

The Daily Advertiser

Wagga soldier charged with raping recruit at Kapooka

[Daisy Huntly](#) May 26 2016 - 1:41PM



A soldier at the Kapooka army base has been charged with raping a female recruit on-base.

According to police, the 20-year-old woman was in the laundry of the federal government facility between 6.30pm and 7pm when she was approached by a man on Wednesday night.

He is accused of forcing her to the ground and sexually assaulting her before leaving the building.

The incident was reported to police and an investigation began, culminating in a dead-of-the-night arrest.

Police arrested a 26-year-old man around 2.30am.

He was taken to Wagga police station and charged with sexual intercourse without consent.

He was granted strict conditional bail at a court appearance on Thursday morning.

Source: <https://www.dailyadvertiser.com.au/story/3930720/wagga-soldier-charged-with-raping-recruit-on-base/?cs=147>

May 26 2016 - 4:50PM

Australian Army Kapooka recruit Alemeseged Dubael granted bail but confined to barracks after sex charge



TEARS ran down the face of a recruit accused of raping a colleague at the Kapooka army base as his solicitor successfully applied for bail in Wagga Local Court.

And at the back of the court, the man's wife and mother of his two children also wept as she struggled to come to grips with what her 26-year-old husband had been accused of.

Alemeseged Dubael, wearing a plain grey suit and white shirt, appeared in court via videolink with the Wagga police station after being charged with sexual intercourse without consent.

Police allege that between 6.30pm and 7pm on Wednesday, Dubael forced a 20-year-old woman to the floor of a laundry at Kapooka and sexually assaulted her before leaving.

The woman reported the alleged incident and police arrested Dubael about 2.30am Thursday.

He was refused police bail pending Thursday's court appearance just before 1pm.

In applying for Dubael's release, solicitor David Barron said any short-term concerns about Dubael failing to appear in court or interfering with the alleged victim could be addressed by him being confined to barracks at Kapooka.

He said a platoon commander was in the courtroom who could take Dubael to Kapooka where he could be supervised around the clock.

Mr Barron asked for an adjournment until next Tuesday, May 31, at which time Dubael's future in the Australian Defence Force would be clearer following an internal army investigation into the rape claim.

"We say strict bail conditions ... would mitigate any risks," Mr Barron said.

"It is a short adjournment because his future in the Australian Defence Force (ADF) needs to be evaluated, if he remains a recruit or not."

He said if the ADF discharged Dubael then other bail conditions would need to be considered after Tuesday.

Dubael has not entered a plea to the charge.

Bail was opposed by the police prosecutor, who said there were concerns about Dubael appearing in court and about him endangering the alleged victim.

He said Dubael was from Victoria, which creates concerns about bringing him back to NSW if he fled the state.

The prosecutor said the charge against Dubael carried a maximum sentence of 14 years in jail, and if convicted a custodial sentence was likely.

He said identification was not an issue for the prosecution, and forensic evidence was being obtained.

The prosecutor also voiced some concerns about the army's hold on Dubael while on bail.

"As I understand it, he would not be in the custody of the defence force but under their control to some extent," the prosecutor said.

Magistrate Michael Crompton summed up the submissions of both sides before coming down on the side of granting Dubael bail.

"This indeed is a very serious offence that is alleged to have occurred," Mr Crompton said.

"However, the applicant has no criminal history and in my view there are (bail) conditions that can be imposed that mitigate against the prosecution's concerns."

Mr Crompton ordered that Dubael reside at the army base, not have any contact with the alleged victim and report to the Wagga police station three times a week.

The court heard that military police could escort Dubael to the police station.

See earlier story [here](#).

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Source: <https://www.dailyadvertiser.com.au/story/3931033/kapooka-soldier-accused-of-rape-granted-bail/>

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October 21 2016 - 11:35AM

Former Australian Army recruit Alemseged Dubael faces three more charges from alleged Kapooka incident



ANOTHER three charges have been laid against a former Australian Army recruit accused of raping a female colleague at their Kapooka training centre.

The charges against Alemseged Dubael were mentioned in Wagga Local Court on Wednesday.

It is alleged Dubael attacked a woman in a laundry at the Army Recruit Training Centre on May 25.

Arrested within hours of the alleged incident, 26-year-old Dubael was initially charged with one count of sexual intercourse without consent.

But in court on September 21, Crown solicitor Virginia Morgan foreshadowed further charges would be laid against Dubael.

Those charges were revealed on Wednesday.

Dubael now faces a second count of sexual intercourse without consent and two counts of indecent assault.

Both charges of indecent assault allege Dubael forcibly kissed the female recruit on the lips while she struggled to break free from his grip.

The accused man has not entered pleas to any of the charges.

The Department of Defence has told *The Daily Advertiser* that Dubael parted ways with the army in August.

He is on bail and living in St Albans in Victoria.

Dubael was excused from attending the mention of his case this week.

At the mention, Mrs Morgan told magistrate Michael Crompton the case was not yet ready to commit to the District Court for trial or sentence.

She said results of testing on further items sent to the Forensic and Analytical Science Service for examination had not yet been sent back to the officer in charge of the investigation.

She said the officer had contacted the service and had not been able to get a date on when the results would be available, but the job had been given priority.

Mrs Morgan asked an adjournment for a month to allow time for the results to come back. The adjournment was not opposed by Dubael's solicitor, David Barron.

Mr Crompton adjourned the matter to November 16 and excused Dubael from attending then if the case is not ready for committal.

Source: <https://www.dailyadvertiser.com.au/story/4242643/ex-recruit-to-face-another-three-claims/>

September 14 2017 - 5:30PM

Alemeseged Dubael found not guilty of all charges relating to Kapooka incident

[Rochelle Brown](#)



Wagga Court House.

A former Australian Army recruit accused of raping a colleague says it was an “absolute relief” to have been acquitted of all charges.

Alemeseged Dubael maintained his innocence throughout his District Court trial, facing two counts of sexual intercourse without consent and two counts of indecent assault.

It was alleged Dubael, 26, attacked a female recruit in a Kapooka laundry on May 25 last year.

Dubael thanked his barrister as he addressed the media on Thursday.

“It's taken a lot out of us I'll be honest – my kids have been sitting outside the courtroom waiting for dad to come home,” Mr Dubael said.

“It is a relief, yes indeed.”

Dubael's partner sat in the public gallery with her head down, taking deep breaths as she waited for the jury to hand down its verdict.

She began to weep as the court heard the jury state “not guilty” to all charges.

After a loving embrace with his partner, Dubael left the courtroom smiling, hand-in-hand with one of his children.

On Wednesday, final submissions in the two week trial were heard from Crown solicitor Virginia Morgan and barrister Joanne Gallagher.

Judge Gordon Lerve also provided his final remarks on Wednesday before the jury were sent to deliberate.

Six men and six women deliberated for just over two hours before handing down their verdict.

Defence counsel Joanne Gallagher told the jury to ensure they were convinced beyond reasonable doubt before reaching a verdict, as the burden of proof rested on the Crown.



Ms Gallagher referred to witnesses who had given evidence during the case, including Dabael’s sister, his neighbour, his partner and boss.

“Is he the person they described?” she asked of the jury.

“He (Dubael) told you he has a loving, stable union with his partner.

“It shows the sort of person he is, someone with a couple of kids – just a normal bloke who isn’t aggressive or violent.”

Ms Gallagher told the jury the Crown was alleging a “massive brain snap”.

Crown solicitor Virginia Morgan reminded the jury of two witnesses who testified that they saw the alleged victim crying minutes after the alleged assault, with her hair looking “messy and untidy”.

“She was telling them things in bits and pieces and didn’t want to do anything about it,” Ms Morgan said.

“That is not the behaviour of someone who has made a fabrication. What motive did she have to make trouble?”

The trial included a trip to the Kapooka army base, where the jury was shown the area relating to the alleged incident.

Dubael left the army in August last year.

Source: <https://www.dailyadvertiser.com.au/story/4922885/jury-acquits-former-australian-army-recruit-of-sex-charges-video/>