

# Hit By Policeman, Aboriginal Alleges

SMH 31st Jan 1964

An aboriginal alleged in Newtown Court yesterday that a detective charged him with an offence he did not commit after assaulting him at Newtown Police Station.

The aboriginal is Kenneth Brindle, 30, labourer, of Caroline Street, Redfern.

He has pleaded not guilty to a charge of using insulting words to Detective Constable R. Armour, at Newtown police station on June 4.

At an earlier hearing Detective Armour denied that he had assaulted Brindle.

Questioned by his barrister, Mr R. J. B. St. John, Brindle said yesterday that he first saw Detective Armour in the detectives' room at the police station about 4 p.m. on June 4.

He asked Detective Armour about an incident the previous night, when railway detectives shot one aboriginal and arrested two others after they were caught breaking into a kiosk at St. Peters railway station.

## "Pretty Drastic Action"

He told Detective Armour he was representing the Aboriginal Australian Fellowship and a relative of the dead man.

Brindle said they went outside and Detective Armour told him the circumstances of the shooting.

"I said to him: 'That was pretty drastic action, wasn't it?'" Brindle said.

"He said: 'Look, don't think you can come here and paint aborigines lily-white. I know all the abos around here — they are a pack of no-hopers.'"

"I said: 'I did not come to hear your apparently biased opinions of aborigines.'"

"He said: 'Oh, a cheeky black —' and punched me on the jaw, stunning me."

Brindle said Detective Armour then "dragged" him to the station charge room where he was charged with using insulting words.

## Insulting Words Denied

He denied using any insulting words or saying anything to indicate that he had committed the offence.

He said that later he complained to the officer in charge of the station, Inspector M. Ford, about the assault.

Inspector Ford had said: "Look, I don't know you from a bar of soap but I know this officer concerned and his character is unimpeachable."

"If you want to make a complaint, make it in Court in the morning."

Inspector Ford denied in evidence that Brindle had made any complaint to him.

He said Brindle had claimed he was from the "Aboriginal Welfare" and had said: "I have a clean record and I am sorry for what I have done."

The superintendent of the Congregational Metropolitan Mission, The Rev. J. H. Downing, giving evidence for the defence, said that after Brindle was released on June 4 there was a laceration about 1/2 in in diameter on the inside of his left jaw.

Mr Downing said Brindle, whom he had known for some time, was a man of good character.

Mr J. Scott, S.M. adjourned the hearing until March 19 and remanded Brindle on £5 bail.

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