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DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN'S SERVICES

Subject: Endeavour Training Farm,  
Riverview.

RECORD NUMBER

MINUTE

NW

From the 25th to the 29th April last, Major Bennett, the Superintendent of Endeavour Training Farm, was away on leave. During his absence several events occurred which have given me some cause for concern over the staff arrangements at Endeavour Training Farm.

Prior to his departure, Major Bennett had informed me that he expected some of the boys would become unsettled whilst he was away and suggested that I spend as much time as was practical at the home.

As was predicted, the boys did in fact become very unsettled during Major Bennett's absence. There was a considerable amount of fighting amongst the boys and several boys complained that a number of aboriginal boys had been attempting to force them to perform indecent sexual acts. During a discussion with Major Walters, the Acting Superintendent, regarding the behaviour of the boys, he informed me that he could not control the boys and that the Salvation Army Authorities were aware of this when they sent him to Endeavour Training Farm.

In other incidents boys refused to carry out their duties and on one occasion I was called to the dining room because of a disturbance there. Because of these incidents, I had several boys assembled and told them that unless their behaviour improved, they would be transferred to Westbrook. During the night of the 26th April, six boys absconded. After their departure, the boys seemed to settle down.

I have mentioned these incidents to illustrate the lack of control that was evident during Major Bennett's absence and feel that a similar situation will arise should he go away again. However, I understand that he does not intend to take his annual recreation leave which is now overdue.

*See Schmidt for your comments please*

*5/27 1972*

*I Schmidt*

I. Schmidt.

Child Care Officer.

11th May, 1972.

*Principal Child Care Officer*  
*This is an area which may need to be taken up with Salvation Army Headquarters because I am informed of concern as to the calibre & number of staff available to Major Bennett. My intention to take the matter up with P. G. Headquarter Major Bennett because of the situation in Brisbane.*