

**Part 33:**  
**Carroll describes Traub as**  
**‘a founding father of Plum Island’**

In his book “Lab 257,” author Michael Carroll provides a photocopy from the National Archives and Records Administration of page one of former Nazi Erich Traub’s National Defense Program application for Operation PAPERCLIP—which included two photos of Traub.

In the caption of the application, Carroll states, “The Nazi germ-warfare scientist was smuggled into the United States in 1949 and worked with the CIA, Army, Navy, and USDA.”

The author states, “Just months into his PAPERCLIP contract, the germ warriors of Fort Detrick, the Army’s biological warfare headquarters in Frederick, Maryland, and CIA operatives invited Traub in for a talk, later reported in a declassified top-secret summary: ‘Dr. Traub is a noted authority on viruses and diseases in Germany and Europe. This interrogation revealed much information of value to the animal disease program from a Biological Warfare point of view.’” (Lab 257, pp. 8-9)

Carroll stated that Traub provided detailed information of the secret Nazi biological warfare on an island in the Baltic Sea known as Insel Riems. Traub was chief of that lab. Carroll added that Traub worked directly for Hitler’s second-in-command, Heinrich Himmler, on live germ trials. (p. 8)

This information and more provided by Traub to his U.S. operatives, “laid the groundwork for Fort Detrick’s offshore germ warfare animal disease lab on Plum Island. Traub was a founding father.” (p. 9)

“In fact the USDA [U.S. Department of Agriculture] liked him so much,” Carroll explained, “it glossed over his dubious past and offered him the top scientist job at the new Plum Island laboratory—not once, but twice. Just months after the 1952 public hearings on selecting Plum Island, Doc [Maurice] Shahan dialed Dr. Traub at the naval laboratory to discuss plans for establishing the germ laboratory and a position on Plum Island.” (p. 10)

Traub turned down the official post, Carroll explained, “though he visited Plum Island frequently.” Traub returned to head the Tubingen laboratory in capitalist West Germany. “USDA officials traveled to West Germany and visited his laboratory often,” Carroll stated. (p. 10)

Carroll noted, “Little is publically available about his clandestine activities for the U.S. military.” (p. 9)

The author used the Freedom of Information Act to find two studies that bear Traub's name—one involving foot-and-mouth disease and the other Newcastle Disease Virus. But, Carroll added, "the research reports themselves (and many others) were withheld." (p. 9)

"Research unearthed three USDA files from the vault of the National Archives—two were labeled TICK RESEARCH and a third E. TRAUB. All three folders were empty. The caked-on dust confirms the file boxes hadn't been open since the moment before they were taped shut in the 1950s." (p. 14)

*Next: Reports that Plum Island tested 'weaponized' ticks*