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Melbourne

Philip Brewin

REDACTED

23 July 2001

**PRIVATE & CONFIDENTIAL**

Mr K Ellis

REDACTED

FLINDERS PARK S.A. 5025

**BY REGISTERED POST**

Dear Sir

**The Salvation Army - Eden Park Boys Home**

We act for the Personnel Department of The Salvation Army Southern Territorial Headquarters in Melbourne which has asked us to investigate abuses that allegedly took place at the Eden Park Boys Home in the 1960's.

In particular one former resident has made a complaint to the Army against you and others. In summary, the former resident alleges that:

- At aged 8, and about one month after he arrived at Eden Park he was raped by another boy.
- That he told you of the attack, but that he was forced to endure non-consensual sexual intercourse on at least several hundred occasions.
- That a total of nine boys and one adult sexually abused or attacked him.
- The adult who sexually attacked and abused him was you.
- That after an attack by one of the boys he went to you and you said:

“I will look after you, if anything else happens, come back and tell me.”

- Several days after a brutal attack, the former resident was bleeding badly, and could not go to the toilet and was in a lot of pain. He spoke to you, told you what happened and gave names. He alleges you came up behind him and forced him to show you what happened. He took down his pants and you started touching him. You touched him on the penis and said words to the effect:

“Does this hurt?”

- It is alleged that as you said this you stroked or pulled his penis.

- The former resident claims that you would masturbate him and as time progressed you forced him to touch you. He says he was between 10 and 11 years old at the time.
- The boy claims that when he was between the age of 10 and 11 you had sexual intercourse with him. After sexual intercourse you would say words to the effect of:

“It’s your fault you’re leading me on.”

- He alleges that after intercourse you would flog him with a strap and scream at him at the same time. This went on for two to three years.
- When he was about 11 or 12 years old he was taken with three other boys to Adelaide with you to sell badges. While in Adelaide, you would take two of the boys to stay at your mother’s house.
- Whilst at your mother’s house, he alleges you would come and get them one at a time. You abused both former residents during the same night. The abuse which occurred at your mother’s house was the worst of all. You forced him to do many things to you. It was necessary for him to masturbate you, have oral sex, push fingers and other things in and out of your anus. He has alleged you had intercourse with him at least twice during the night. There were times when he would almost choke because he felt so sick.
- He alleges that he went to your mother’s house on three occasions. Immediately after you had finished sexually abusing him, you would become very nasty, and blame him. You would say words to the effect of:

“It’s the devil.”

- Following the last abuse at your mother’s home, he was advised by a friend to run away and play up as much as possible. He did run away from Eden Park on many occasions and was often brought back by the police. On such occasions, he alleges that Brigadier Lawler would flog him with a ragoon cane. Brigadier Lawler would continue to belt him continually all over his body and that after such beating, he was put in the “lock up” for two or three days.
- It is alleged that the lock up was eight foot by eight foot and was an outbuilding and storeroom attached to the library. The former resident says that he was in that room with only a mattress on the floor. He alleges he was not given food for three days, had no blankets and there was no light.
- He alleges that you picked him for a special reading and to study certain verses of the Bible privately. Within one week of the Bible classes with him it is alleged you started to sexually assault him. On these occasions, you would read to him a Bible passage. Once that was finished you would pack away the Bible, and it is alleged that you would then brutally engage in sexual intercourse with him. It is alleged the assault was so brutal that he bled.

- He alleges that the last time sexual assault took place by you was when he was between the age of 12 and 13 years of age. It is alleged that on the last occasion you beat him. It took place for about five minutes. It is alleged that you flogged the boy with a bannister brush. That you beat him over the head, face, back and arms. He alleges that he was bleeding, had black eyes, and was bruised over his body.
- He says that Christmas was the most miserable time of all. He says, that you would be left in charge of the home, and would sexually assault boys who were left at the home.
- It is alleged that punishment at Eden Park was as follows:
  - (i) Regular strappings;
  - (ii) Forcing residents to stand in line with arms either directly at one's side or at shoulder height or above heads and whacking with a stick under the arms or on the back;
  - (iii) Placement in a "lock up" and denial of food for two to three days with no blankets, no light, and only a mattress on the ground;
  - (iv) Removal of privileges such as home visits.
- The former resident says that as a result of his treatment at Eden Park, he has tried to kill himself on several occasions. He says he has nightmares and has trouble sleeping. He says he has had countless counselling sessions and has been on antidepressant medication.

To assist us in our internal investigations and to enable The Salvation Army to respond to the complaint we seek your response to the above allegations within fourteen days. Because of the serious nature of the allegations we suggest that you consult your own legal adviser to assist you in this matter. Although we have no intention of informing the police, you should be aware that we may be required to produce your response in any subsequent proceedings.

Yours faithfully

**Nevett *ford***

Philip Brewin