

“Walga! Walga!” and “Cuthera Cobbie”

**MAXIMUM SENTENCE FOR SUP-
PLYING LIQUOR TO NATIVES**

CASE HEARD AT PORT AUGUSTA

PORT AUGUSTA, Tuesday.

When an aboriginal woman called out “Walga! walga!” to her several companions who had been suspected of drinking wine, she was warning them of the approach of the police, explained Plainclothes Constable A. J. Litster in evidence at the Port Augusta Police Court on Friday last.

Walter Saari, who gave his address as Whyalla, but who had been released from the Port Augusta gaol only two days previous, was found guilty of supplying Leslie Williams, an aboriginal native with intoxicating liquor and was fined £25 with 7/6 costs, in default three months' imprisonment in the local gaol.

Evidence tendered for the prosecution showed that defendant had collected £1 from the Commonwealth Railways, which was due to him for work performed some time ago and had invested it in wine. He was seen

had invested it in wine. He was seen walking with Williams in the direction of the cemetery by the police. Defendant had bottles in his pockets and Williams appeared to be under the influence of liquor. The police drove on and later came upon a party of natives who were picnicking behind some bushes in the sandhills near the cemetery. The police heard defendant ask "Did you have a drink?" and someone replied "Yes." The witness walked around the bush and it was then that the woman gave the alarm.

Next morning in the police cells, Williams said that he had met defendant in the park lands opposite the railway station. Defendant had "Cuthera cobbie" and offered him some. 'Cuthera' means two and 'cobbie' means wine. "I drank half a bottle and went out of my senses," he said.

Mr. W. A. Rollmeyer, J.P., who with Mr. L. Riches, J.P., heard the case, complained at one stage that the police were putting leading questions to Williams. Turning to the witness, he said: "Now you tell the Court in your own words what happened." Williams said, "You want me tell you in numga" and the Court hurriedly explained that it wanted his story told in his own English.

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Saari pleaded not guilty. In evidence, he said that he had drawn the £1 from Mr. Gilbert and had purchased ten bottles of draught wine with it. He and two others—one a man named Mitchell—had drunk this wine in the park lands opposite the railway station. The other two men had purchased three bottles of wine, making 13 bottles in all. He did not know what happened after the tenth bottle of wine had been disposed of. He remembered being arrested. He was then with a party of natives. If the natives had any of his wine they must have taken it without his knowledge.

FINED FOR DRINKING LIQUOR

Leslie Williams, a local aboriginal native, pleaded guilty to unlawfully drinking liquor. "I have not been here for a long time and will not drink again," he told the Court. He was fined £1, with 7/6 costs and was allowed 14 days in which to pay.