

Worthing Gazette 12<sup>th</sup> August 1914 page 5**THE NEW ALIEN ORDER.****Arrest at Worthing.****Ex-German Officer Who Disguised Himself.****Dyeing His Hair.**

As will be seen from the special illustration which we have had made for us by our engravers, and which appears on page six of this issue, all Germans have been compelled to register themselves, under a penalty of £100. The Police discovered on Monday that one local resident had failed to comply with the Act, and they proceeded against him at a special sitting of the Bench at the Town Hall in the afternoon, when he was dealt with. Councillor W. Sams was in the Chair, and the other Magistrate was Alderman G. Ewen Smith.

The defendant was *Otto Van der Roche*, aged forty, of Bungalow Horst, Ham-road, and he was charged with being an alien enemy, and with failing to report himself under the Alien Registration Act.

A plea of "Not guilty" was tendered.

**The Inspector's Visit.**

Evidence of the posting of the Order having been given by Superintendent Pennicott,

Inspector Bristow told the Court that he visited the accused's place of residence in Ham-road that morning. When he got there he found it was locked up, but there was evidence that there was someone in occupation. Witness went along the back passage, and then saw defendant sitting in the corner of the garden, behind some trees. He called to him and asked him to come to the front of the house, but it transpired that defendant's wife had the key of the house, and he had to wait until she returned. When he questioned the defendant as to his nationality he first of all said that he was an American, but later admitted that he was a German, and further added that he had served in the German Army, was an Officer in a Regiment of Sharpshooters, and that he was

**Still Liable for Service.**

Four of his brothers, he added, were now fighting in the German Army. He also admitted that he had dyed his hair from black to brown, thinking it better to disguise himself, and that he thus acted on the advice of his wife. When he was searched at the Police Station a ring with a stone bearing the German eagle and crest was found upon him.

Defendant said that he had never seen the Order. His wife was an Englishwoman, and she said it would be better if he changed his appearance. He finished his twenty-five years' service in the German Army two years ago. Germany had treated him very badly. She had snarled at England, for whom he was willing to fight. He had been resident in Worthing for about a year.

**Willing to Register.**

Defendant was ordered to comply with the conditions of the Order at once, and was bound over in the sum of £50 to do so, and to pay 8s. 6d. costs.

Defendant said he was willing to register at once.