

United Nations

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E/NS.1947/289
9 December 1947

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

CONVENTION FOR LIMITING THE MANUFACTURE AND
REGULATING THE DISTRIBUTION OF NARCOTIC DRUGS OF 13 JULY 1931
AS AMENDED BY THE PROTOCOL OF 11 DECEMBER 1946

CANADA

SEIZURE OF 1.5 GRAMMES OF OPIUM DROSS MADE AT VANCOUVER, B.C. ON
17 JANUARY 1947

Report No. 54 Communicated by the Government of Canada
on 29 November 1947

Note by the Secretary-General

In accordance with Article 23 of the Convention for limiting the
Manufacture and regulating the Distribution of Narcotic Drugs of
13 July 1931, as amended by the Protocol of 11 December 1946, the
Secretary-General has the honour to communicate the following report on
the above-mentioned seizure to the Members of the United Nations and to
the other parties to the Convention.

/DEPARTMENT

DEPARTMENT OF NATIONAL HEALTH AND WELFARE

No. 54

1. Name of person or persons implicated: Wallace "Leo" Shirley (Canadian: Irish)
(Occupation: Nil - Previously: Bookkeeper)
(Born: 8 September, 1900)
2. Date of Seizure: December 21, 1946 and January 17, 1947
3. Place of Seizure: Vancouver, B.C.
4. Kind and quantity of drug seized: Opium: Dross: 30 grs.
Decks: $3\frac{1}{2} = 20$ grs.
1 = 3 "
23 " (1.5 grammes)
5. Act and Section under which charged: Opium and Narcotic Drug Act Sec. 4(d)
"Illegal Possession of Opium"
6. Result of prosecution:
 - (a) Date sentenced: January 17, 1947
 - (b) Where sentenced: Vancouver, B.C.
 - (c) Sentence: 2 years: fined \$200* or 2 months
7. REMARKS: Six convictions for breaches of the Drug Act have been previously registered against subject. Shirley is a well-known local character and is handicapped by the wearing of an artificial leg.

Soon after his release on November 18th, 1946 from jail, where he had been serving a Drug Act sentence, he began peddling narcotics and on December 21, 1946 it was learned he had been asked to give up his hotel room and look elsewhere for accommodation. Officers who had been observing his activities saw him entering another hotel and in the lobby he was accosted. A subsequent search disclosed two jars of opium (15 grains (0.9 gramme) in each) in his vest pockets. Stuffed in his sock was found the addict's usual paraphernalia. He was arrested, duly warned and charged. Through questioning, Shirley indicated that the opium found on his person had been cached for some time and had only recently come to light. In view of his disability he was allowed his freedom pending trial. After his release he continued his peddling activities and on January 17th 1947 an agent was able to purchase a deck of opium (3 grains(0.2 gramme)) for which he paid Shirley \$5.00. He was immediately re-arrested by officers who had been trailing him and, although a search of his person for narcotics was a negative one, three and a half decks of opium (20 grains(1.3 grammes)) contained in a small match box, were found nearby. He was brought to trial the same day, and having pleaded Guilty, was sentenced as stated.

Shirley died in the B.C. penitentiary on October 15, 1947.

The under-mentioned entries are quoted for the record:

1935 - Aug. 24th - Portland, Oregon, U.S.A.: Vagrancy - 30 days,
suspended, as Wallace Leo Shirley (P.D. #14610)

/1936

1936 - April 8th - USI and NS Seattle, Wash., U.S.A.: violation
immigration laws - deported to Canada, as Leo or Wallace
Shirley (S.O. #L-7879)

JS/JC
Ottawa, Ont.
November 12, 1947

(signed) K. C. Hossick

(K. C. Hossick) Chief,
Narcotic Division.

*Note by the Secretariat: Can. \$1 = U.S.A. \$1