

# YOUNG SOLDIER

ARMY YOUTHS CHARGED

# BASHED

**FIVE senior Army apprentices will face a military hearing following the alleged bashing of nine juniors at the Army Apprentices' School, Balcombe, Victoria.**

One junior apprentice is still in hospital following a beating he received on Monday night.

The injured boy, Stephen Gower, 18, of WA, is reported to have a broken nose and other facial injuries.

Public relations officer for the Army, Colonel John Bennett said: "Five youths have been charged and remanded for

the taking of the summary of evidence pending further action."

A senior Army apprentice telephoned Melbourne newspapers. He said junior apprentices had been indiscriminately beaten up — same as they lay asleep — when the seniors went on a spree around midnight.

"Since the start of the year the beatings have been going on, seniors to juniors," the informant said.

"A few weeks ago, a boy was treated for cigarette burns."

Col. Bennett said these and other allegations would be investigated.

About 300 students attend the Balcombe Apprentices' School, 15 miles south-west of Melbourne.

The Army has not said when the military hearing will take place.

Col. Bennett last

night, said he hoped to "be able to bring out all the facts and make them public" as soon as possible.