

BREACH OF DEFENCE ACT.

Nicholas D'Orloff, who described himself as a Russian, was charged with that he on the 8th of October, at Maryborough, not being a member of the Defence Force, wore a uniform of the Defence Force. The information was laid under Section 83 of the Defence Acts 1903-1912. "Any person who not being a member of the Defence Force wears any uniform of the Defence Force or any colorable imitation thereof shall be liable to a penalty not exceeding £10, or in default six months imprisonment." On the charge being read, the defendant made a very polite bow to the Bench, and asked his Worship to deal with the case. He said he had sold his civilian clothes, and had no others to wear but the soldier's uniform since his discharge. He had seen Captain Macgregor who told him he could keep them on until he got some civilian clothes.

Senior Sergeant Brosnan said the defendant claimed to be a native of Riga in Russia. He said he had enlisted in the Commonwealth Forces and had been in camp at Enoggera for five weeks. He was discharged in September. He had his discharge papers which showed that his character was bad, and that he was not likely to make an efficient soldier. After he came to Maryborough the police communicated with the military authorities with regard to him.

tary authorities with regard to him. He had come to Maryborough in uniform on Thursday last and was wearing a uniform made by the Commonwealth Clothing Factory, and which could not be purchased legally in any other place. He told Detective Sergeant O'Sullivan that he had bought it at Rothwell's and said he got it very cheap. He presented himself at the Imperial Service Club rooms in Maryborough, when some of the wounded soldiers were being received.

The Police Magistrate: I saw him there myself, carrying on "top ropes."

Senior Sergeant Brosnan said he signed the book as a private and gave the number of a regiment at Enoggera. If he was a native of Russia, under which he (the Senior Sergeant) understood he had got into the Expeditionary Forces in Brisbane, it was peculiar that he should have had on him such a letter as was found and which he wanted to have published in "Truth." In the letter he stated that he was ill and that he did not like the treatment he received at the camp, so that he went to Dr. Hirschfeld. That was one coincidence. After arriving in Maryborough he was driven by Pastor Frank to the residence of Dr. Lohr, and he there got a suit of plain clothes, stating that he intended to return and bring back the clothes. On Friday he appeared in the street, and some of the persons whom he visited were naturalised subjects or aliens. That together with

whom he visited were naturalised subjects or aliens. That, together with the facts in the letter that he went to the German Consul, would make one suspicious.

The Police Magistrate: He went to two Germans here. That would make one more suspicious.

Senior Sergeant Brosnan said the defendant was found in the uniform, but how he had come to get it was not known. His explanation about the civilian dress was only an excuse. The defendant could have been proceeded against under the War Precaution Act, but the proceedings would have been too round about, so the police had considered it advisable to bring him up under the Act they had. He spoke German, French, Russian and English.

The Defendant: I said I could speak several languages. I did not keep it dark.

The Police Magistrate fined the defendant £10, with the alternative of three months' imprisonment with hard labour in Brisbane Gaol.

Senior Sergeant Brosnan: You have power to forfeit the uniform under the War Precaution Act to the military authorities.

The Police Magistrate ordered the uniform to be forfeited accordingly.

Defendant: Will you deal with me under the First Offenders Act? It is the first time I have been in prison.

Senior Sergeant Brosnan: You are dealt with now.

SENIOR SERGEANT BISHOP, YOU ARE
DEALT WITH NOW.