



REDACTED

LIEUT. COLONEL S. EVERITT  
DIVISIONAL COMMANDER  
SALVATION ARMY SOUTH QLD. DIVISION  
G.P.O. BOX 2201  
BRISBANE 4001.

Dear Colonel Everitt,

As agreed in our conversation on the 27th. February, I have recorded for your information the incidents of sexual abuse as I recall them, involving Envoy John Lane.

These events occurred when Envoy Lane was Commanding Officer of Fortitude Valley Corps. My first recollection of sexual abuse was when I was about 8 years old and attending Young Peoples Company Meetings at Fortitude Valley Corps. Envoy Lane had always been in the habit of hugging and cuddling the children, and I did not interpret this kind of physical contact as being in any way unusual. However I recall a particular Y.P. class in which the Envoy was sitting beside me at the table with his arm around me. He lifted my skirt and began touching my legs. I tried to pull away from him but was not able to. He put his hand inside my underpants and began feeling me. I was shocked and frightened but could not do anything to stop him. I remember this happening several times. Similar events occurred when the Envoy drove me home after Corps activities, as I was usually the last person to be dropped off.

I confronted the Envoy after this had happened several times and let him know that I did not like what he was doing and that I wanted it to stop. He told me that no-one would believe that he had done such a thing, and that it would "kill my parents" if they found out what had happened. He regularly told me that no-one would believe me if I tried to tell anyone.

When I was about 10 or 11 years old I recall an incident in which Envoy Lane forced me to have sexual intercourse with

him. This memory is very vivid and intense, but many of the details are blurred. I remember being at the Fortitude Valley hall with no-one else around, and the Envoy partly undressing himself and me. My most vivid memory of this event is of incredible pain and terror. After he had intercourse with me Envoy Lane again told me that if I tried to tell any-one about this, that he would deny it and that no-one would believe me. I remember only this one occasion on which actual intercourse occurred.

After this I tried to stay away from Envoy Lane. I began Corps Cadet lessons, which were held at the Envoys' home. After he touched me a few times there I refused to continue going to Corps Cadets and made sure that I was never alone with or close to him, and the abuse stopped.

When I met Envoy Lane again after he started attending Mitchelton Corps I had no memory of these events, but felt very tense and uncomfortable in his presence. The memories began returning in October of last year during a hospital admission. I wanted to believe that this was just a bad dream, but as more memories returned and became clearer I had to face the fact that they were real. I spoke to the hospital Social Worker about this, who referred me to the Rape Crisis Centre. I went there for counselling for a short time, but was not comfortable with the "New Age" nature of the counselling they offered.

I became aware at that time that another girl in the Corps had also been abused by Envoy Lane, I spoke to Captain and Mrs. **REDACTE**. After the matter had been discussed between yourself and Envoy Lane he spoke to me about it. He admitted touching me and said he was sorry for this. He denied having intercourse with me, and said that I had a fit and that he picked me up. However I have no medical history of ever having convulsions of any kind, and he did not seek medical help for me or notify my parents of this supposed fit at the time.

My motivation for reporting these events to you is not a desire to hurt or punish Envoy Lane. God, in His grace, has enabled me to overcome the anger, bitterness and unforgiveness that I held towards the Envoy. However I am concerned that the truth be known for the sake of others who may be affected, and for the sake of the trust that the community places in our uniform.

Thank-you for your willingness to listen and understand,  
Yours Faithfully,

JG

JG