

PARKES SOLDIER ACQUITTED ON RAPE CHARGE

A 20-year-old soldier of Parkes was acquitted in the Criminal Court Dubbo yesterday afternoon on a charge of having raped a 16-year-old Parkes girl on March 25.

The jury took only 10 minutes to decide that Raymond Alan Young was not guilty of raping Lesley Alison Frecklington. The jury also found Young not guilty of assaulting and committing an act of indecency against Frecklington.

Frecklington told the court that she resided with her mother at 73 Margaret Street, Parkes.

On the night in March she went to a dance where she saw Young, whom she knew by sight. She had a dance with him then they went outside.

She said that Young had put his arms around her and forced her into a laneway where he committed the offence. He had put his hand over her mouth to prevent her crying out, she said, adding that while she was trying to get away she hit her head on a piece of wood.

"Going back to the hall later he put his arms around me and wanted to know why I was shivering. I said that I was cold. He told me to go inside and said that he would be in later."

Mr. Amsberg: Do you say that everything that happened in the lane was against your will or consent? Yes.

If you kissed him and cuddled him that was some encouragement? Yes.

You kissed him? Yes.

When you were lying on the ground you had your arms around him and kissing him? Yes. When he forced me.

He could not compel you to kiss him? He could kiss me.

You already said you kissed him while you were lying on the ground? I don't remember whether I did or did not.

You kissed him several times walking up the lane? Yes.

Did you try and bite him? No.

Did you scream? No.

Did you try and scratch him? No.

You're kissed plenty of boys? A few.

You were wearing spectacles at the time? Yes.

They did not come off from

They did not come off from start to finish? No.

In a statement from the dock, Young said that what had happened had been with the girl's consent.

NOT HELPLESS

In his address to the jury Mr. Amsberg said that there was no suggestion that any threat or any blows had been struck.

"Women are not helpless. They have a voice to scream with — teeth to bite with — fingers to scratch with and feet to kick with," he said.

Mr. Crawford told the jury that the girl's knowledge of the world was not very great.

She trusted the young man. And went for a little walk, probably hoping that the friendship would continue.

Mr. T. S. Crawford (instructed by Mr. Burns of the Crown Law Department) prosecuted for the Crown, and Mr. Amsberg (instructed by Mr. Maguire, Parkes) appeared for Young.

At the conclusion of the case Mr. Crawford paid a tribute to the court reporting staff for their efficient work throughout the Dubbo session.

LONDON, Messages of sympathy from the King and the Prime Minister (Mr. Attlee) have been received by relatives of 80 miners who lost their lives in the Cresswell Pit disaster in Derbyshire.