

PERMITTING PREMISES TO BE USED AS A DISORDERLY HOUSE.

C.T. October 13, 1917

Agnes Tomalin, 83b, Purewell, was charged with permitting premises to be used as a disorderly house, and Ada French was charged with aiding and abetting her.—Defendants pleaded not guilty.

P.C. Nunn stated that at 8 p.m. on Wednesday, Sept. 26th, he kept observation, in company with P.C. Gould, on the premises of 83b, Purewell, occupied by the two defendants. At 9.15 p.m. Mrs. French came home accompanied by a soldier, who left at 10.30. On Thursday, the 27th, at 8 p.m., he again kept observation, and at 9.45 both defendants came home with two soldiers. They all appeared under the influence of drink. The soldiers did not leave the house till 5.30 the following morning. On Friday, the 28th, at 10 p.m., the two defendants came home with one soldier, and at 11 o'clock another soldier came and was admitted. The soldiers left at 5 the next morning. On Saturday at 10.15 p.m. Tomalin came home with a soldier, and five minutes later French came with another soldier. They had not left by 5.30 on Sunday morning. On Sunday at 9.39 p.m. Tomalin came home with a soldier. French returned later with another soldier, and they had not left the house by 5 the next morning. On Monday, at 6 p.m. witness saw the two defendants and told them that he had been keeping observation on their house for some time, and from what he had seen he should report them. With the exception of one occasion the men were different each night. Witness was in a position to see all who came, and to hear what they said.

P.C. Gould corroborated the last witness's evidence, stating that he was present on all occasions.

Supt. Knox said that defendant Tomalin was the wife of a soldier in the A.S.C., but her separation allowance had been stopped owing to her conduct.

They were both committed to prison for three months with hard labour.

THE OTHERS CONCERNED.

Lily Annie Young, of 83c, Purewell, and Lucy Fulford were charged with similar offences.

P.C. Nunn stated that on 26th September he kept observation on 83c, Purewell, occupied by the two defendants. At 9.30 p.m. both defendants came home with two soldiers, and they entered the house and locked the door. Singing then commenced, which lasted till 10 o'clock. At 10.15 Mrs. French came from 83b, Purewell, knocked at the door and then ran away. Mrs. Young came to the door and said "Who's there?" Getting no answer, she went back and got one of the soldiers to accompany her to the door. She then said "I expect it's them next door having a game. It did give me a turn; I thought it was a policeman." Mrs. French came back laughing and went indoors and the door was locked. At 11 o'clock one of the soldiers came out and walked round the house, searched the place where witness was concealed, but failed to find him. After waiting about ten minutes he re-entered the house, and singing went on till midnight. All was then quiet till one o'clock, when the soldiers left together. One of the children was continually crying from 10 till 11 p.m., and another, who appeared to be a boy, was crying "I want my supper, mother," till 12 o'clock. On Thursday at 10 p.m. witness saw Mrs. Young come home with a soldier, and they both entered the house. Mrs. Fulford then came home with an N.Z. soldier, but he left her without entering. She then went to No. 83b, and finding the door locked she called out "Hope you will have a good time. See you in the morning," and then went indoors. The soldier who came home with Mrs. Young did not leave till one in the morning. On Friday night Mrs. Young came home with an N.Z. soldier at 9.45, and Mrs. Fulford came at 12.30 with a Corporal. On Sunday (the 30th) when witness arrived there was no light, but he heard men's voices inside. At 9.10 p.m. a strange woman came out with a soldier and left. Ten minutes later Mrs. Fulford came out with another soldier. They stood in the yard and commenced to quarrel, both using very bad language. On Sunday he saw Mrs. Young and told her he had kept observation on her house and should report her. She said "I shall alter after this.

Only two nights did I have soldiers in the house; then I brought my bed down and we slept in the kitchen." Later, he saw Mrs. Fulford and told her he should report her for aiding and abetting Mrs. Young in keeping a disorderly house.

P.C. Gould gave corroborative evidence, having been present on all the occasions.

The defendant Fulford, giving evidence on oath, said she lived at 83c, Purewell. On Wednesday, 26th Sept., she was not in Mrs. Young's company whatever. Mrs. Young came home with two soldiers herself. Defendant came home with Mrs. Tomalin, and going round the house she heard singing in her house. She went into Mrs. Tomalin's house first, and said "Bat" (Mrs. Tomalin's name), "Nell has got soldiers in the house," meaning her house, "and I am going to storm the place down or turn them out." Mrs. Tomalin advised her to go in and say nothing. Mrs. French and she went and knocked at Mrs. Young's door and ran away, "to make out it was a policeman," and defendant went indoors after that and went straight to bed. She was in bed by 10.30 with her children. On the Thursday night she went home alone. Mrs. Young was indoors with a soldier then; but she (defendant) went to bed about 10.15 and never left the house again that night. On Friday evening defendant said she met an N.Z. boy, and left him on the bridge at Purewell. She took a basin-full of faggot and peas home for the children's supper, getting home at 9.40. As she was going round the side of the house there was an N.Z. boy standing in the gateway alone, and the expression she used was "Good God! how you frightened me." Mrs. Young was indoors alone then. Defendant went in to Mrs. Tomalin's, and left there at 10.15, and when she came out the soldier was gone and Mrs. Young with him. On Saturday night defendant said she again came home alone. On Sunday evening she did not go out at all, and about 8.15 her sister-in-law came over from Bournemouth to see her. When she came in she said "I'm not stopping, Luce." Defendant asked why, and whether her "boy" was outside, and told her to ask him in. He came in, and her biggest boy (aged 10), her sister-in-law and the soldier friend sat by the fire talking; they left about 9.15. She went to the front with them, and then returned. Her biggest boy was with her, sitting over the fire, when there was a whistle at the back door. He looked through the window, and said "Ada's Ted, mam," meaning Mrs. French. Defendant went out, and he asked for Mrs. French, and she replied that she did not know, but she would see, and called her boy, who was partly undressed, just going to be bathed and then to bed, and told him to go and see if Mrs. French was in. Mrs. French came round and they all four stood at the fence talking, and Mrs. Tomalin came along. "Ted" came into the scullery to wait for Mrs. French, and when she came in Ted left. Defendant then went in and sat down again with her lad until they went to bed. All the men who came were visiting Mrs. Young. She was Mrs. Young's lodger; she never stayed in Mrs. Young's company, and had nothing to do with her visitors.

Lily Annie Young stated that Mrs. Fulford was her tenant. Mrs. Fulford had not brought any men home, but witness had done so on two nights. There had been no improper conduct between them and Mrs. Fulford. The account Mrs. Fulford had given was a true one.

In reply to Supt. Knox, witness said that on the Wednesday (26th Sept.) she was not in Mrs. Fulford's company in the town, and was not drinking in her company. She had not been in Mrs. Fulford's company for some time, but she may have been in company with a soldier. She denied that Mrs. Fulford came home with a soldier, but witness had two soldiers with her. She did not remember Mrs. Fulford coming home on Thursday night. Witness added that she had three children and Mrs. Fulford had three also, but it was witness's children who were crying for their supper.

They were each committed to prison for three months with hard labour.

The Police Complimented.

The Chairman complimented the police upon the manner in which the cases had been presented. He particularly referred to the constable who had given his evidence clearly and well. He had complimented him before, and was very glad to do so again.

THE HOUSEHOLDER PROSECUTED.

George Maurice Young, 83b, Purewell, was charged with permitting the premises to be used as a disorderly house.

P.S. Davies stated that in March he visited 83b, Purewell, the residence of defendant, and saw him, He occupied one room and let the other part of the house. Witness informed him that the occupants of the rooms were being proceeded against for keeping a brothel, and no doubt it was within his knowledge that these women were continually having soldiers visiting the house. Defendant denied all knowledge of it. Witness warned him that in future he should see that his tenants were conducting themselves properly, and if any complaint was again received he would be proceeded against. Defendant then said that nothing of the kind would happen again. At the time witness examined the door, which led between his room and the house, it was unlocked, and he drew his attention to it and advised him to have the door secured. After the two women were convicted and sentenced last March, the rooms were unoccupied for several weeks, and on 25th June this year they were let to Mrs. Tomalin, and Ada French came to live with her. Both of these women had been convicted that morning, on the charge of keeping a disorderly house. On July 10th witness again saw Young at a Solicitor's office in Christchurch and said to him, in the Solicitor's presence, that the two women who occupied his rooms at Purewell were continually in company with soldiers, and soldiers had been seen visiting the house at different hours. He had been warned on a previous occasion, and if he allowed his premises to be used in this way it would be a serious matter for him. The Solicitor also told him it would be best for him to give them notice to quit, and defendant said he would do so, but he took no action. At 6. 30 on October 1st, witness again saw defendant at his house, when he told defendant that the two women who rented his rooms were being proceeded against, and he had been warned on two previous occasions with regard to the matter, and that he would be reported. The room in which he was living was in a filthy condition.

Defendant said that he had been through the rooms most evenings of the week, and had seen nothing objectionable.

The Chairman said that he had let his rooms to two people who had used their premises for immoral purposes, and could not but be aware of what was going on.

He would be sent to prison for one month with hard labour.