Boys: No sir.
Mr. Roberts: Anything else you want to say?
    Said he had too much work to do at Bindoon.
    Said sometimes the Brothers hit us.
    All the boys said that the Brother in charge of them
    at work (Brother Tippin) hit the kids too much, just
    for nothing.

5.5.54
Mr. Roberts: If your face went in the lime, it is a wonder your eyes were not burnt.

I closed my eyes.

Mr. Roberts: Anything else you can tell me?

No sir.

Mr. Roberts: Who was the Brother who hit you?

Brother Tuppin.

Mr. Roberts: What were you doing in the afternoon after this happened?

Boys: We were working.

Mr. Roberts: Did you have tea?

Boys: No sir.

Yesterday I was caught smoking, while I was working. I was cleaning out the windows to put the glass in; then I went into the battery room and had a smoke; it was about half past two yesterday afternoon and I was smoking in there.

Mr. Roberts: Where did you get the cigarettes?

Boys: We went to the Field Day at Clontarf last Sunday and Vincent won a packet of cigarettes there.

Mr. Roberts: Are you allowed to have them?

No sir.

Mr. Roberts: Who caught you smoking?

Brother O'Neill caught me.

Mr. Roberts: What did he say?

He said, "See me tonight".

Mr. Roberts: What would have happened then?

He would hit me, of course.

Mr. Roberts: Didn't the Brother do anything when he caught you?

No, because I ran away then.

Mr. Roberts: Did anything else happen during the day?

No sir.

Mr. Roberts: You just ran away with the other two boys, is that it?

Yes sir.

Mr. Roberts: Did you steel anything on the way down?

Boys: No sir.

Mr. Roberts: Did you have anything to eat?

Boys: We took some oranges.

Mr. Roberts: Did you have any money?
Mr. Roberts: Are you happy up there?

Mr. Roberts: Not bad sir. I am not used to this country.

Mr. Roberts: Where are your mother and father?

Mr. Roberts: In Malta.

Mr. Roberts: You have no other complaints? You have not been ill-treated?

Mr. Roberts: I am treated all right.

Mr. Roberts: You have nothing more to say?

Mr. Roberts: No sir.

Mr. Roberts: What were you going to do when you ran away? Did you think you would get a job?

Mr. Roberts: said he did not know what he was going to do.

Mr. Roberts: What did you think they would do when they caught you? What would happen apart from missing the pictures?

Mr. Roberts: Nothing, sir.

Mr. Roberts: You did not have very much to be frightened of.

Mr. Roberts: said he was talking in Maltese and the Brother hit him and put his face in the lime. He showed a sore behind his knee and another on his hand. He had had these sores for awhile.

Mr. Roberts: He was working, mixing mortar and he was talking Maltese. The Brother who heard him hit him with his flat on the right side of the face, knocked him over and put his head in the lime. The Brother got hold of him by the back of the neck and by his foot and pushed his face in the lime being mixed for mortar. The lime was on his face.

Mr. Roberts: did not speak English so well as the other two boys and was helped in his statement by them.

Mr. Roberts: When did you wash the lime off?

Mr. Roberts: Yesterday. I could not get the lime off my sores.

Mr. Roberts: Before dinner time yesterday.

Mr. Roberts: What did the Brother say?

Mr. Roberts: He said, 'If you talk Maltese again you are going to miss the pictures'.

Mr. Roberts: Did he hurt you when he hit you?

Mr. Roberts: Yes. I cried after he hit me.

Mr. Roberts: Have you any other complaints?

Mr. Roberts: Sometimes he change the job every day; sometimes I am on the farm and sometimes on the bricks.
Abecedaries from Bindoon, interviewed on 5.5.54.

Mr. Roberts: You left Bindoon, when?
Boys: Last night, about 6 o'clock.
Mr. Roberts: How did you get to Perth?
Boys: We walked about 20 miles. Then we got a car. We stopped a car and got a lift.
Mr. Roberts: What did you do when you came to town last night?
Boys: We never came to town last night. We came about an hour ago.
Mr. Roberts: Where did the car drop you off?
Boys: Just in St. George's Terrace, about half past two.
Mr. Roberts: What happened from the time you left there? You say you walked about 20 miles. What time did the car pick you up?
Boys: We did not have any watch, sir.
Mr. Roberts: Was it dark?
Boys: No sir, about 11 o'clock this morning.
Mr. Roberts: What did you do last night?
Boys: We slept in the bush.

The boys said that this morning they stopped to help a man with a puncture. He had a truck loaded up with bags of wheat. The car that picked them up was a green utility. They saw the clock at Midland Junction, which showed it was 2 o'clock and it was half past 2 when they got into the Terrace.

Mr. Roberts: Why did you leave Bindoon?
William Bartell: Because I spoke Welsh during the day the Brothers made me miss the pictures. I write plenty of letters to my family and they do not send them. My father and mother send me parcels and I have not received the parcels.

Mr. Roberts: Do you know whether the parcels were received at the Home?
Mr. Roberts: About 2 months ago, I should have got them.
Mr. Roberts: Have you any more complaints?
Mr. Roberts: No.
Mr. Roberts: Do you eat all right, get plenty of food?
The boys said the food was all right.
Mr. Roberts: What work do you do?
Boys: Fencing, concrete work, everything, wherever the Brother sends us.
Mr. Roberts: (To REDACTED) How old are you?