

## Bridgeport man found not guilty in stabbing

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Staff Writer

STAMFORD — A jury returned a not guilty verdict against a Bridgeport man accused of stabbing a Stamford man with a pocketknife after finding him in bed with his estranged girlfriend.

The six-member jury deliberated about an hour and a half before finding Elton Cammock, 39, not guilty of first-degree assault and first-degree burglary.

The defense said Cammock acted in self-defense during the May 26, 2002, attack and implied he had a key to the ex-girlfriend's Merrell Avenue apartment.

In his testimony, Cammock said the victim pulled a gun out of the pillow and Cammock stabbed him in the ensuing struggle. Cammock did not say whether the victim raised the gun.

Cammock "was probably a big part of the reason of why we prevailed. He was very credible," his attorney Lindy Urso said.

Several co-workers and a neighbor also testified on Cammock's behalf during the 3-day trial, saying he was a nonviolent

and gentle man.

The victim said Cammock broke into the home while he and the woman were on the bed. Then, after Cammock stabbed him in the arm, abdomen and finger, the victim said he chased the defendant out of the apartment, down several flights of stairs and saw him get into a station wagon.

A police sergeant testified no gun was found in the apartment.

The victim testified he received more than 50 stitches to close his wounds and displayed his scars for the jury at the request of the prosecutor, Assistant State's Attorney Paul Ferencek. He could not be reached for comment after the verdict.

Urso said yesterday the jury probably found it unlikely that a man with a knife would flee from a wounded unarmed man.

During cross-examination, the victim confirmed he had a felony drug case pending in state Superior Court. Urso unsuccessfully tried to get evidence admitted that the victim had 22 bags of crack-cocaine in his possession at the time of the stabbing.

— Staff Writer Eve Sullivan contributed to this story.