

ASSAULT AND ROBBERY.

Accused Committed.

There was a large attendance at the Fremantle Police Court on Saturday morning, when John Lawrence Coates was charged with having violently assaulted and robbed a man named Fritz Schilling, at Fremantle, on July 26. Mr. P. L. Gibbons, R.M., was on the bench; Sergeant Cassidy prosecuted for the police, and Mr. F. G. Unmack appeared for Coates.

Fritz Schilling stated that he was a timber faller, of Holyoake. On July 26 he was at the Oceanic Hotel, Fremantle, in the company of another man, and he left there between the hours of 9 and 10 p.m. to go to the railway station. After buying a ticket to Holyoake he wanted to get another drink, but the man he was with advised him not to. In going to get the drink he met two men, one of whom was the accused. The man who was with the accused borrowed £1 from him, and they proceeded to His Majesty's Hotel, where they bought a bottle of beer. While in the hotel the third man left them. When they came outside Coates hit him on the head with a bottle and dazed him, after which he hit him with his fists and knocked him to the ground. Schilling said to Coates: "Don't kill me, but take everything I've got." Accused then searched his pockets and took from them articles including two £1 notes, about 15s. in silver, a returned soldier's badge, and an A.I.F. discharge. After communicating with the police he was taken to the Fremantle Hospital, where two stitches were put into his lip. Next morning he visited the police station and recognised accused among the men in the yard. At the time of the assault he was fairly sober.

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Sydney Henry Maddon, a returned soldier, who stated that he had a defective memory owing to injuries received at the front, said that he had met Coates at 10 o'clock on the night in question. He had noticed that Coates had a cut hand. He did not remember examining any papers with him. Andrew Stansfield, a wharf labourer, gave evidence that he found the A.I.F. discharge paper (exhibited) in Essex-street on the following morning.

Patrick Fanning, cook at the Workers' Club, Henry-street, stated that on July 26 he noticed accused passing on the opposite side of Henry-street. About five minutes later another man, with his head covered in blood, came up and asked him the way to the Oceanic Hotel. He accompanied Schilling to the hotel, and helped him to wash the blood from his face.

Sergeant Notley said that, accompanied by two constables, he went to the Oceanic Hotel in response to a telephone call. At the hotel he saw Schilling, who was badly cut about the mouth and bruised, and learned the facts from him. Leaving one constable to look after Schilling they went to the fire station, where he met Coates and Maddon. He told them of the complaint that he had received from Schilling. He noticed that Coates had a cut hand, and Coates told him that he had cut it earlier in the day. Corroborative evidence was given by Constable Percy.

The accused reserved his defence, and the Magistrate committed him for trial at the next criminal sittings of the Supreme Court. Bail was allowed on one personal surety of £40 and two others of £40 each.
