

AN ANZAC DESERTER

BATH WOMAN SUMMONED FOR
ASSISTING HIM

THE HEARING ADJOURNED



Private Rex Thomas, of the Australian Force, stationed at Codford, was charged at the Bath City Police Court on Saturday with having deserted from his battalion, stationed at Codford, since July 4th.

The magistrates were Messrs T. S. Cotterell (in the chair), B. John and E. Barnett.

Prisoner, who was arrested by Inspector Hembury at the Royal Oak, Pulteney Road, on Friday evening, was wearing civilian clothing but told the Bench he only admitted being absent without leave.

The Inspector, who was accompanied by P. S. Bryan when he visited the Royal Oak, said when he first questioned Thomas he gave the name "Dixon," and said he was staying at a lodging house in Avon Street, but could not tell him the number. He asked to be allowed to return in order to put on his uniform when told he would be arrested. Asked if he wished to return to an address in New Street for that purpose, he replied "Yes." At first he protested that he had only been away from camp since Wednesday, July 23rd, and reported himself in camp at that date. Witness told him that if he persisted in that statement he should call other evidence, and Thomas then admitted being absent since July 4th. His uniform was recovered from 7, New Street East.

Thomas protested that he had no intention of deserting, but the Clerk Mr E. Newton Fuller said that he must be legally regarded as a deserter in consequence of being absent for over three weeks.

Prisoner was remanded for an escort, and the Inspector was recommended for a reward of 10s.

WOMAN SUMMONED FOR ASSISTING PRISONER

Mabel Latchem, of 7, New Street East, was then summoned for assisting Thomas to conceal himself on July 25th, knowing him to be a deserter.

On being informed that bail would be granted if she were committed for trial, the defendant said she would prefer to be tried at the Quarter Sessions.

As the summons had only just been served on defendant, the Bench offered her the opportunity of an adjournment to enable her to prepare her defence.

Defendant accepted the offer, and the case was adjourned for a fortnight. She was allowed bail in her own recognisances in £5.

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