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Duntroon cadet reluctant to accuse 'well-liked' leader of rape, mother says

Christopher Knaus



Royal Military College cadet Jonathan David Hibbert leaves the ACT Supreme Court on Monday. *Photo: Melissa Adams*

[Day one of the trial: He would have seen the 'terror in my eyes', complainant says](#)

A mother said her daughter was an emotional mess after an alleged rape in a Duntroon dormitory, and was reluctant to come forward to accuse a well-liked "morale leader" at the college.

The trial of former Royal Military College cadet Jonathan David Hibbert, 26, entered its second day on Tuesday.

Hibbert is accused of ignoring the woman's requests to stop during what was initially consensual sex following Anzac Day celebrations last year.

Instead, the Crown alleges he pinned the woman down, choked her, and continued the intercourse.

Hibbert was in the last six months of his Duntroon training and was the "battalion morale", a position for which he made humorous speeches and commentated sports games to ease tensions and bring levity to the college.

The woman's mother gave evidence on Tuesday afternoon, telling the court her daughter was extremely upset and emotional, and had to be hospitalised.

She said her daughter was confused about what to do, and was reluctant to report the sexual assault.

"She was concerned about drawing attention to it and one of the reasons was that he was the morale leader and was well-liked," she said.

Earlier on Tuesday, it emerged that the complainant and a friend, also a witness in the case, had spoken on the phone overnight, contrary to a judge's directions.

The complainant was yet to finish her cross-examination and her friend had not yet been called to give evidence.

Hibbert's barrister Philip Dunn, QC, accused the friend of using the mid-trial phone call to "put your heads together".

"Have you put your heads together with her to come up with a story?" he asked.

She denied that accusation, and said they hadn't spoken about evidence in "massive detail", and that she had been unaware that Justice Richard Refshauge had directed the complainant not to speak to anyone about the case or her evidence.

The friend also spoke of the weeks after the alleged rape was reported.

"I didn't leave her side. I was with her pretty much 24/7. I did not leave her side," she said.

Another young cadet also gave evidence of finding the complainant wandering on a main street in Duntroon following the alleged rape.

She said the complainant, who had been her "battle buddy" for initial training, asked whether anyone was behind her, before pushing her to a more secluded area.

The complainant then told her she had been raped.

"She said she'd been raped and then she just huddled into a ball on the side of the road," the witness said.

The trial continues in the ACT Supreme Court on Wednesday.

Source: <http://www.canberratimes.com.au/act-news/friend-spoke-with-alleged-duntroon-rape-victim-before-giving-evidence-20150623-ghvdsj.html>

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Duntroon cadet Jonathan David Hibbert found not guilty of Anzac Day rape

By Elizabeth Byrne

Updated 26 Jun 2015, 12:13am

A Duntroon cadet has been found not guilty of raping a fellow cadet last Anzac Day.

Jonathan David Hibbert, 26, was accused of [choking a woman and holding her down during the alleged sexual assault in his room.](#)

Mr Hibbert was on Thursday acquitted of two charges after an ACT Supreme Court jury deliberated for just over an hour.

Outside the court, his lawyer Philip Dunn QC, said it was a terrible situation for all involved.



PHOTO: Jonathan David Hibbert has been found not guilty of raping a fellow cadet on Anzac Day last year. (ABC news)