

Jersey rapist: It was all a hoax say police

AN intensive hunt for a rapist on the island of Jersey was called off last night as police admitted they had been hoaxed.

For three weeks women have been in fear of the man described as ugly with small piggy eyes. Identikit pictures greeted visitors to the island.

Police warned women to keep off the streets at night, and extra officers were drafted in as the reported attacks added up.

By IAN MONK

The allegations included raping a girl at knifepoint, attempting to rape two others and sexually assaulting five other women over the 25-day spell.

Detective Inspector David Watkins, leading the team at the island's rape incident room, warned holidaymakers last week: 'This man is a

maniac and could strike again.'

But last night he said: 'There is no rapist or attacker at large on the island.'

'We have dismantled our incident room, disbanded the team of detectives and torn up the Identikit posters.'

'The whole hunt for the alleged rapist is now off.'

Two women have pleaded guilty in court this week to making false statements to police.

Mrs Angela Picot and Miss

Susan White, 21, were both remanded for reports.

On Monday Jersey Police Court heard that Mrs Picot, a 20-year-old mother of two, claimed that she had been attacked to make her husband take more notice of her.

The court heard on Tuesday that Miss White claimed a man attempted to rape her, but that she was drunk when she made her statement to police.

Police have also seen a number of other women in the course of their inquiries.

The man suspected of holiday island sex attacks tells of his ordeal

Victim of lying girls

By CHRISTOPHER WHITE

AN AMAZING chain of coincidence gave police a formidable case against 'Phantom Rapist' Stephen Fenney — until the women involved admitted their stories were false.

Stephen, 27, now completely cleared by police on the holiday island of Jersey, told yesterday of the suspicion that turned his life into a nightmare.

He was identified by one of the women as he drank in a night club, questioned by police for three hours, and then later held for 21 hours in a locked cell after two

He was picked out twice in line-up

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women separately picked him out of an identification lineup.

Another coincidence must have caused police to think they had their man.

On the night that the first rape was supposed to have happened, Stephen had walked his girlfriend home past the spot in St Saviours. And after saying goodnight he had walked back past the

— From last Thursday's Mail.
alleyway to his home a few doors away.

He said: 'I thought I was really in trouble. The police told me the evidence was very strong.'

'I began to realise I was likely to go to prison for up to ten years for something I hadn't done.'

'On the night of the first complaint, I had gone out to meet some friends, but they

didn't turn up, and I went to the Skyline disco at the Lido de France in St. Helier. Luckily, I took my girlfriend Susan with me.

'I read in the paper how a girl had said she had been attacked in the alley.'

'I stopped seeing Susan. Then, about two weeks later, I was in the disco with my friends when the police came in and asked me to go to the station.'

'They took all my clothes for tests. They let me go after I made a statement.'

'Then, on the Monday, they put me in an identity parade. A girl pointed me out and said: "That's him."

'The next day they put me in another identity parade, and another girl said I looked like the man.'

Alibi

'The police let me go, but told me not to leave the island. I now know it was only because the second girl was not 100 per cent sure, and because my girlfriend could not be shaken with her alibi.'

'I was well treated by the police and my friends have all been pretty good. But I shudder to think how things might have ended if the police had not got one of the girls to confess that her whole story was a lie.'

The last of five completely unconnected women whose description of their attacker fitted that of Stephen appeared before magistrates at Jersey on Friday, charged with causing a public nuisance and wasting police time.



Stephen Fenney . . . he was held in cell