

John Frederick Turner

John Frederick Turner (No. 11557) attested at Chiseldon for the Army Cyclist Corps on 4th March 1916.

He deserted 17th April 1916.

He was arrested by the Civil Power 10th June 1916 and tried and convicted at London County Sessions, Clerkenwell of 'Felony' and sentenced to three years Penal Servitude.

He arrived at Parkhurst Prison 25 October 1916 from Wormwood Scrubs.

On 17th November 1918, Turner died at HM Prison Parkhurst through Pneumonia, following Influenza.

West London Press – June 23 1916

CYCLES FOR GOVERNMENT

CONVICT'S PLAUSIBLE STORY TO CHELSEA CLERGYMAN.

A BAD CRIMINAL RECORD.

At the Westminster Police Court, on Tuesday last, before Mr. C.K. Francis, John Turner, 31, attired in khaki, and stated by the police to be a deserter from the Army Cycling Corps, also giving an address of 121 Galleywall-road, South Bermondsey, was charged on remand with stealing, on June 9th, at Chelsea-embankment, a Sunbeam motor cycle with sidecar attached, value £73 10s., the property of the Rev. Frederick John Nixon, of 7 St. Loo-mansions, Cheyne-gardens, Chelsea; also with stealing a motor cycle with carrier attached, value £20, the property of George Arthur Royston, an engineer, of 17 North Side, Clapham Common.

He was now further charged with stealing, on May 15th, from 12 Owen's-row, Central Finsbury, a gold tiepin, camera, pair of field glasses, suit of clothes, waistcoat, and £11 15s. cash, together value £20, the property of Edward William Clees, a law Clerk.

Regarding the first two cases, the machines had been advertised for sale. The prisoner called on prosecutors, and representing that he had instructions to buy the machines for the Government, he was invited to test them by a trial run for a short distance but never returned with them. The next day he was seen by P.C. Stevens, 93A, riding a motor cycle, and as it answered the description of one of the two before-mentioned machines reported to the police as missing, the constable followed him in a motor car and arrested him against the park exit at Hyde Park-corner. It was found to be the cycle belonging to the Rev. F.J. Nixon, and subsequently he made a statement to a detective as to where he had sold the other one.

It was now stated by Detective-sergeant Markham, B division, that the other machine had been recovered. Prisoner sold it for £7 10s. at New Cross to a man whom he told he was home from the Front with shattered nerves.

In the fresh case it was deposed by Mr. Clees that on May 12th prisoner called at the house where witness lodged, No. 12 Owen's-row, Finsbury, and stated that he wanted to have a room there as he was a wounded soldier home from the Front, and that on the following Monday he would be going to the Canadian office to draw his pay. Under the circumstances witness agreed to prisoner sharing his room. On Monday 15th., when witness arrived home from work in the evening, he missed the property mentioned in the charge.

Detective-sergeant Markham said none of this property had been recovered. The prisoner had a long criminal history. He was a convict on license. He had deserted from two regiments. He had been sentenced to two terms of penal servitude.

Detective-sergeant Ward, G division, said prisoner had told him where he would find the camera, field glasses, tiepin, and suit of clothes.

In committing prisoner to the Sessions, Mr. Francis remarked "It is sad to see a man in Khaki standing in the dock. You are only 31 years old, and have spent something like 15 years in prison."

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