



COPY - COMMISSIONER E. BURROWS.

INTERVIEW

SOUTHERN AUSTRALIA
TERRITORY69 BOURKE STREET
MELBOURNE

BY Lt. Colonel G.H. Fischer

WITH Captain Alan Smith

ON 4th December, 1985.

RE: CAPTAIN A. SMITH - INTERVIEW - 4th DECEMBER, 1985.

I had asked Captain Alan Smith to my office at 9.30 a.m. and in company with Lt. Colonel A. Pilley, I informed him that there were two serious issues which I needed to discuss.

These were about a \$2,500 loan he had received from a Mr. O'Reilly, a resident of the Open Door and other related questions concerning the Cash and Records at the Centre. Also about an incident involving a 16 year old lad **REDACTED**.

Captain acknowledged that he should not have taken a loan from a resident and that he had, despite two requests, failed to pay the monthly repayments over several months. He said Mr. O'Reilly had originally indicated repayments could be made over a longer period, as he felt he was able to pay.

With reference to the sudden Open Door Audit, I had asked to take place, I informed Captain of several apparent failures in his responsibility. Since October, banking had been irregular, receipts had not been made out when men paid their fees, recordings of fees did not correspond with the periods for which the men were making payment, receipt dates were dated later than it was felt the money was paid. An Imprest of \$600 had been incorrectly established from the Men's Trust account and his own personal cheques had been paid into the Centre Accounts.

Captain acknowledged these to be true and agreed that these failings could leave serious questions in his leaders' minds. He acknowledged that he had used Centre Cash which he had held, for payments of personal and family expenses and claimed that these had been fully paid back by his personal cheques.

He saw that this practice exposed his honesty to serious question but was insistent that he had not misappropriated any Salvation Army funds. I said we wished to ease our own minds from any feeling of suspicion and asked could he sustain his claim by some information. He offered to show me personally, informations of cashed shares which his wife had received and that this money had enabled his \$2,100 loan repayment. Also he

Signed

T.C.



SOUTHERN AUSTRALIA
TERRITORY
69 BOURKE STREET
MELBOURNE

INTERVIEW

BY.....

WITH.....

ON.....

..2

would provide me with a cheque bank statement from September onwards. Captain understood that he had been very foolish and had acted incorrectly in relation to all these matters.

Secondly, I referred to the incident when **REDACTED**, admitted as a day resident to the Open Door, had later made accusations of Captain's homosexual advances. Captain denied any such advances. He explained the kind of question he had raised while in the car with **RED** on the night following a group session at the Centre. Captain claimed he felt the need to be honest with the boy and to draw forth his honest response.

These questions explored sexual areas and in this dialogue Captain admitted a friendship with a lad in the past.

I confirmed to Captain that **RED** had spoken to the Manager of Carinya about the Captain's past relationship in Perth, and homosexual preferences. It was clear to the Captain, that his actions with **REDA** had been in the least, indiscreet, and again, exposed him to serious question and suspicion. He claimed most strongly that he did not behave in any homosexual manner and was very agitated, as the very hint of such behaviour would have very devastating consequences upon his marital and family relationships. He confessed to having acted in a very foolish and indiscreet manner and was very sorry. I confirmed to Captain that neither I, nor any of the very few people who had knowledge of the incident, felt he had been involved in homosexual behaviour. I also endorsed his own acknowledgement of very serious indiscretion.

I asked Captain was there any underlying problem or anxiety which may have contributed to these failings? He spoke of some anxiety for his over-weight, for some feelings of disagreement with the limited doctor prescribed drug medications to residents. He claimed a good spiritual relationship and confessed to neglect of seeking advice in some personal concerns.

Signed.....

[Handwritten signature]

Eva Buechel
T.C.



SOUTHERN AUSTRALIA
TERRITORY
69 BOURKE STREET
MELBOURNE

INTERVIEW

BY

WITH

ON

3..

I reported to him that in view of the very serious failures in handling the Salvation Army's money, the indiscretions with **RED** and his failure to observe the proper laid down procedures for the Bridge Programme, he had not acted in the responsible way expected of an Officer. In consequence, his officership was now placed on a "probation status" for a period of six months. i.e. December 1985 - May 1986. Captain was to report to me on a regular basis during this period.

This "probation" status would not be made known to others and this report is the confirmation and acceptance of this ruling which was given by the Territorial Commander.

Signed:

CAPTAIN ALAN SMITH

LT. COLONEL G.H. FISCHER
Territorial Social Services .
Secretary.

Signed

37.05
Ewa B...
T.C.