



My response to REDACTED's claim

REDACTED



Neither Captain Hunt nor myself ever punished any boy with stick ~~\_\_\_\_\_~~. I used time out for some transgressions and used a space which was under the cover way of the main building, and probably the coolest place, where there were 3 or 4 steps leading to a cellar, where they could sit quietly, till they settled down again. I ~~\_\_\_\_\_~~ were not ~~\_\_\_\_\_~~. There was a low railing only made of wrought irons for safety reasons only.

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REDACTED

Re; Mr. John Kerslake.

John was referred to me by a Salvation Army officer, when he expressed he would like to do some voluntary work. I interviewed him and arranged that he could come sometimes over weekends and spent time with us in our weekend activities.

I was wary at that time because of the risks of possible ulterior motives but also found that he was a caring person. All that time I did observe him directly and at a distance. This went on for weeks, possibly months. I could find no reason not to trust him.

During a school holiday we went camping in an old house which was the property of a father of one of our children located on the York peninsula. I invited John Kerslake to come along for the duration of that camp, which even then gave me an opportunity to observe his interaction with all at the camp, and at no time did I see or hear any thing which [REDACTED] was not a suitable person to be with children.

I am not certain at which time I approached him if he would become part of our caring team, he accepted the position of childcare worker and was employed by The Salvation Army Boys Home. He agreed to do a training course at the S.A.I.T. in childcare as part of his training, which I believe he completed.

At no time whilst I was in charge of E.P. did any child complain to me about him, or made allegations against John Kerslake. He gave good leadership and was involved with all the activities of care and casework on reviews with staff and professional and social workers.

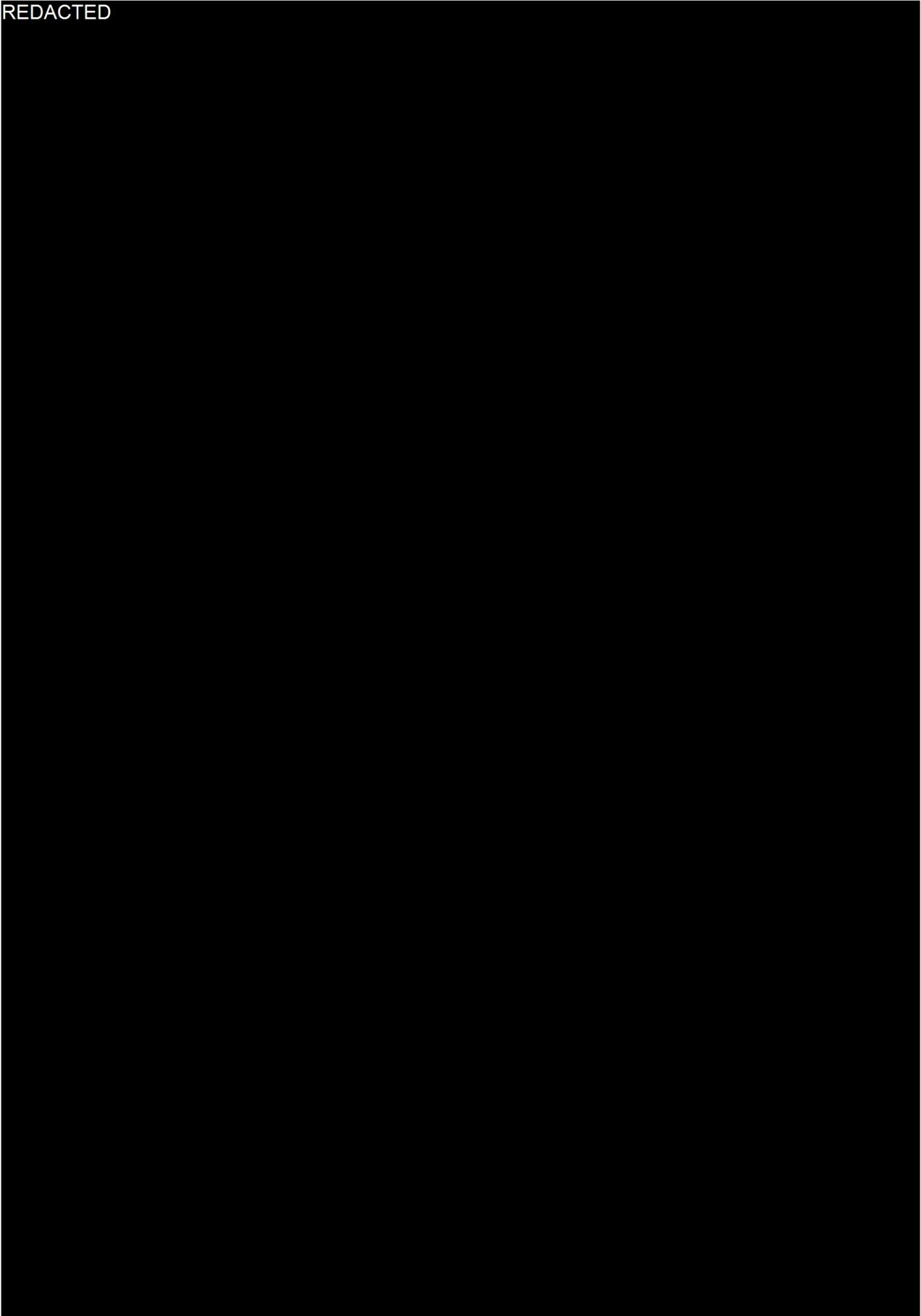
During a visit I made to E.P. in September 1980, the then manager Major Meaby spoke to me and asked me if I had any knowledge of John Kerslake having interfered with (naming another boy) who had made allegations to Major Meaby, who could not tell when this occurred. I said to him "I have no knowledge of any such thing having occurred", but also told Major Meaby that this needed to be sorted out because of the serious nature of the allegation.

Reflecting on this later I tried very hard to think of any time when this might have occurred, and could not think of any situation or incident or complaint or even a suggestion of untoward behaviour.

I am in not trying to protect Mr. Kerslake, I just tell it as I remember it now after 30 years plus.

*MK*

REDACTED



*MKP*

REDACTED



Also in these times there is access to Police check up for potential staff employment, which was not known to me to exist, and we were only able to go on employing people in good faith and subsequent observing their attitude to children and other carers and auxiliary staff members.

Most children were already at risk long before they went through the welfare and mental health system( Child guidance clinic) and when they were placed in our care most of them were already traumatised.

Yours sincerely,



Matthew Kop

cc. Mr. Geoffrey Webb