

IN CONFIDENCE



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In reply quote
SIS/S/162/72

21 Jul 72
24 JUL 1972

ASSAULT ON MEMBERS OF ARMY APPRENTICE SCHOOL BY
[REDACTED] 3 BASE WKSP
[REDACTED] ARMY APPRENTICE SCHOOL

Reference: A. Telecon Lt Poppleton/Cpl Castles of 16 Jul 72.

1. On 16 Jul 72 about 2250 hrs a telephone message was received from 2174689 Lt G J Poppleton, Duty Officer, Army Apprentice School Balcombe, that on 15 Jul 72 and 16 Jul 72 the following apprentices had been assaulted in the Apprentice School lines:

CJC

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

The assaults were carried out by two AMF members. One of the members, [REDACTED] was being held in the Apprentice School Duty Room. It was requested that the other assailant, [REDACTED] 3 Base Wksp be detained and questioned in relation to the assaults.

2. Inquiries were commenced on 17 Jul 72, [REDACTED] was interviewed at S Comd Sect SIS and a statement under caution recorded. It transpires that on 15 Jul 72 [REDACTED] had been drinking heavily with [REDACTED]. The two had first met on 15 Jul 72 by way of their girlfriends being acquaintances. Both members then went to Balcombe with a view to harassing [REDACTED]. On arrival at Balcombe about 2230 hours [REDACTED] was sought out and struck by both [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. The two members then searched for CJC, however, could not locate him. During the search [REDACTED] was assaulted by [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] also [REDACTED] was assaulted by [REDACTED]. There would appear to be no apparent reason for [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] being assaulted. Statement under caution by [REDACTED] is attached as annex A. Investigators statement of evidence is attached as annex B.

3. Inquiries were continued at the Army Apprentice School Balcombe, where Lt Poppleton was interviewed and a statement recorded. Lt Poppleton stated that after making initial inquiries into the assaults he had confined [REDACTED] to the duty room for his [REDACTED] own protection. About 2350 hrs, 16 Jul 72 a noise was heard in the cell occupied by [REDACTED] and on investigation Lt Poppleton observed that [REDACTED] had a small cut on his left wrist and was trying to hide a razor blade under his left buttock. Lt Poppleton also observed an army issue safety razor at [REDACTED]s feet. All items which were considered to be dangerous in a suicide attempt were removed from [REDACTED] and a constant vigil kept on hinduring the remainder of the night. Statement by Lt Poppleton is attached as annex C.

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PM
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2.

4. Apprentices CJC, REDACTED, REDACTED and REDACTED were interviewed and statements recorded. Annexes D, E, F and G refer. CJC stated that he was assaulted by REDACTED and REDACTED on the 16 Jul 72. Although at the time he did not know REDACTED's name nor could he give any explanation for the attack. REDACTED was assaulted by REDACTED and during the attack REDACTED stood by and watched. REDACTED also could give no explanation as to why he was set upon. REDACTED and REDACTED were assaulted by REDACTED and REDACTED and as in the previous cases there appeared to be no apparent reason for the onslaught. REDACTED, CJC and REDACTED reported to F15313 Capt G J Clayton, RAANC for treatment to cuts and abrasions received during the attacks. Statement by Capt Clayton is attached as annex H.

5. On 18 Jul 72 REDACTED was interviewed at 8 Comd Sect SIS and a statement under caution recorded. Annex I refers. REDACTED readily admitted to assaulting REDACTED and REDACTED however, he could not remember striking REDACTED. REDACTED stated that he had attacked REDACTED because about two weeks previous REDACTED and CJC had turned over his room (REDACTED) and REDACTED had blamed CJC which resulted in a fight between CJC and REDACTED, however, since that time REDACTED had learnt that REDACTED was in fact responsible and he wanted to get even with him. Further REDACTED blamed REDACTED for his being discharged from the army.

6. In relation to REDACTED cutting his wrist with a razor blade he stated that he was in a state of depression and was not aware of what he was doing and whilst he was running the razor up and down his wrist, cut himself slightly. He then dropped the razor and as Lt Poppleton was approaching tried to hide the blade of the safety razor. Investigators statement of evidence is attached as annex J.


(Z.J. STENGLIS)
Sgt

Annexes:

- A. Statement by REDACTED
- B. Statement by Sgt Z J Stengel
- C. Statement by Lt G J Poppleton
- D. Statement by CJC
- E. Statement by REDACTED
- F. Statement by REDACTED
- G. Statement by REDACTED
- H. Statement by Capt G J Clayton
- I. Statement by REDACTED
- J. Statement by Sgt Z J Stengel

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