

# FEDERAL AGENTS OUTTHRILL WILDEST OF NOVELS IN SECRET FIGHT AGAINST CRAFTY DRUG RING

### Mistep in Tracking Peddlers and Overlords of Criminal Organization Only One of Many Perils Hazardred Daily by Picked Men

### 2,000,000 ADDICTS IN U. S. ARE UNSEEN FORCE BEHIND THEIR CEASELESS BATTLE

### Country-Wide Crusade Is Helped by "Tips" From Unfortunates Who Are Trying to Escape From Fatal Grip of Deadly Narcotics

It is "mad" in the shop talk of the Secret Service, and, like mad, it is spattering the social fabric from its highest to its lowest levels. Opium and its derivative drugs are meant. The Government and the authorities of cities from coast to coast are aroused as never before over the menace of narcotic drugs.

The use of these stimulants has grown to such an unbelievable extent and is shattering the health and lives of so many unfortunates that Federal, State and Municipal Governments are determined to crush the traffic.

Bootleggers are huns in arms compared with the drug distributors, who operate in every underworld zone in America and are finding hordes of victims in the strata of normal, everyday life.

The direct results of a habitual use of narcotics are terrible enough. But the traffic has another and equally sinister side.

Police trace to its influence many of the crimes of violence that have made the phrase "crime wave" familiar in many parts of the country. The user, "charged" with his favorite poison, often becomes a frenzied killer. Victims ever in need of money for drugs do not hesitate to turn highwaymen. Many women shoplifters are drug victims, resorting to that method to finance their ergies.

Like beverage liquor which has been banished—legally—the drug traffic is entrenching itself politically, seeking alliance wherever it can with the police and rearing a crop of super-peddlers who are amassing wealth by pandering to vicious appetites.

### Trained Men Hunting Down Jackals of "Ring"

In this country society's first line of defense against the drug evil is the Government's narcotic agents, trained, fearless men, hunting down the drug-ring jackals.

Since 1915 the Federal Government has maintained a large staff of highly trained and well-paid agents, including a number of women.

The crusade by Agent Monaghan, of Philadelphia, gives some indication of how far the drug traffic has cut into our social structure and how manifold are its defenses—political and otherwise.

Except for the incessant work of these narcotic agents the spread of the drug habit might be ten times what it is. As it stands, the situation is alarming enough: between 1,500,000 and 2,000,000 confirmed in the habit; that is to say, nearly two in every hundred.

The narcotic force is divided into two sections: those whose duty it is to supervise the legal manufacture and distribution to physicians, druggists and hospitals of narcotic drugs and those devoted to stamping out the sale of smuggled drugs.

Rarely do their investigations develop, but either division calls for men of extraordinary qualifications. The first must be pharisaic moralists, and men with an extreme spirit for investigation and a rare taste for adventure.

### Every Raid Is Fraught With Deadly Danger

Every drug raid is fraught with deadly danger, for besides going armed themselves, drug peddlers invariably engage as protectors or bodyguard men who are among their own victims. The recklessness of the drug fiend is sufficiently known, since one of the chief factors in drug addiction is the supernatural sort of courage which the drug gives to its victim.

A false move by the agent, who usually works alone, is likely to result in immediate death.

The business of a narcotic agent calls, moreover, for a high degree of versatility. In order to gain his contacts with the peddlers he must assume for the time some disreputable role, generally that of the drug addict or of the peddler himself.

An illustration may be taken from the records of the Philadelphia office, which covers the territory of Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Delaware and Maryland—an instance more or less classic.

R—, a young probationer of the force, recently transferred from the South, was sent out "on his own." This meant that he was to drift about the tenderloin with no particular end in view. He fitted himself out with a

of his later dealings with the drug sellers. A couple of the drug hand objected to the boy.

"Listen," said R—, "This kid's with me. I know all about him."

On the day of the sale R— was led to a room in a shabby section of town. Two men, whom he had not seen before, were presented to him. One of these was at that time the leader of the great Philadelphia "drug ring," who had otherwise acquired the status of a political boss.

Two men took their places outside the house, to watch, they said, against a raid. R— was submitted to another examination. Each of the men drew out a pistol, examined it and replaced it, watching R— narrowly meanwhile. R— sat on one side of a cloth-covered table and the three men opposite.

They began to entreat the boy. "Now, listen," said R—, softly. "You all ain't dealing with that boy. You're dealing with me. Never mind about him."

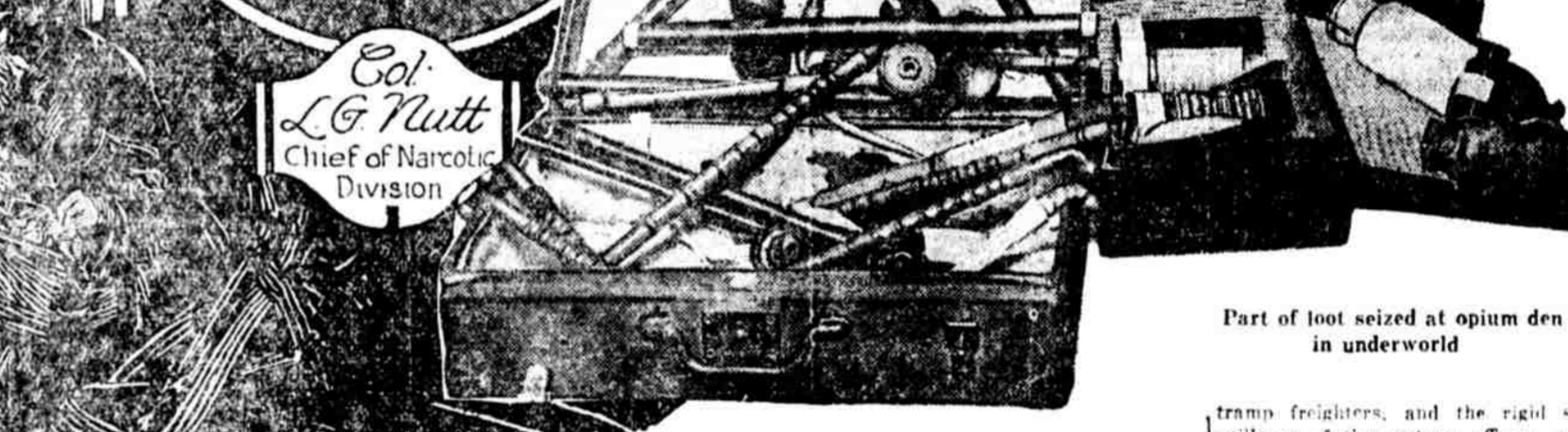
They questioned him then about the



Col. L. G. Nutt Chief of Narcotic Division



One of the many devices employed by drug peddlers in concealing their supply



Part of loot seized at opium den in underworld



This represents one of big-time hauls



Narcotic agent is shown here examining bottom of chair, which is often used as drug cache

cap and a load suit. By the end of his first day of drifting he had secured an acquaintance with one of the leaders of what was at that time the greatest drug ring in the city.

After a number of drinks he confided to his acquaintance that he was from New Jersey and had light on a considerable traffic among the Negroes of that city and had come to Philadelphia to buy cocaine and heroin in quantity.

### Acquaintance Expands as He Gives Information

His acquaintance expanded still further as he gave information. Presently he promised to introduce R— to someone who would sell him as much of the drugs as was needed.

A meeting with one of these men took place a few days later in a South Philadelphia house. They led him to a room nearby, where he was introduced to another. He was subjected to the most subtle examination, and the slight discrepancy on the part of R— would have meant no object, and to the negotiations. The gist of these negotiations was that R— was to pay \$10,000 in cash for a specified quantity of drugs.

It was too absurd to represent himself on this occasion as a drug user. To have done so convincingly would have meant that he must take a dose of one or another of the drugs in the presence of these men. That was one thing. Another was that "the big boss" of the underground drug trade are never drug-takers. Their profits come solely from the exploitation of the weak by the strong and intelligent.

The sale of the drugs was to take place at the specified place and on a given date. Just before that date R— was taken ill and compelled to go to a hospital. As soon as he was able he sent the drug gang a message explaining why he had failed to appear. The reason given, as R— foresaw, was carefully investigated.

### Negotiations for Drugs Begun All Over Again

After R—'s discharge from the hospital negotiations began all over again. Again it reached the stage where the men agreed to turn over the drugs on payment of \$10,000. Another locale was set for the sale.

R— had picked up a young gamine, who for a number of years had been living on the borderland of the underworld, and had taken him along in some

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one of the men from the outside decided to investigate is problematical. R— says that he would have shot every man in the place. Indictments and eventually sentences were given to all five. One jumped his bail and fled to Norfolk, whither R— followed and captured him. For this remarkable work R—

the same morning he got his quarry on a train and before sunrise had them in jail in Philadelphia.

### Underworld Gets Most of Drugs From Europe

Virtually all of the drugs sold in the underground traffic are smuggled from abroad. Most of it is carried over on

tramp freighters, and the rigid surveillance of the customs officers avails little. Any one familiar with ships can think of a thousand places in which a small package may be hidden absolutely safe from detection. An example is given in a comic accidentally discovered some time ago.

One of the firemen of a freighter was making a tidy addition to his income by carrying drugs from the Netherlands and other parts of Europe into this country. On one occasion he put a canister into the front of the furnace itself and banked it about with ashes so tightly that the surrounding fire damaged it not a whit.

The leaders of the drug rings who make these importations rarely do much of the distributing of the drugs among habitués, although they are in complete control of it and are always watchful that this control is in no way threatened.

The distributing agent is the "peddler," who may himself be an addict, but who more frequently is not. These men— or sometimes women—go among the habitués and supply them from small quantities of the drugs concealed about their persons or elsewhere. Many artful dodges are used to conceal the drugs from the casual observer, or from the police and from the narcotic agents.

There is one instance where a peddler had hollowed out the inside of a bound volume of an innocuous magazine for children. This book, full inside with small packets of heroin, lay innocently on the table when the agents raided the place, and it was only instinct, the hollow neck, the hollow cane, the shot with the false bed and the false-bottomed chair are standard devices, all of which tax the ingenuity of the agents.

Agents represent highest type in Secret Service

These agents represent the highest type of secret service in the Federal employ and quite possibly in the country. Even outside of the technical man, considerably better than average standards of education are required.

Applicants may number thousands yearly. It is no infrequent experience, understanding and interest.

On the one side is the almost irresistible force of habit linked with greed; on the other a slowly awakening general consciousness of the peril which confronts society. The crushing of the drug evil can be hastened by public

rest is really rebuilding. While you sleep or sit quietly after a day's work, the delicate machinery within you is disposing of the cells broken down by toil and replacing them with brand-new ones.

If your rest time is too short, enough old ones are not got rid of nor enough new ones built up. Presently you grow ill and, if you keep denying yourself rest, you die.

It is not overwork, however, that kills people.

Rest is better for all people to rest regularly, and to sleep as much as they need to sleep. Everything in nature is better if done systematically.

Mental rest is also necessary, and this requires a change of thought and occupation as much as it does absolute idleness.

"A change of trouble is in the nature of a rest," said a man who had been with many tribulations, and he was probably right.

The street car conductor who spent his day off riding on a trolley car got but little rest. The man who completely changes his environment, sees new people and thinks new thoughts gets the most restful vacation.

But, however one obtains it, rest is vital. It is the failure to get enough of it that makes young men old before their time.

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my brain is all stirred up so I can't sleep, and I read till I get drowsy—an hour or so longer perhaps."

"YOUR sleeping fits aren't a disease," said the doctor. "Your body knows how much rest it needs for rebuilding, and it takes it in its own time, instead of yours, that's all. Sleep regularly at night and you'll keep awake day times."

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