

Soldier Acquitted Of Rape

GRAFTON, Tuesday.—After five minutes' retirement, a Supreme Court jury to-day acquitted Hector Caesar Baldi, 20, of Coff's Harbour, of a charge of having raped a 19-years-old machinist at Macaulay's Headland on December 18.

He was also acquitted on a charge of having committed criminal assault on the girl.

When Mr. J. J. B. Kinkead, defence counsel, attacked the girl's story during his address, the girl broke down and was led sobbing from the court.

Accused claimed that everything that happened had been with the girl's consent.

He admitted being A.W.L. from the Army. He faces an interview with the military authorities at Kempsey to-morrow, to explain his absence without leave since May, 1946.