

# Charges Against a Musician at Burslem

From – The Staffordshire Advertiser Saturday, August 28 1915

At the Burslem Borough Police Court, on Monday, before G. Wade Esq., Albert Howard, said to be a native of London, was charged on remand with stealing a violin, two bows and a case, value £2, the property of William Thomas Dwyne, on the 16<sup>th</sup> inst.—Prosecutor, who resides at 36. York street, Burslem, and is the conductor of the Burslem Hippodrome orchestra, said he missed the violin, &c. from the theatre. Sidney Hodkinson, assistant in the employ of Messrs. Palfreyman, pawnbrokers, Tunstall, said the prisoner offered the article in pledge. He gave the name W. T. Dwyne, and witness lent him 6s. on them

Inspector Kitson spoke in arresting the prisoner, who when charged, said, "It's no use replying now." The following day the prisoner said. "The door of the Hippodrome was wide open. I walked in, and saw a Japanese artist. I asked him where the manager was, but he had not arrived. The artist went on the stage. I saw a violin case in the orchestra. The temptation was too great for me, as I was starving. So I took it on impulse of the moment, and pledged it at Tunstall. I wish I had not done it. I intended to return the pawn ticket to the manager of the Hippodrome.

After the evidence, prisoner handed a statement to the Bench in which he stated that he was a first-class musician, composer, and arranger, and had had scores of compilations published by the leading London publishing firms. He had also composed some of successes of leading variety artist. Of late he had been walking about the country in search of an engagement at a theatre or music hall. Every manager he had spoken to had told him the same tale – his staff was fully equipped. He had had to sleep out at Willenhall and had no food for four days. He had tried to obtain employment in the Potteries, and the temptation provided by seeing the violin case was too great for a starving man.

Prisoner was also charged with stealing three ivory billiard balls, value £3, 13s.6d. the property of Mr. Wallace Lumb, licensee of the Albion Hotel, Hanley, and a rainproof coat, value 3s., from the Empire Picture Palace, Hanley, on the 16<sup>th</sup>. Inst. Prisoner pleaded not guilty.

With regard to the billiard balls, Detective Bettany said that when he arrested the prisoner he stated that he met two men, who asked him to pawn three billiard balls for them, and he took them and sold them. He handed the money to one of the men and had two or three drinks with him, but he had none of the money himself.

In the other case it was stated that the raincoat belonged to a woman cleaner at the Empire Picture Palace, Hanley. A second-hand clothes dealer stated that the prisoner sold the coat to her. She identified the prisoner from a group of men.

On all three charges prisoner was committed for trial at the Stoke-on-Trent Quarter Sessions.



Hippodrome



Albion Hotel

From – The Staffordshire Advertiser Saturday, October 20, 1915

Albert Howard, 52, musician, pleaded guilty to stealing a violin, violin case, and two violin bows, the property of William Thomas Dwyne in Burslem on Aug. 16.

He also asked that further charges of stealing at Walsall and Birmingham should be taken into consideration.

The prisoner was stated to be a pianist who was sometimes employed a music halls and cinema. He was sentenced to five years' penal servitude at Lewes in 1901 and there were convictions for stealing from 1913 onwards.

The prisoner had nothing to say except that he acted under the influence of drink and trouble.

The recorder said it was clear that until he abstained from drink he would be constantly preying upon the public. Sentence of three years' imprisonment was passed.



W. T. Dwyne b1876



Harriet Garner b1875 W. T. Dwyne b1876  
Talbot Studio - 61 Talbot Road Blackpool  
Aug 28 1937

From the Staffordshire Advertiser, SATURDAY, AUGUST 16, 1915. MARCUS OF ANGLESEY.

A General Meeting of the Inhabitants of the Borough of Tamworth, on the 24th of August, 1915.

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NOTES ON NOTABLES AND FASHION'S FANCIES. "A mania for patchwork." - Suit.

It is much to be written about economy in dress, and many fashions are being introduced.

The girls on the famous Hampton Court visit, and the most interesting feature of the day.

Queen Victoria, whose wedding shoes are the most beautiful of historical relics.

At the suggestion of the Derbyshire County Council, a joint conference has been held at the bridge.

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THE STAFFORDSHIRE ADVERTISER, SATURDAY, AUGUST 28, 1915. WIDENING OF THE DOVE BRIDGE, UTOXETER. A MUCH NEEDED IMPROVEMENT.

The medieval bridge which spans the river Dove at Utoxeter and Derby road has been found to be in a state of disrepair.

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SANITATION AND PUBLIC HEALTH IN WAR TIME. SANITARY INSPECTORS' CONFERENCE AT LICHFIELD.

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Jane's Wisdom. She had nothing nice for dinner when he called to name the day.

Bird's Crystal Jelly Powder. Gives you "Jelly in a Jiffy". Note well the delightful perfume when you pour on the hot water.

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VIEW OF THE WIDENED BRIDGE. Mace, Esq., Utoxeter.

The foundations of the alterations on each side of the bridge have been completed.

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THE CRY POLY ECONOMY.

Just now we are confronted with a highly laudable scheme for the relief of the unemployed.

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W. J. ROBINS, Undertaker, 29a, EARL STREET, STAFFORD.

ERBEN'S PIANOS. CONSTITUTION HILL, BIRMINGHAM.

