http://www.apfn.net/messageboard/03-06-06/discussion.cgi.31.html>

*The Men Who Stare At Goats*, Jon Ronson, 2005

Robert Lashbrook was the identity of the CIA agent shadowing Olson, day and night.

Armond Pastore, who was the night manager at the hotel, had seen more than his share of accidents, and immediately took the police up to room 1018A so the police could investigate. They found the CIA agent sitting in the bathroom. Pastore recalled very clearly:

**"And here is Lashbrook sitting on a john in his skivvies and the police thought to question him and I heard him say, 'Well all I heard was a crash.' I walked around the room to look around. Nobody ever jumps**

through a window. They open the window and they go out, not dash through a shade and a sheer drape. You know, there's no sense to that."<sup>14</sup>

"The first call that Lashbrook made was not to the hotel management or the police, but to his superior, Dr. Sid Gottlieb, at his home in Virginia, to tell him what had happened. Then he reported to the hotel desk clerk and telephoned Dr. Abramson."<sup>15</sup>

"In those days all of the calls were manual. You call the operator and you tell her what number you want and she would dial it for you. And then she listened to see that you got connected. When the man in the room called this number he said, 'Well, he's gone.' And the man on the other end said, 'Well, that's too bad.' And they both hung up. I mean, what's more suspicious than that? You don't have to be a genius to figure out that there's something amiss. Or, Hamlet said, 'There's something rotten in Denmark.' I mean, I knew there was something rotten at the hotel that night."<sup>16</sup>

Kathryn Olmstead, Professor of History at the University of California, discovered documents indicating a White House-level cover-up of the Frank Olson case, related to the secret use of anthrax weapons. Dick Cheney and Donald Rumsfeld were directly involved in concealing information about Olson's death. Dr. Olmstead also said that part of Olson's work was the making of anthrax and other biological weapons.

Rumsfeld, at that time, was White House Chief of Staff to President Gerald Ford and Dick Cheney was a White House assistant.

One of the documents that Professor Olmstead obtained states:

**"Dr. Olson's job was so sensitive that it is highly unlikely that we would submit relevant evidence."**<sup>17</sup>

In another memo, Cheney acknowledges the following:

**"The Olson lawyers will seek to explore all the circumstances of Dr. Olson's employment, as well as those concerning his death. In any trial, it may become apparent that we are concealing evidence**

<sup>14</sup> Unsolved.com, "Frank Olson: Did a government scientist jump to his death from a New York Hotel? Or was he pushed?," [http://www.unsolved.com/ajaxfiles/une\\_frank\\_olson.htm](http://www.unsolved.com/ajaxfiles/une_frank_olson.htm) (accessed 2 Feb. 2011).

<sup>15</sup> Stephen Endicott, "Memo from Stephen Endicott, Professor of History, York University, analyzing the documents obtained by the Olson family from CIA Director William Colby in June 1975," *FrankOlsonProject.org*, February 4, 1999, <http://www.frankolsonproject.org/Sources/Notes%20on%20items%20&%20events/Endicott-Analysis.html> (accessed 16 Feb. 2011).

<sup>16</sup> Unsolved.com, "Frank Olson: Did a government scientist jump to his death from a New York Hotel? Or was he pushed?," [http://www.unsolved.com/ajaxfiles/une\\_frank\\_olson.htm](http://www.unsolved.com/ajaxfiles/une_frank_olson.htm) (accessed 2 Feb. 2011).

<sup>17</sup> Gordon Thomas, "Scientist was 'killed to stop him revealing death secrets'; So did Cheney and Rumsfeld cover up a CIA assassination?" *London Sunday Express*, August 25, 2002, <http://www.frankolsonproject.org/Articles/LondonExpress.html> (accessed 14 Jan. 2011)

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for national security reasons and any settlement or judgment reached thereafter could be perceived as money paid to cover up the activities of the CIA.”<sup>18</sup>

Many observers, therefore, have “connected the dots” and concluded that Cheney and Rumsfeld were given the task in the 1970s of covering up the details of Olson’s death.

“The fact that Frank Olson had died shortly after being given LSD in a CIA experiment came out in 1975 as a consequence of President Ford’s Rockefeller Commission investigation into the CIA’s domestic activities. Further investigation was called for, but in a White House memo advisers to President Ford stated that this would risk revealing state secrets (probably meaning, in part, the use by the U.S. of germ warfare in Korea); further investigation was suppressed and the whole matter covered up. The names of those White House advisers were Dick Cheney, current U.S. Vice-President, and Donald Rumsfeld, current Secretary of Defense. They have never been questioned as to what they knew about Olson’s death.”<sup>19</sup>



**Cheney-Rumsfeld: The “formative” years:** Both handled the “limited hangout” under President Ford in 1975, settling with the Olson family for \$750,000, a private audience and apology from President Ford and an apparent end to the uncomfortable issues surrounding Frank Olson’s knowledge of bacteriological warfare by the US in North Korea and the “enhanced” interrogation techniques of *Project Artichoke*. The Olson family later learned that a “renewed coverup of the truth concerning this story was being carried out at the highest levels of government, including the White House.”

<sup>18</sup> Gordon Thomas, “Scientist was ‘killed to stop him revealing death secrets’; So did Cheney and Rumsfeld cover up a CIA assassination?” *London Sunday Express*, August 25, 2002, <http://www.frankolsonproject.org/Articles/LondonExpress.html> (accessed 14 Jan. 2011)

<sup>19</sup> Serendipity, “The Frank Olson Murder,” <http://www.serendipity.li/cia/olson2.htm> (accessed 14 May 2011)

The following is a verbatim excerpt from the CIA Assassination Manual which was declassified in 1997; this document was written and put out to “agents in the field” only a short time prior to Olson’s death.<sup>20</sup>

## 2. Accidents

For secret assassination, either simple or chase, the contrived accident is the most effective technique. When successfully executed, it causes little excitement and is only casually investigated.

The most efficient accident, in simple assassination, is a fall of 75 feet or more onto a hard surface. Elevator shafts, stair wells, unscreened windows and bridges will serve. Bridge falls into water are not reliable. In simple cases a private meeting with the subject may be arranged at a properly-cased location. The act may be executed by sudden, vigorous [next word excised] of the ankles, tipping the subject over the edge. If the assassin immediately sets up an outcry, playing the “horrified witness”, no alibi or surreptitious withdrawal is necessary. In chase cases it will usually be necessary to stun or drug the subject before dropping him. Care is required to insure that no wound or condition not attributable to the fall is discernible after death.

Falls into the sea or swiftly flowing rivers may suffice if the subject cannot swim. It will be more reliable if the assassin can arrange to attempt rescue, as he can thus be sure of the subject’s death and at the same time establish a workable alibi.

If the subject’s personal habits make it feasible, alcohol may be used [2 words excised] to prepare him for a contrived accident of any kind.

Falls before trains or subway cars are usually effective, but require exact timing and can seldom be free from unexpected observation.

Professor Starrs, who led the autopsy team which concluded that the death was actually murder, concluded that the:

**“ ... evidence from 1953 demonstrates a concerted pattern of concealment and deception on the part of those persons and agencies most closely associated with—and most likely to be accountable for—a homicide most foul in the death of Dr. Olson ... The confluence of scientific fact and investigative fact points unerringly to the death of Frank Olson as being a homicide, deft, deliberate and diabolical.”<sup>21</sup>**

Olson’s son, Eric Olson, who is Director of *The Frank Olson Legacy Project* and has literally spent decades researching the circumstances of his father’s death, deserves the last word here and, frankly, no one could put it more eloquently:

**“What this means for me is that a national security homicide is not only a possibility, but really it is a necessity, when you have a certain number of ingredients together. If you are doing top secret work that is immoral, arguably immoral, especially in the post-Nuremberg period, and arguably illegal, and at odds with the kind of high**

<sup>20</sup> Central Intelligence Agency, *A Study of Assassination*, 1954 (National Security Archive Center, Washington University), Released via Freedom of Information Act, May 23, 1997.

<sup>21</sup> Starrs with Ramsfeld, *A Voice for the Dead*.

moral position you are trying to maintain in the world, then you have to have a mechanism of security which is going to include murder.”<sup>22</sup>

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<sup>22</sup> *Code Name: Artichoke*; *The CIA's Secret Experiments on Humans*, film by Egmont R. Koch & Michael Wech, 2002, <http://topdocumentaryfilms.com/code-name-artichoke/>