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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

UNITED KINGDOM

SEIZURE OF 278 MORPHINE PILLS AT OR NEAR WORCESTER ON 19 SEPTEMBER 1947

Report Communicated by the Government of the United Kingdom on 16 December 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.

/REPORT

853,770

No. 105.

Report concerning a seizure of 278 MORPHINE PILLS
Case of JAMES O'BRIEN (C.R.O.17,770/31).

Age 45 years. Address 9, Deglis Avenue, Worcester.

O'BRIEN was arrested on the 19th September 1947, on a charge of larceny in a dwelling-house, and later remanded, in custody.

O'BRIEN is a drug addict, and at the time of his arrest his condition indicated that he had been taking drugs consistently, and probably in large quantities; a medical report was therefore requested.

On arrest he was found to be in possession of 25 tablets of morphine; his condition was such that a doctor was called to examine him, and this doctor decided that it was necessary to administer drugs. He therefore used a number of the tablets found in O'BRIEN's possession, for this purpose. After O'BRIEN had been treated, however, the remaining 21 tablets could not be found. He had been left alone for a few moments only, but, although a thorough and careful search was made, the missing tablets could not be found.

Amongst the property in O'BREIN's possession were three cloakroom tickets which had been issued at BRIGHTON, in respect of luggage deposited by him at the Southern Railway Cloakroom there. The luggage was subsequently examined, and in one suitcase a blue glass bottle which contained 278 small white pills, was found. The pills were analysed and were found to contain Morphine Hydrochloride. The pills appeared to have been made on a druggist's pill machine; they were of irregular size and the drug content varied considerably. It has not been possible to ascertain the source of O'BRIEN's supply, but he stated that he bought them in the West End of London for £25 (USA \$100.75).

O'BRIEN was brought to trial at Worcester City Quarter Sessions on the 25th November 1947, and in addition to other charges of larceny etc., was charged with "being in unauthorised possession of 278 Morphine Hydrochloride pills". He pleaded "Guilty" to the charge and was sentenced to 12 months' imprisonment.

On the 14th December 1945, O'BRIEN was sentenced to 18 months' imprisonment for shopbreaking and being in unlawful possession of twelve 1/4 grain (.192 grammes) morphine tablets contrary to section 13 (1)(a) of the Dangerous Drugs Act 1923 and Regulation 3 of the Dangerous Drugs Regulations 1937, and on this occasion 27 other offences of obtaining Dangerous Drugs on false prescriptions, were admitted and taken into consideration. O'BRIEN received treatment while serving this prison sentence, and upon release was reported to have made a satisfactory recovery, his mental and physical condition being normal. It was presumed, therefore, that he had been cured of his addiction while in prison.
