

# Alleged Stabbing

## Episode at West End

### A Bloodstained Knife

The hearing was continued before Mr. P. M. Hishon, P.M., in the Police Court on Wednesday of the charge preferred against Akem Petroff, that on August 5, at Jane Street, West End, he unlawfully did grievous bodily harm to Stephan Orloff.

Sub-inspector Coman prosecuted, and Mr. A. L. Macnaughton appeared for the defendant.

Constable S. E. Watson stated that at about 11.15 on the night of August 5, when in Upper Melbourne Street, South Brisbane, he saw Stephan Orloff, who made a complaint to him. Witness examined Orloff and found that he was wearing a singlet and trousers only and the front of them was saturated with blood. He also noticed a cut about five inches long on the front of his chest. He took Orloff to the Central Police Station and there he was attended by ambulance bearers. Later witness went to a house at the corner of Jane Street and Montague Road, West End, and there he saw the defendant on the veranda. The defendant admitted that he and Orloff had had a fight and added "But I did not stab him. You can take me away and give me ten years." Another man at the house, named Lomingo, gave him a two-bladed pocket-knife, which he said he found under the defendant's bed. There were blood stains on the blade. The defendant said that the knife was his, but he could not account for the blood-stains on it. Witness then arrested the defendant.

Cross-examined by Mr. McNaughton, witness stated that the defendant was excited and slightly under the influence of liquor. The defendant was

excited and slightly under the influence of liquor. The defendant was also under the influence of liquor. When questioned, Orloff stated that there was no fight; Petroff stabbed him without any provocation.

Mr. McNaughton: Did Petroff ask for a doctor in the lock-up next morning?

Witness: I believe he did. I think he was taken away by the ambulance suffering from a broken rib, and was in the hospital for a fortnight.

#### COMPLAINANT'S EVIDENCE.

Stephan Orloff, a labourer, stated that he came to Brisbane in July and went to stop at Lomingo's boarding-house, at the corner of Jane Street and Montague Road. He left the house about 3 or 4 o'clock on the afternoon of August 5, and went to Delaney's Hotel, where he met the defendant, whom he had known for 10 years or more. They had some drinks together, and left the hotel together, going to Black's Cafe in Queen Street, where they had tea. Afterwards they had another drink, and he purchased a dozen bottles of beer, and at the defendant's suggestion he purchased a bottle of whisky. They went with Lomingo, whom they had met, to the latter's place, stopping on the way to buy some fish and sausages. At Lomingo's place they had the beer and fish, and afterwards the defendant became hostile. "Do you want to put me in gaol?" he asked. "What do you take me for?" replied witness. Then they had a couple more drinks, after which the defendant jumped up and offered to fight witness. He, however, put the defendant back in his chair, and the defendant was quiet for a while. After a few minutes, witness leaned across the table to pour out a drink, when the defendant, without a word, struck him with a knife in the chest. "What's up with you? Are you going mad?" witness asked and then requested Lomingo to call in the ambulance. There was no 'phone in the house, however, and witness left the house to use the 'phone next door. Outside he saw Constable Watson to whom he spoke and later he was taken to the police station and subsequently to the hospital where he remained for a week. He had always considered the defendant a particular friend of his and had never had a quarrel with

defendant a particular friend of his and had never had a quarrel with him. He did not strike the defendant that night.

Mr. Macnaughton: How do you think Petroff got the broken rib with which he went into hospital next day?"

Witness: That is a mystery to me.

Hubert Edward Brown, assistant bacteriologist, gave evidence that he examined the pocket knife in court on August 8, and found human blood stains on it.

Dr. D. Barry stated that he attended Orloff at the Mater Hospital on the morning of August 6 and found that he was suffering from a wound on the front of his chest, 2½ inches. The haemorrhage was severe. The wound could have been caused by the knife in court.

George Lomingo also gave evidence.

This concluded the evidence for the Crown.

Mr. Macnaughton intimated that the defendant would reserve his defence.

Mr. Hishon committed the defendant for trial at the next criminal sittings of the Supreme Court on October 10. Bail was allowed, self in £40, with one surety in £40.

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