



SOUTHERN AUSTRALIA
TERRITORY
MELBOURNE

INTERVIEW

E.M.S.

F.J.L.

BY..... Lieut.-Colonel Warren Golding.....

WITH..... Major Allan Smith.....

ON..... 10 April 1995 10:00am.....

The interview was conducted in the office of the secretary for business administration at territorial headquarters.

Following an approach made to me on Friday 7 April by Major Rosemary Haines and Mr Graham Sapwell concerning the above officer, advising me of his phone call to the personnel secretary (who was absent from the office) on the morning of Friday 7 April, I phoned Major Smith on Friday afternoon at his quarters offering him my assistance and advising him that I knew of the phone call. He immediately accepted the offer that I made and willingly accepted this and we made an appointment for Monday morning 10 April at 10:00 am in my office.

Following this phone call I phoned Major John Jeffrey, divisional commander, Western Australia, to be briefed further on this matter that had been intimated to me by Major Haines and Mr Sapwell.

This background information was of assistance to me for the interview.

Major Smith confirmed immediately at the interview that he had received two phone calls over the previous 10 days from a Mr **BMG** aged 35 years, and now living in Perth.

The phone conversation referred to homosexual events which had taken place some years ago in Perth.

The second call from **BMG** confirmed his demand for Smith to admit his fault to Army leaders and to seek treatment and this had to take place before Thursday 13 April.

I had been previously advised by the divisional commander that **BMG**'s mother had been to see the DC in Perth and this was confirmed by Smith in the interview.

Major Smith confirmed with me that this act had taken place and that **BMG** was the only boy involved. He had no recollection of the details of when it started or finished but that it was in 1977 to 1978, whilst he was not an officer.

In discussing this matter Smith confirmed his relationship with his wife Val, who he loved and respected, had not been in a good state for the past 20 years. Very little feeling or discussion is between Majors Allan and Mrs Val Smith.

Since this association in 1977/78 the only contact with **BMG** was whilst Major and Mrs Smith were at their appointment at the Anchorage. **BMG** and his father and another person holidayed with them at the quarters.

BMG made an approach to Smith who declined the approach and said it was all finished. He had apologised previously and did so again and had regretted the incidents that had taken place in previous years.

Major and Mrs Smith are due to retire in November 1996. Major Smith confirmed that he would be pleased to retire immediately and said that he would be able to get a doctors certificate enabling him to get a pension.

Major Smith reiterated on a number of occasions that he didn't wish his wife to know about this present matter and believes that her health would not enable her to cope with it and also indicated that he felt that his wife was entitled to a retirement certificate. They plan, and have already inquired about, renting a house in Sunbury.

Throughout the interview Major Allan Smith mentioned on more than one occasion that he had been foolish in this matter, had sought the forgiveness of God, and had expressed his regret to **BMG**. He also had indicated that he had a deep association as an officer with the family at Rivervale Corps in that he had helped them in many instances during his officership and whilst out of officership.

On reading the officer's personal file I observed the following incidents concerning Major Allan Smith:

In January 1964 the then field secretary, Colonel John V Hocking, had written to Smith with concern over a couple of cash discrepancies which took place at an appointment in Victoria.

26 April 1964, Lieut.-Colonel David Hewitt, DC, WA, reports on improper conduct in the quarters between Lieutenant Allan Smith and an 18 year old bandsman of the corps.

10 January 1974, Lieut.-Colonel Hedley Preston, DC, WA, reports on three charges of aggravated assault on three different band lads in the Rivervale Corps. The senior detective who handled this case indicated that one of the charges should have been "indecent assault". Captain Smith was given a bond of \$500 to be on good behaviour for two years.

4 December 1985, Lieut.-Colonel Gordon Fischer, Territorial Social Services Secretary, conducted an interview with Captain Smith on financial matters, one being a \$2,500 loan he had received together with other financial matters and in consequence his officership was placed on a probation status for a period of six months.

7 February 1986, Lieut.-Colonel Gordon Fischer, Territorial Social Services Secretary conducted a further interview with Captain Allan Smith and an appointment was set up for Captain and Mrs Smith. Mrs Smith needed to attend a doctors appointment at the last minute and was unable to attend.

This interview was on a number of matters of financial misappropriation whilst the officer was stationed at the Open Door. The interview indicated his cooperation throughout in discussing this with the leadership of The Salvation Army and regretted his foolishness in the matters that were under consideration, at the same time indicating his weakness in handling books.

Throughout the interview with myself, Major Allan Smith referred to one or two of the previous interviews that had been conducted and expressed his appreciation for the way that leaders had been kind and considerate during these difficult times in his officership.

I indicated that I would need to make a report to the territorial leaders and that I could not give any indication as whether retirement would be considered or whether resignation was an option for the Major.



Warren Golding, Lieut.-Colonel
SECRETARY FOR BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION