

BOX HILL BOYS HOME

28-4-64. I visited the Salvation Army Boy's Home at Box Hill.

Purpose: The purpose of the visit was to discuss the problems relating to the placement of the [REDACTED] boys. Major Broadstock had recently intimated that [REDACTED]'s behaviour in particular was becoming increasingly difficult to tolerate, and he felt that an alternative placement would be necessary.

A secondary purpose was to mention the [REDACTED] allegations against one of the Salvation Army staff. This complaint related to one of the officers embarrassing [REDACTED] by questioning her closely about her incestuous relationship with her father. This is alleged to have occurred when [REDACTED] visited her brothers recently.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] was discussed at length with Major Broadstock and [REDACTED] was interviewed alone. The result was that [REDACTED] will try to settle in better and Major Broadstock will give him another chance. (For more detail see file 82452)

[REDACTED]

Major Broadstock expressed concern at the allegations and he promised to speak to Captain Exen about them. There does not seem to be any need for further action regarding this matter unless Major Broadstock raises it in future.

The Institution

As this was my first visit to the Home, Major Broadstock undertook to escort me over the property. He also discussed some of the problems that he is experiencing. The property is located on a very valuable site comprising 22 acres. Major feels that the area is too large for its purpose as much expense is involved in keeping the property in order. There are two sports ovals and another area has been set aside for tennis and basketball courts. These facilities will be utilized by Salvation Army and Church groups from time to time as well as by the Home boys. Future plans for the property are not clear at present.

The institution is divided into 3 sections. Each section takes about 1/3 of the boys. Section 1 is a newish brick section (Captain Exen's section) but section 2 (Captain Sanders section, which also comprises the administration offices, "etc") and 3 are older buildings. Section 3 is located at the far corner of the property and it is an old weatherboard section. Two female staff are in charge of this section and Major Broadstock spoke highly of their work and of the family spirit that exists there. He feels keenly the need to provide improved facilities for this section.

Improvements Many improvements are being made at present despite the inevitable shortage of money. Additional drains are being laid to cope with the water which runs off No.2 oval; additional concrete paths are being laid; a large old shed-like building is being extensively renovated to provide a craft-room for the boys. The school teachers have long felt the need for this facility, Captain Exen's new house is nearing completion.