

WORLD WAR II

Opium: A Japanese Technique of Occupation II

Office of Strategic Services (OSS) Report

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World War II: OSS Report - Opium: A Japanese Technique of Occupation.

A 1945 Office of Strategic Services (OSS) Report

During the Japanese occupation of China the Japanese government used the growth and sale of opium to the Chinese as a source of income to support their military expansion. Includes a short history, use as a weapon of war, and photographs illustrating use and addiction.

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O P I U M

A Japanese technique of occupation



PREPARED BY
MRS. KATHARINE LYMAN

SCHOOLS AND TRAINING BRANCH
OFFICE OF STRATEGIC SERVICES

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The plant, *Papaver somniferum*, or opium poppy, known to the Egyptians and Assyrians for its medicinal properties since 1550 B.C., has been turned by the Japanese to purposes of warfare in the twentieth century. The opium poppy is now used as ammunition which does not wipe out life immediately, but weakens the resistance and disintegrates the morale of those who might oppose her ambitious plans of conquest.



MAKING A CUT IN THE POPPY CAPSULE

It has been estimated that it takes 300 hours of manual labor to produce 1 kilogram of opium. When one realizes that in China the whole process of growing the poppies and collecting the opium sap is done by hand, this estimate appears reasonable.

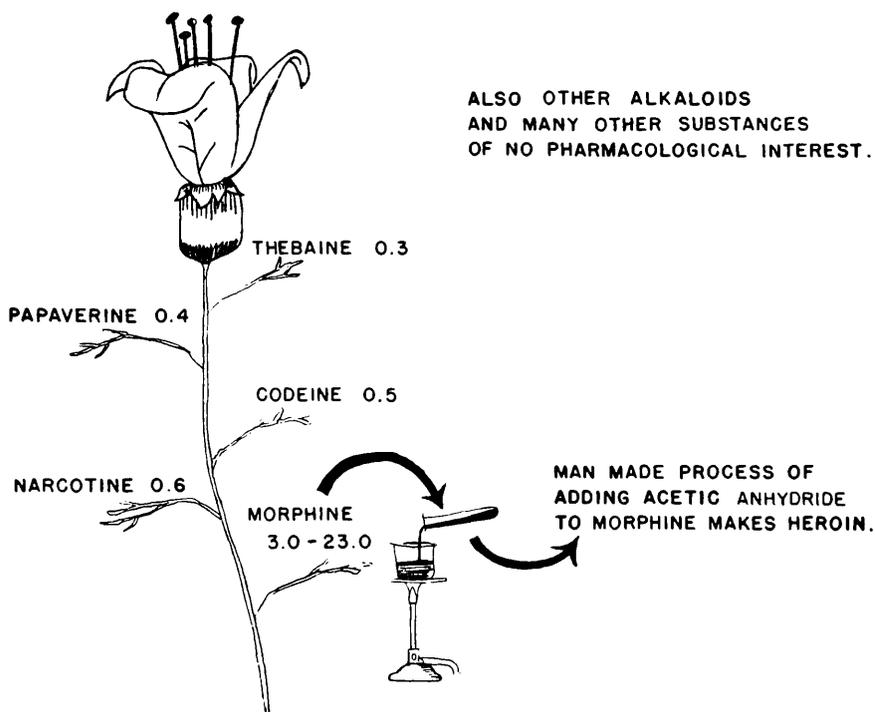
The first step in collecting opium after the flower matures is to make an incision on each capsule.



COLLECTING THE POPPY SAP

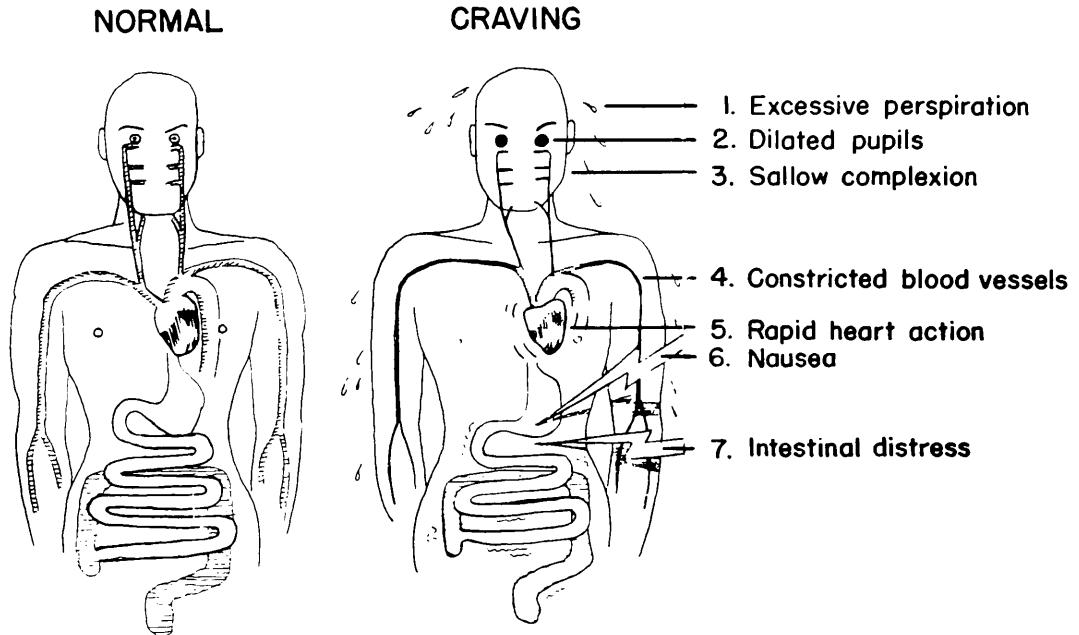
Daily for about three weeks the sap is scraped off into a small container. In other countries and occasionally in China the stalks are collected and the sap is pressed out in one operation. The Chinese are not in such a hurry and as the plant produces sap for some time a larger amount is thus collected. It is a tiresome task and each farmer plants only the area that he and his family can harvest. The crude opium is pressed into cakes and thus is ready for sale. It might be used in opium pipes after it has been "cooked" or it may go on to a factory and be used in the manufacture of morphine and heroin.

PAPAVER SOMNIFERUM
(OPIUM POPPY) and CHIEF ALKALOIDS



The only legitimate use of opium and its derivatives is in the medical and scientific fields. Morphine, which is one of the alkaloids in opium, was discovered in 1803. In 1898 another alkaloid, heroin, was isolated from opium; it was heralded at first as superior in action to morphine and “not habit forming,” but later proven to be no better than morphine for medical treatment and far more dangerous in the spread of drug addiction. It can be made synthetically, has relatively little bulk, gives greater momentary “lift,” and has less pronounced gastrointestinal action. Its manufacture and importation have been forbidden in the United States and it has been adopted as the most effective drug weapon by the Japanese.

SOME PHYSIOLOGICAL SYMPTOMS OF ADDICTION

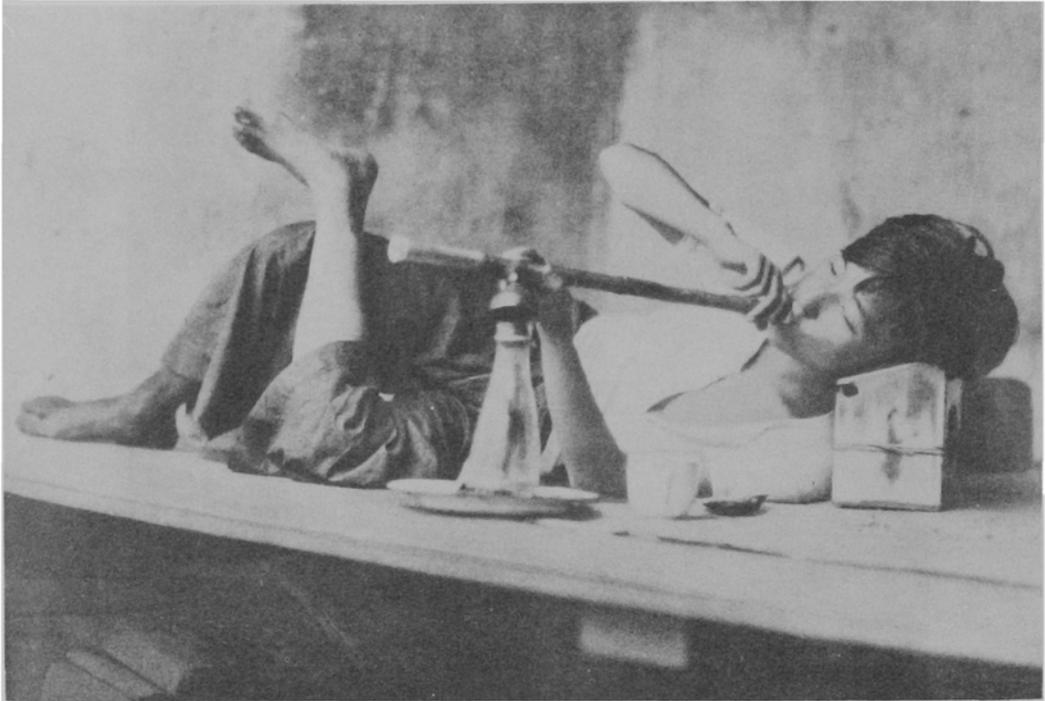


Aside from the physical effects of craving, the psychological aspects are just as important. The will to work is wiped out; one cannot continue to concentrate and grows very restless. Impairment of judgment and reasoning are the first faculties to be affected, and the individual ceases to become a dependable member of society.



OPIUM RAID IN SHANGHAI'S INTERNATIONAL SETTLEMENT

Repeated use of these drugs exposes one to addiction. The occasional smoking of opium has little effect on well adjusted persons with a strong constitution. Frequent use of these drugs, especially heroin, is sure to produce disastrous results on those whose constitution and will are less vigorous. An hour or so after taking the drug the pleasant effects wear off. The symptoms of craving begin and may become very distressing. The whole picture changes as the individual puts all responsibilities aside and his one object is to secure a further supply of the drug. His family, associates, business, and country are utilized without the slightest remorse in his desperate efforts to obtain temporary satisfaction.



THE OPIUM SMOKER

We know that the opium poppy was grown in Mesopotamia and was brought to Egypt in those early days. In the ninth century it was introduced to China by Arabian traders, chiefly as a cure for dysentery. The Portuguese and later the British were responsible for the rapid increase in its importation to China after 1750.

The practice of smoking opium appeared only after the introduction of tobacco into the Far East, also by Europeans. Tobacco smoking spread throughout the country in spite of edicts against it by the Ming emperors. The Dutch traders in Formosa started mixing opium and tobacco and this innovation became so popular that gradually the tobacco was eliminated and the bamboo opium pipe appeared.



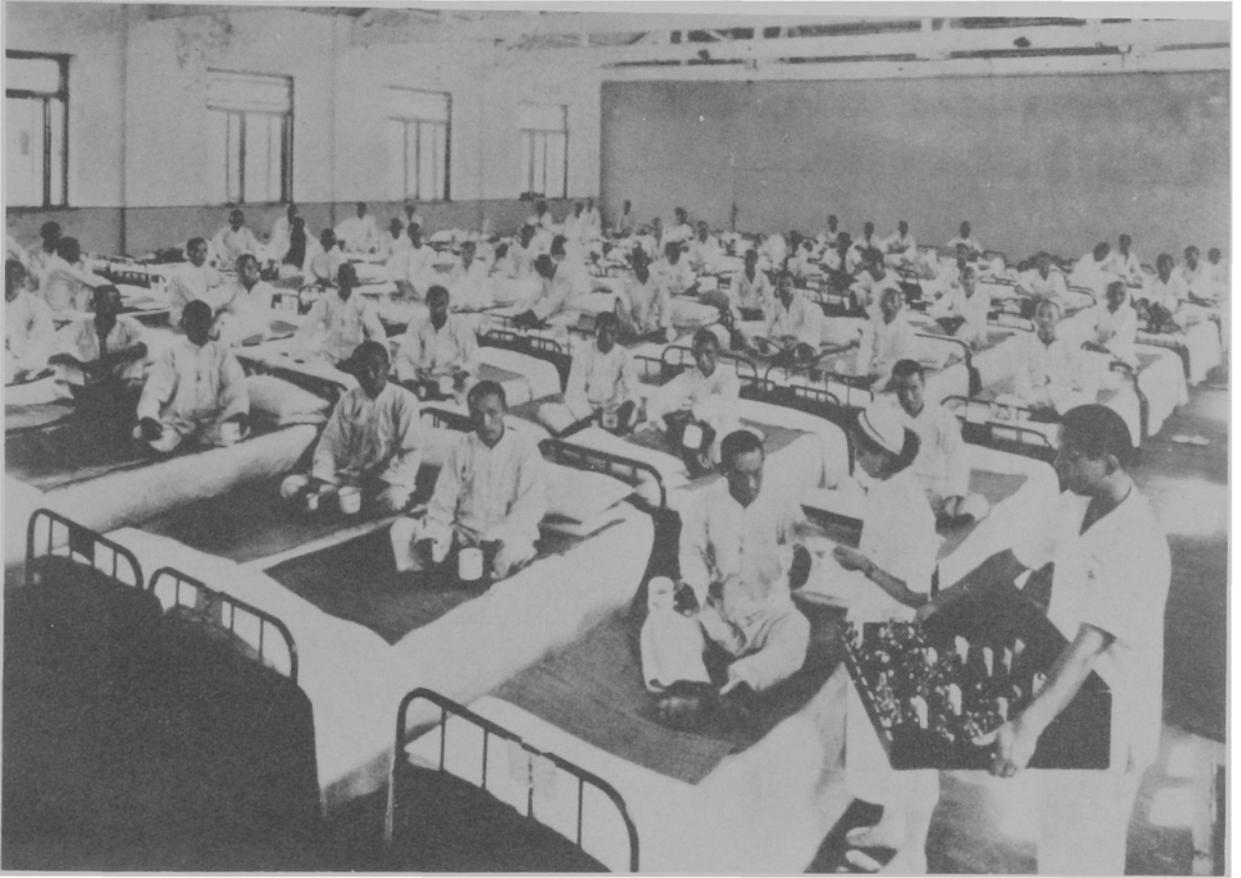
BY PERMISSION OF HIS MAJESTY'S GOVERNMENT

The East India Company about this time took over the importation of opium to China and by 1830 the illegal traffic averaged almost three million pounds a year. The effort of the Chinese to stop this illegal traffic, coupled with trade disagreements between Cantonese and British merchants, resulted in the so-called opium war between England and China in which the British enforced their right of free trade. China had to pay a huge indemnity, open certain ports for trade, and Britain established a government monopoly by which Indian opium was sold to Chinese merchants.



OLD STYLE OPIUM DEN

During the next century various efforts were made to control the opium traffic. In 1907 an agreement was made with the British by which the export of Indian opium to China was to be reduced yearly to zero in 1917 provided production in China should be reduced to zero at the same time. This agreement was made in the Manchu regime and was continued under the Republic so that by 1917 very little opium was produced in China and imports from India ceased except for smuggling. By 1917 in China there was disunity, war lord succeeded war lord, taxation mounted, and poppies were again planted.



A WARD IN THE ANTI-OPIUM HOSPITAL IN SHANGHAI

By 1924 public opinion was again aroused, forty civic groups in Shanghai organized the National Anti-Opium Association, and China again started her war against opium. In 1934 Generalissimo Chiang Kai-Shek initiated the six-year plan for opium suppression and the government policy was enforced by military authority. Not only was poppy cultivation attacked but treatment centers set up for addicts. The addicts were compelled to register and submit to a program of cure. After a period of hospitalization a blue cross was tattooed on the arm. If he relapsed and a second cure was necessary, a second cross was added. At the third offense a third cross might mean death. Over two thousand offenders were executed in 1937 but the Chinese resorted to these drastic measures through necessity. The program was moving to a successful conclusion when war broke out.



CHANG HSUEH-LIANG IN 1936 AS COMMANDER
OF THE BANDIT SUPPRESSION IN SHENSI

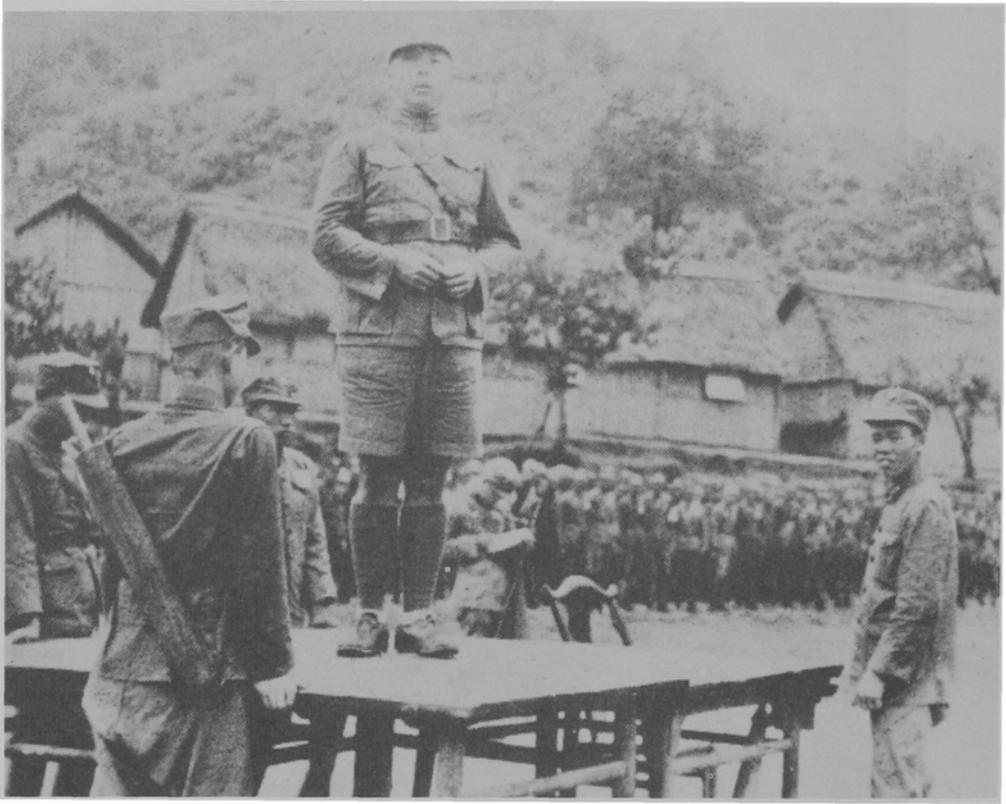
He returned to China in 1934 and was immediately given a government post by Generalissimo Chiang as a Bandit-Suppression Leader. His physical condition at that time was evidence that he was cured of his addiction. His campaigns were not really successful; aside from his questionable military ability, many of his troops were former Manchurians who were only interested in fighting Japanese—not their fellow Chinese.

In December 1936 he received great publicity as the kidnapper of Chiang Kai-Shek in Sian. When the agreement for the Generalissimo's release was made public, Japan made plans for immediate action as then the Chinese were united against her.



BUTTERFLY WU—CHINA'S LEADING MOVIE ACTRESS

The Japanese through a beautiful movie actress were supposed to have persuaded him to try "red pills" to cure his addiction. She was successful and he then became a heroin addict. By this time Japan had acquired Manchuria and Jehol. It took stern action on the part of his Australian advisor, W. H. Donald, to keep him under European medical care, while Butterfly Wu was sent home and Chang's cure took place.



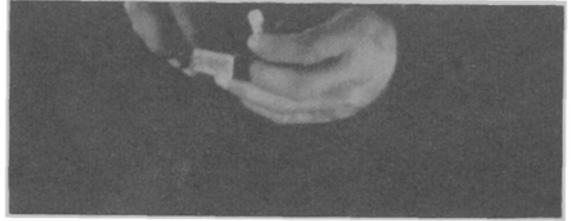
CHANG HSUEH-LIANG IN 1932 AS WARLORD OF MANCHURIA
PLAYBOY AND OPIUM ADDICT

Chang Hsueh-liang, who inherited the unofficial title, war lord of Manchuria, when his father Chang Tso-lin was killed by the Japanese, is one of the best known examples of the effect of heroin. "Everyone" knew that he had been given opium as medicine to cure a gastric condition by a Japanese doctor and he became an opium addict. After his father's death in 1928, he was the most famous oriental playboy. He was thin, nervous, quick-tempered, and despotic. With millions of subjects depending on him, he gambled and smoked while the Japanese undermined his empire.

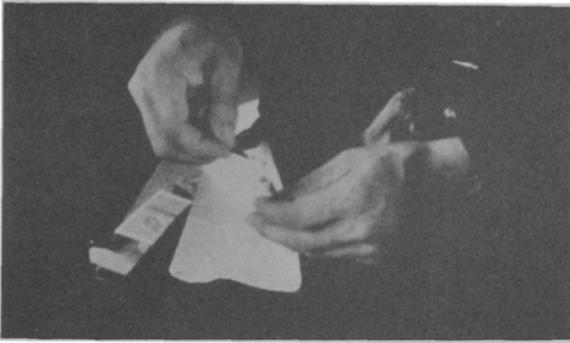
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A HEROIN ADDICT

1. PLACING A COLLAR ON A CIGARETTE.
2. FILLING THE COLLAR WITH HEROIN.
3. PUTTING THE TOBACCO END BETWEEN THE LIPS.
4. LIGHTING THE HEROIN END.

Heroin has become increasingly popular among addicts not only because it gives a greater "lift" than opium and is more quickly absorbed by body tissues, but also it can be consumed with greater ease. Cigarettes with a heroin content can be bought, or heroin can be placed in a cigarette, as pictured above. It also may be sniffed—as cocaine—or it may be swallowed in pill form. There is no telltale odor after it is consumed nor paraphernalia left for inspectors to identify. But the addict overlooks the fact that it is far more deadly!



MANCHURIAN POPPY FIELD

In Geneva in 1932, the American representative said, "Japan is warring on western civilization as shown by the indisputable facts that wherever the Japanese army goes drug traffic follows." Conditions in Manchuria are well known to all travelers and investigators.

The Manchukuo yearbook for 1934 gives the reason for establishing a government opium monopoly. "Opium smoking is a long-standing habit in Manchukuo and its entire prohibition would arouse great opposition, considerations of public health also carry weight and so a policy of licensing was adopted." In 1937, the opium crop in Manchuria and Jehol was 2,796,000 pounds. The legitimate medicinal needs of the entire world for a year is 500,000 pounds!



"ESSENTIAL COOPERATION"

The Japanese really take pride in their exploitation. Here is a Mukden parade showing collaboration with the Chinese, a helpless little puppet marching along. It doesn't show the real exploitation, ¥90,000,000 a year profit from opium, the second largest source of revenue for the country in 1939! It doesn't show the 1485 corpses picked up in the streets of Harbin in a six months' period, January-June 1937, having died from narcotics! In Manchukuo the narcotic shops are numbered by the thousand, the addicts by the million!



OPIUM SHOP WITH LARGE SIGNS

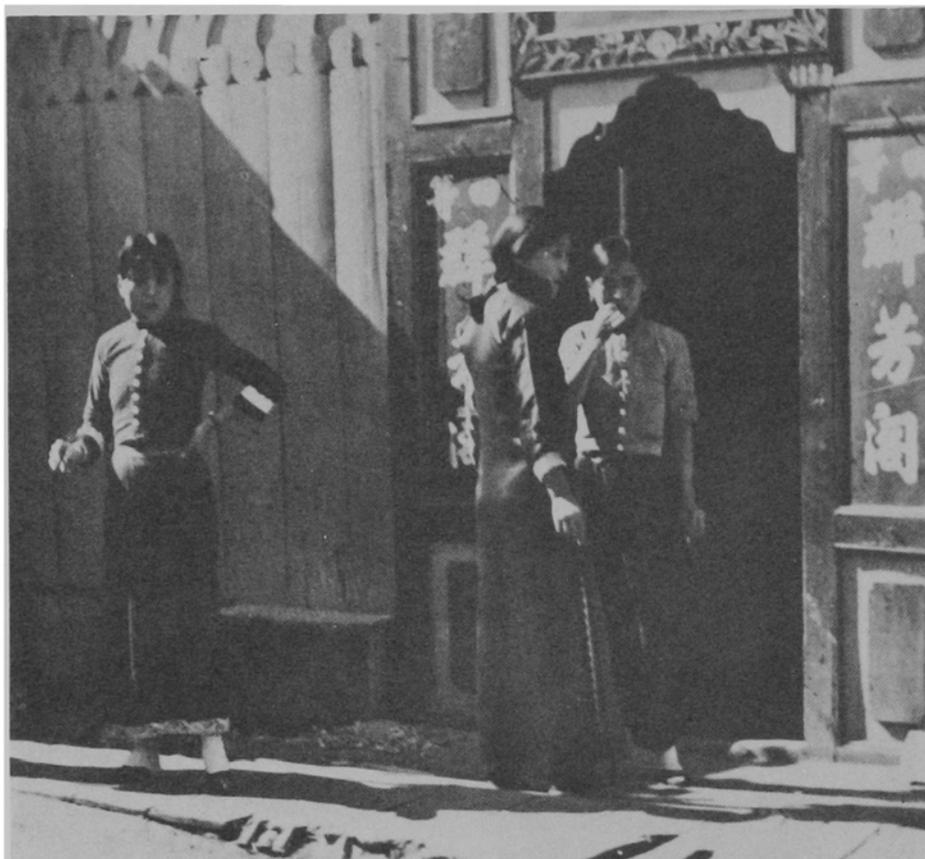
(NOTICE ON DOOR STATES THAT SMOKING ROOM
TEMPORARILY CLOSED FOR REDECORATING.)

Definite figures showing a comparison of pre- and post-Japanese occupation are difficult to secure but here is the Peking story.

In 1936, a police raid on 70 clandestine "drug joints" resulted in the arrest of 654 persons and the discovery that 12 were run by Japanese who obtained opium from the Manchukuoan monopoly.

In 1940, the Consolidated Tax Bureau showed that 305 dens and 61 shops—openly advertising as above—were operating in the city plus a countless number of peddlers selling narcotics on the streets.

One American was impressed by the frequency that the heavy, sweet odor of opium could be detected in the Peking streets—something unknown before 1937.

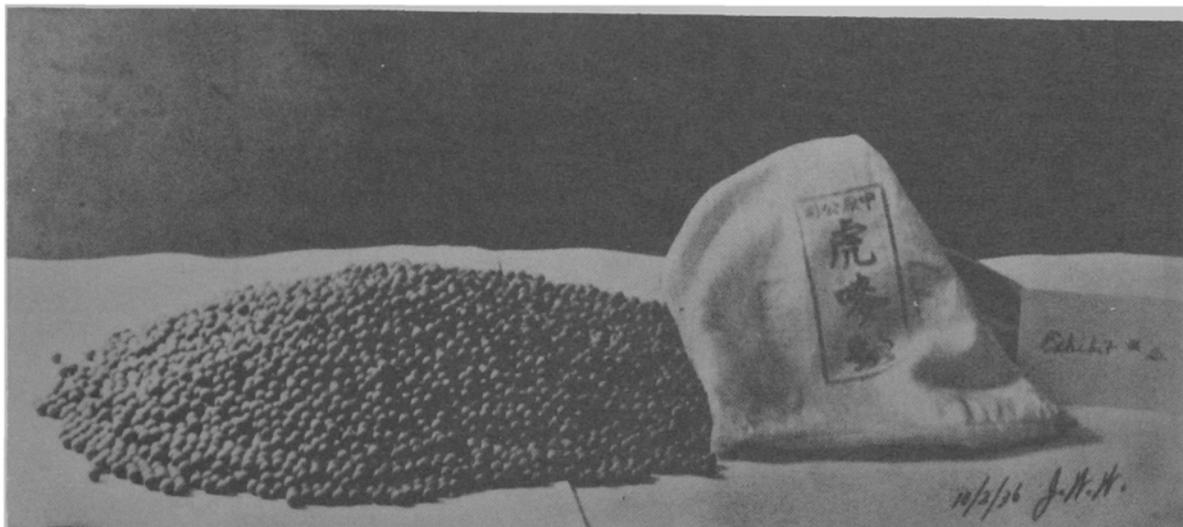


BAIT OUTSIDE AN OPIUM DEN

After 1932, narcotic dives in North China were opened under Korean and Japanese auspices and local Chinese authorities quickly found that when they attempted to enforce regulations against the sale of narcotics the Japanese authorities complained that they were interfering with the "right of free trade" as Koreans were under Japanese control.

In 1937, local Chinese restrictions against the sale of narcotics were rescinded and scenes such as this became common.

There was no dearth of girls as they were addicts who were promised a daily supply of heroin as long as they "cooperated."

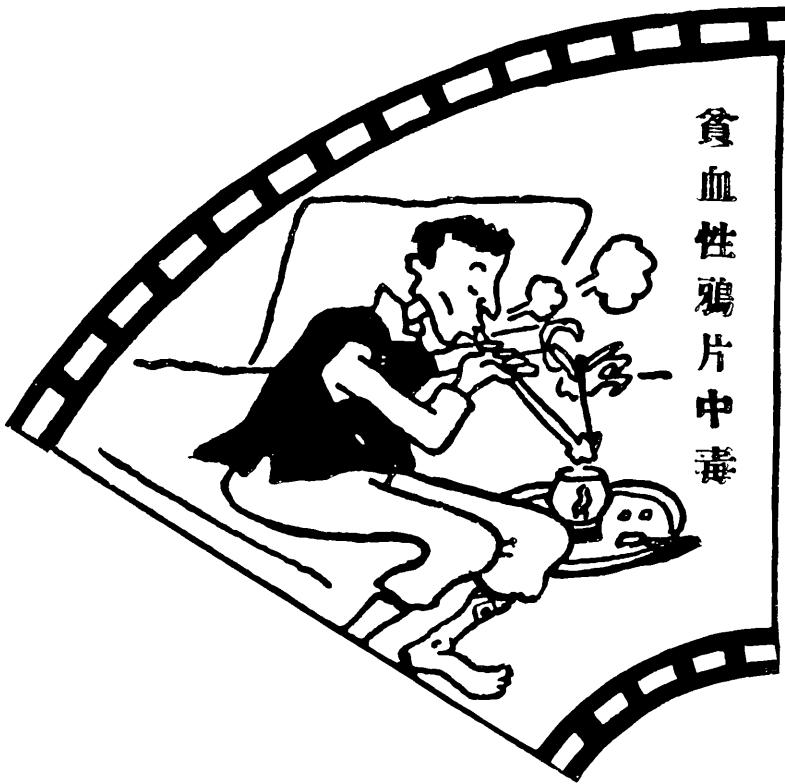


RED PILLS—TO CURE ALL ILLS

The famous "red pills" (heroin) were well known in North China in the 1930's. Rumors said that Japanese employers gave Chinese employees part of their pay in red pills—and soon they became addicts.

This photograph was taken of red pills seized in this country by the Federal Bureau of Narcotics. Stuart J. Fuller, the American representative on the League of Nations Opium Advisory Committee, stated in 1936 that 90% of the illicit morphine and heroin are of Japanese origin, made in Tientsin, Darien, and Manchuria.

The international dope rings receive their supplies from these sources, and operate in all countries, including ours. Many of our well known gangsters, such as "Lepke" Buchalter, "Legs" Diamond, "Dutch" Schultz, were connected with the Eliopoulos brothers, the international drug barons.



ADVERTISEMENT FROM A CHINESE NEWSPAPER OF A
JAPANESE PATENT MEDICINE TO CURE OPIUM HABIT

During the 1930's advertisements like this appeared in the Chinese newspapers. It suggested that opium addicts could be cured by the use of certain patent medicines. Invariably the medicines would be found to contain heroin. Another method was to advertise cigarettes for the relief of asthma, etc., and these cigarettes would be found to contain heroin. In 1937, the cigarette factories in North China were taken over by the Japanese and there was definite evidence that one or two cigarettes containing heroin would be put in each pack of certain brands and those brands sold exclusively to the Chinese. Japanese civilians were employed as salesmen by the patent medicine firms and would even pose as doctors in the country districts and the Chinese, who would be suspicious of a military uniform, would listen to promises of cures—and another area of heroin addiction would be created.



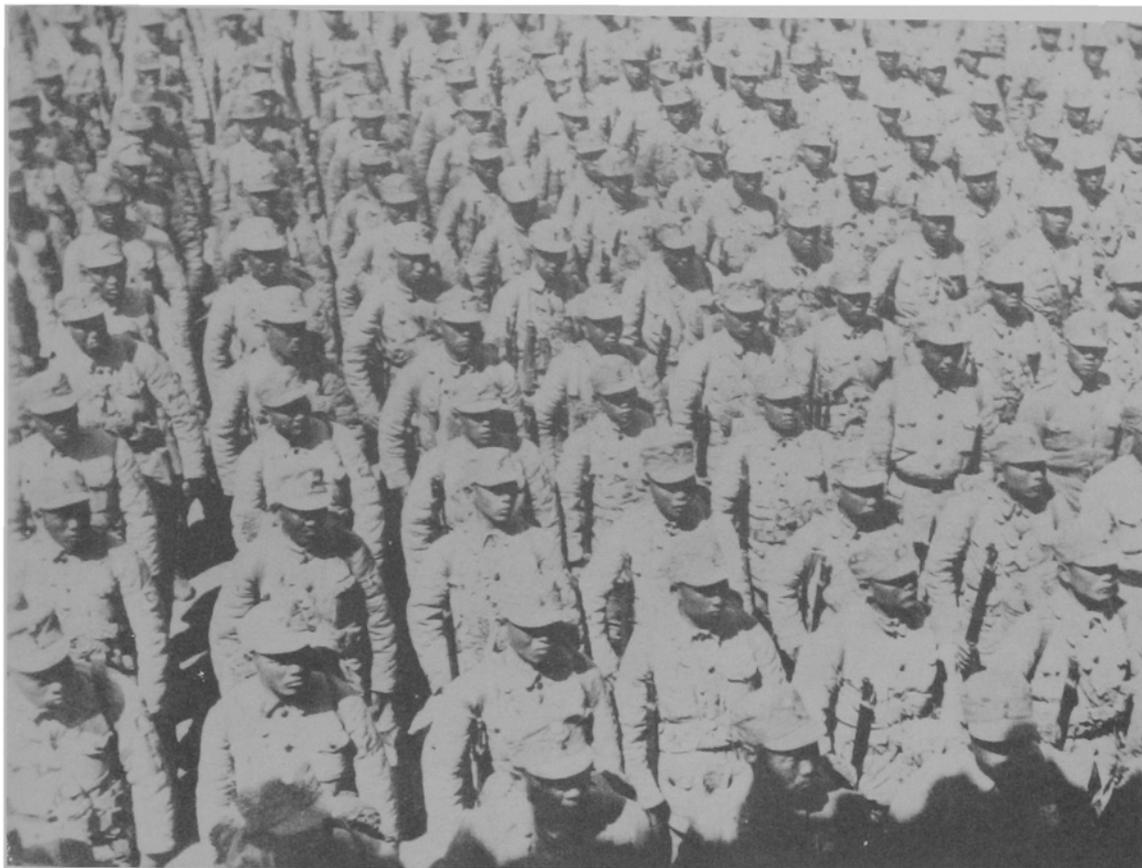
The following text of a regulation appeared in a booklet which the Japanese Military Command distributed to Japanese soldiers: "Paragraph 15.—The use of narcotics is unworthy of a superior race like the Japanese. Only inferior races, races that are decadent, like the Chinese, Europeans, and the East Indians, are addicted to the use of narcotics. This is why they are destined to become our servants and eventually to disappear.

A Japanese soldier who is guilty of using narcotics becomes unworthy of wearing the uniform of the Imperial Japanese Army and of venerating our divine Emperor."



HOMESICK—A MORALE PROBLEM IN EVERY ARMY

In spite of his training, the Japanese soldier has sometimes shown universal human reactions to situations. He has been lonely, discouraged, and homesick, and has even resorted to drugs. Various reports tell of the 1000-bed opium hospital in Nanking devoted to the care of Japanese soldiers. These men are not allowed to return to Japan until they are proven to be cured. In 1939, a sanatorium in Mukden was cleared of its Chinese addicts and now only admits Japanese. There are even reports of opium pipes found on the Kwajalein atoll. We may never know the extent of addiction in the Japanese army—but we do know that addiction always spreads.



CHINA'S ENDLESS PARADE

The United States called the first International Opium Commission meeting at Shanghai in 1909 when the representatives of thirteen governments met. In 1912, the Hague Opium Convention was organized and has continued to act as a clearing house for reports and to formulate plans for the international control of opium. Later, the various countries realized the menace of narcotics and included that in their program. The United States' policy has been to eradicate the poppy rather than merely to restrict the export and import of drugs. The regular meetings attended by representatives from twenty-seven countries were discontinued during the war, but on November 10, 1943, Britain and the Netherlands agreed to prohibit opium smoking and to abolish their government opium monopolies. Another step taken to correct one of the many wrongs to help create a strong healthy China as an ally.

SUMMARY OF RESULTS OF THE JAPANESE POLICY FROM AN AMERICAN POINT OF VIEW

Successes.

Increasing source of income to support the military.

Disruption of Chinese economy by having opium planted rather than food.

Increasing the number of addicts who are non-productive and increasingly dependent.

Creation of dissension by forcing farmers to plant opium in districts where guerillas have threatened death to those who do.

An easily controlled group of quislings in a given district.

Failures.

A boomerang—Japanese soldiers are becoming addicts.

Has given the allies an excellent chance for counter propaganda—to show South East Asia what Japanese do to a conquered territory.

Proved to the world what the Opium Advisory Committee had discovered years ago, that increased production of opium in the Far East and protection of the manufacture and distribution and sale of narcotics was a policy of the Japanese army.

Opium policy alienated many Chinese whose cooperation they hoped to gain.