

GIRL, 17, ON FALSE STATEMENT CHARGE

Attack By Two Men, Alleged

Alleged to have made false statements to the police that she had been assaulted by two men in a park, Beryl Margaret Mitchell (17), typist, of Dimsdale-drive, Bush Hill Park, Enfield, was at Tottenham to-day sent for trial at the Old Bailey. She was allowed bail.

THE summons alleged that on January 11 at Edmonton by means of a false statement she "caused officers of the Metropolitan Police maintained at public expense for the public benefit to devote their time and services to the investigation of the statement, thereby temporarily depriving the public of the services of the officers and rendering liege subjects of the King liable to suspicion, accusation and arrest and effecting a public nuisance."

Mr. Ian Smith, prosecuting, said Mitchell was found by the police in a cafe entrance in a distressed condition, and she told the police she had been assaulted by two men in Jubilee Park, Edmonton.

NO SIGN OF STRUGGLE

Mr. Smith added that Mitchell also said she had been raped. When police later examined the spot where she said the struggle took place no signs of struggle could be found.

No bruises were found on the girl's body when examined at the North Middlesex Hospital, and after a friend had told the police he was in the girl's company when the attack was alleged to have taken place, Mitchell retracted her statement.

Stanley Frederick Howard Thurlow, of Orchard-road, Ponders End, a trolley-bus driver, said that at about 1.25 a.m. on January 11 he saw Mitchell leaning against the doorway of a cafe at Edmonton. As he went into the cafe, Miss Mitchell fell inside the doorway behind him on to the floor.

She did not appear to be conscious, and when he lifted her up he noticed the front of her blouse was torn. He dialled 999 and she regained consciousness before the police arrived.

"VERY DISTRESSED"

Police-constable Lewis said that at the cafe Mitchell was lying on a table. She appeared to be very distressed, and her blouse and skirt were slightly torn. When asked what had happened, she replied, "Three men attacked me in the park."

She was taken by ambulance to hospital, where she said: "I was walking through the park when two men spoke to me. I ignored them. They started using bad language and I still ignored them. One of them knocked me down and assaulted me."

Dr. Valerie Neilson Nairn, house surgeon at the hospital, said when she examined Mitchell there was no sign that she had been involved in an assault.

MEN HELD HER

Detective - constable Bradley said that at the hospital Mitchell told him that two men had held her until shortly before 1 a.m. when they released her.

Asked why she had not called out in the park, she said the men prevented her from doing so by pressing their hands over her mouth.

Detective - constable Bradley added that Mitchell's blouse was torn on both sides from the shoulder almost to the waist and her skirt was ripped on one side from the waist to the hem.

The description of two men was later circulated to police stations.

Ronald Geoffrey Chambers, labourer, of Marsden - road, Edmonton, said that he left a Tottenham dance hall with Mitchell and then went to Jubilee Park, where they stood in the park entrance for roughly half-an-hour.

Detective - Inspector Amy Eltridge, of Scotland Yard, said that Mitchell told her that two men caught hold of her, threw her to the ground, and later raped her.