



Calhoun: The NPS Institutional Archive
DSpace Repository

Center on Contemporary Conflict

Faculty and Researchers Collection

2009

Afghan Narcotics Terms and Phrases

DuPée, Matthew C.

Naval Postgraduate School (U.S.)

<http://hdl.handle.net/10945/30449>

Downloaded from NPS Archive: Calhoun



Calhoun is a project of the Dudley Knox Library at NPS, furthering the precepts and goals of open government and government transparency. All information contained herein has been approved for release by the NPS Public Affairs Officer.

Dudley Knox Library / Naval Postgraduate School
411 Dyer Road / 1 University Circle
Monterey, California USA 93943

<http://www.nps.edu/library>

Afghan Narcotics Terms and Phrases

<i>Kharwar</i>	Approximately 1,000 lbs. (454.5 kilograms)
<i>Khaltar</i>	Approximately 7 kilograms.
<i>Maan</i>	A measurement usually referring to narcotics weight (cannabis, opium, and heroin). 1 <i>maan</i> equals 4.5 kilograms. The term <i>mon</i> , used in Quetta, refers to a measurement of 50kg.
<i>Puri</i>	A measurement equivalent to just under 1 kilogram.
<i>Tulee</i>	A measurement typically referring to a user's amount of opium. It is roughly the weight of one AK-47 (7.62 X 39mm) bullet, or ten grams. Some <i>tulee</i> have weighed as much as 30 grams. In Badakshan, between three and six <i>tulee</i> are traded for one sheep. One <i>tulee</i> is a hearty amount of opium to be smoked in one day, although long term addicts can smoke one or over two <i>tulee</i> per day.
<i>Al-Khamr</i>	An intoxicant or drug; used to mean alcohol.
<i>Sharab</i>	Alcohol.
<i>Tarra</i>	Home-brewed Alcohol.
<i>Bhang</i>	Herbal cannabis.
<i>Bhangawa</i>	A type of tea containing herbal cannabis.
<i>Chars</i>	Hashish.
<i>Madak</i>	An opium pill formed by using water, rice and/or barley husks.
<i>Majun/Majoun</i>	An edible mixture of hashish and other ingredients.
<i>Chillum/Tchilim</i>	Afghan hashish and or tobacco smoking pipe.
<i>Narghile</i>	Water-pipe for smoking hashish.
<i>Powder</i>	Smokeable heroin, heroin no. 3, "brown sugar"

Afghan Narcotics Terms and Phrases

	heroin.
<i>Chando</i>	A type of refined opium.
<i>Cristal</i>	A type of heroin also referred to sometimes as “Afghan rocks.” In Iran, <i>cristal</i> is referred to as “crack,” a misunderstanding of the American slang for cocaine-rocks. Increasingly, <i>cristal</i> is also used to reference methamphetamine type stimulants that are being consumed and sold in Quetta.
<i>Ashk</i>	(Farsi: “tears,” “clear,” “crystal” and “sadness”) Copper in color, <i>ashk</i> refers to a potent form of heroin apparently available in western Afghanistan and Iran. It could be a reference to liquid heroin.
<i>Beast</i>	Morphine base made from raw opium, brown in color.
<i>Shisha</i>	This term has several meanings dependent of where it is used and in what context. 1) Water pipe for smoking hashish (Iran). 2) A form of Afghan hashish. 3) A type of potent heroin found in western Afghanistan; second to <i>ashk</i> .
<i>Shirac</i>	High grade Afghan hashish.
<i>Tariak (Teryak)</i>	Afghan opium.
<i>Apeen</i>	Sap or extract from the poppy pod, raw opium.
<i>Thariac</i>	Opium (Iranian Farsi)
<i>Chinac</i>	Dried opium. Fetches more than raw, “wet” opium (<i>teryak</i>).
<i>Naswar</i>	An Afghan version of “snuff” or fine chewing tobacco.
<i>Peshawari</i>	Opium originating from areas in eastern Afghanistan such as Nangarhar, Kunar and Logar provinces is called Peshawari ..

Afghan Narcotics Terms and Phrases

<i>Shamaly (Shomali)</i>	Opium originating from northern areas such as Mazar-i-Shrif, Sari Pul, Baghlan and Badakshan is called Shamaly (Shomali) .
<i>Charsi</i>	Habitual hashish smoker. Also used to describe someone who is deemed a “louche and no good,” or any kind of drug addict. It’s often used as a general pejorative.
<i>Ghamza</i>	A form of opium smoking.
<i>Mothad</i>	A drug addict.
<i>Riba</i>	Interest on loans.
<i>Salaam</i>	Loan as an advancement payment for a fixed amount of agricultural product.
<i>Jawzai</i>	Loans in opium. The borrower repays an agreed amount of cash for each kilogram of opium borrowed.
<i>Neshtar</i>	The lancing tool used to pierce the poppy pod and extract opium. Blades or tines are usually 1mm in length and in a row of five to seven.
<i>Quashuq or Rrambey</i>	A collection utensil used to amass the opium gum from the lanced poppy bulb. It is usually a bulbous, dish shaped scoop or a wide mouthed blade. Varies by region and district.
<i>“Water”</i>	Codename for acetic anhydride, the key precursor chemical needed for the conversion of morphine base into heroin. Also referred to as the “key ingredient.”
<i>Navsagar</i>	The local term used to describe ammonium chloride, a key ingredient in the refinement of opium into morphine and heroin.
<i>Zaakat</i>	A legal tax imposed by Sharia, typically 2.5% of one’s earning. Is now a reference to a 15-20% cut or charge against drug traffickers.

Afghan Narcotics Terms and Phrases

	Here it is used for illegitimate purposes.
<i>Usher</i>	A 10% Islamic tax derives from Arabic meaning “ten.”
<i>Patak</i>	A checkpoint used to levy “tax.”
<i>Jerib</i>	A unit of land measurement; 5 <i>jerib</i> = 1 ha (2000 m ²)
<i>Biswa</i>	A measure of land. One <i>biswa</i> equals one hundred square meters; there are twenty <i>biswa</i> to one <i>jerib</i> .
<i>Watani Soorgulai</i>	The most prevalent grown variety of poppy in Afghanistan. Southern farmers tend to stick with <i>watani soorgulai</i> . The flower of this type can be white, pink or red and has small capsules which make it more labor intensive during the harvest. Farmers suggest <i>watani soorgulai produces</i> good quality opium with low moisture content but the yield is lower than other varieties.
<i>Bahrami Baragai</i>	This variety is overwhelmingly preferred by eastern farmers and is usually among the top five varieties planted by Afghan farmers.
<i>Bahrami Soorgulai</i>	One of the top varieties planted by Afghan farmers, <i>sahrami soorgulai</i> is among the top ten varieties along with <i>manani</i> , <i>jalalabadi</i> , and <i>qudoosi</i> .
<i>Sebi</i>	One of the top five varieties planted by Afghan farmers, <i>sebi</i> became the most preferred variety in 2008 for one year. Farmers in the east typically plant <i>barahmi baragai</i> or <i>watani soorgulai</i> and do not plant <i>sebi</i> .
<i>Watani Spingulai</i>	This variety has a white flower and can be grown in both sandy and clay loam soils, producing a longer capsule than other varieties and is known for its early maturation. This

Afghan Narcotics Terms and Phrases

	<p>variety is also resistant to both disease and poor weather, requiring less fertilizer and irrigation (and labor) than other varieties. It is usually among the top five varieties planted by Afghan farmers.</p>
<p><i>Morphine Base</i></p>	<p>Morphine base is an intermediate product between morphine alkaloid in opium and a morphine brick (morphine hydrochloride). The base is formed as a precipitate (solid) when ammonium chloride is added to a solution of calcium morphenate. This base is usually quite crude (50% to 70% pure) because of the marginal conditions under which it is prepared. Morphine base is not easily soluble in water, and thus is not readily absorbed by the human body. Morphine base must therefore be converted to a (water-soluble) salt form, viz., morphine hydrochloride or heroin hydrochloride, by treating it with hydrochloric acid.</p>
<p><i>Morphine Brick</i></p>	<p>Morphine hydrochloride, ranging between 82 and 94 percent morphine content, compressed (by a morphine press) into a standard-sized brick shape measuring approximately 2 inches by 4 inches by 5 inches and weighing approximately 1.3 kilograms (about 3 pounds). Also known as a morphine block. Properly compressed morphine hydrochloride is very dry and hard.</p>
<p><i>Heroin no. 2 (Heroin Base)</i></p>	<p>Diacetylmorphine. Also known as crude heroin. Actually, heroin base is morphine base that has undergone acetylation. Formed as a precipitate (solid) by adding soda ash (sodium carbonate) to an acetylated morphine solution. Sometimes called Southeast Asian heroin no. 2. Not readily soluble in water, and therefore not injectable in this form. This form of heroin can be smoked. However, heroin base</p>

Afghan Narcotics Terms and Phrases

	generally is considered an intermediate form of heroin that may be further refined to either no. 3 or no. 4 heroin.
<i>Heroin no. 3</i>	A smokeable form of heroin. Not as highly refined as no. 4. Color ranges from purple to tan to off-white. Although considered a smoking heroin, it may also be injected intravenously. Caffeine is a necessary component of heroin no. 3. In contrast, strychnine or quinine are adulterants, which are sometimes added to heroin no. 3, allegedly to modify the taste of the product.
<i>Heroin no. 4</i>	An injectable form of heroin. Also known as heroin hydrochloride or China White. Highly refined heroin produced in South Asia. Usually a fine white powder, flakes, or crystals. May be smoked or snorted. Diluents, such as lactose, are not normally added until the heroin is diluted (or cut or whacked) for street sales.
<i>Kamishankars</i>	The people who collect opium from farmers supply to the district center dealers against the fixed amount of commission.

References

MacDonald, David. 2007. *Drugs in Afghanistan: Opium, Outlaws and Scorpion Tales*. New York: Pluto Press.

Mansfield, David. "Water Management, Livestock and the Opium Economy: Opium Poppy Cultivation in Nangarhar and Ghor," *AERU*, December 2006.

"Opium Poppy Cultivation and heroin Processing in Southeast Asia," *U.S. Department of Justice, Drug Enforcement Administration*, March 2001.

Salmon, Gregor. 2009. *Poppy: Life, Death and Addiction inside Afghanistan's Opium Trade*. Sydney: Ebury Press.

UNODC, Afghan Opium Survey 2005.

UNODC, Afghan Opium Survey 2006.

UNODC, Afghan Opium Survey 2009.

Zerell, U. B. Aherns and P. Gerz. "Documentation of a heroin manufacturing process in Afghanistan." Federal Criminal Police Office, Wiesbaden Germany.