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Thursday, 5 March 2020

(10.00 am)

LADY SMITH: Good morning.

I think we're going to start today by completing the read-in that was begun on Tuesday, is that right?

Witness statement of "JOHN" (read) (continued)

MS MACLEOD: Good morning, my Lady.

That's right. We are now in a position to resume the read-in of an applicant who's taken the pseudonym "John". The statement begins at WIT-1-000000316, and I will resume reading the statement from paragraph 53 on page 10:

"I wasn't the only one. I reckon that if the 39 boys who came over from Britain were asked, almost all would say they got the same treatment from Brother LHF I would say he would have a go at somebody at least once a week.

"I did not see any inappropriate behaviour of a sexual nature, although I was aware of it. I was never sexually abused because I wasn't backwards at coming forwards, but some of the other boys told me that they were. Quite a few of the other boys would talk of different brothers going into the showers and the toilets with them. I would have known who the brothers were at the time, but I wouldn't have a clue who they

1           were now.

2           "Quite a few boys had to get medical treatment as  
3 a result of their being beaten by the brothers, but  
4 nothing ever, ever happened to change the way the  
5 brothers behaved. There was nobody to go to and, even  
6 if we had, they would just deny it.

7           "When I turned 16 I had to leave and I was sent up  
8 to a farm on the West Coast of Tasmania. I was up there  
9 for a month working on the farm, but it was just so  
10 lonely. I couldn't settle down because I'd been around  
11 heaps of other children all my life up till then and up  
12 at the farm it was just the farmer and his wife.

13          "I left and tried to go back to Boys' Town, but they  
14 wouldn't take me back. I was put under the social  
15 service and they looked after me until I was 21.

16          "The social service found me somewhere to board, but  
17 it was very poor. I was sports mad and I wanted to play  
18 football and cricket and I was in the surf club, but the  
19 family weren't interested in sports at all. They tried  
20 to stop me from playing and for the 12 months I was  
21 in that house I never got one evening meal. I would be  
22 out at football training or something else to do with  
23 sport, come back home and by that time I would have  
24 missed the evening meal.

25          "I got a job as a butcher but my pay had to go to

1 the social service. They then paid my board and give me  
2 a weekly allowance and if I wanted to buy something  
3 I had to go and ask them for money. I had no money of  
4 my own or a bank account, it was all done by them. That  
5 finished when I turned 21, but I never got the money  
6 that would have been left over.

7 "One weekend I went to the surf club and got  
8 sunburned pretty badly. I couldn't go to work on the  
9 Monday so my boss contacted the social service and  
10 a bloke called Mr Warren came to see me. He had a go at  
11 me and I answered him back so he threatened to stick his  
12 boot up my bum. He never did, but I told him I would  
13 come back and see him when I was 21 and still if he was  
14 still man enough to do it. I went back the day I turned  
15 21 and challenged him. I didn't do anything to him but  
16 I wanted him to know I hadn't forgotten.

17 "I went to the football club that I was training  
18 with and told them my story, so they took it up with the  
19 social services. A Mr Griffin from social services came  
20 to see me and told me to try and find another place to  
21 board myself. He said that they would then check it out  
22 and if they thought it was okay, that would be the last  
23 I would ever hear from them.

24 "The football club got me a place and I think I was  
25 there for maybe 5 or 6 years, maybe even longer. The

1 woman at this place would doing everything for me. Her  
2 husband had died and she cooked all my meals and did all  
3 my washing and all my ironing. I had to go to work at  
4 5 o'clock in the morning on a Friday and even then she  
5 would be up and she would cook my breakfast. I couldn't  
6 have been treated any better.

7 "I continued working five days a week as a butcher  
8 and continued playing a lot of sport. In the summer at  
9 6 o'clock on a Friday night, I'd finish work and go down  
10 to the surf club and I'd leave there at 6 o'clock on  
11 a Monday morning to go back to work. In the winter  
12 I played football or cricket or whatever sport was  
13 available. I probably did that for 10 years.

14 "At that stage I wasn't interested in getting  
15 married, I was too involved in sport. I always said  
16 I wouldn't get married until I was 30 and when I was 29  
17 I married. We've now been married for 50 years and have  
18 one son.

19 "I continued working as a butcher for 40-odd years  
20 and then worked for the Commonwealth Bank as a cleaner  
21 for nine years or so. I'm retired now.

22 "I didn't know what was going on in the outside  
23 world while I was in care. When other boys and I left  
24 Boys' Town we didn't have a clue what to do. We'd never  
25 been outside the school and they never taught us about

1 life. Once we left, that was it and we had to fend for  
2 ourselves.

3 "I had very little in the way of education both in  
4 Britain and at Boys' Town and couldn't even spell my own  
5 name when I left. I decided to do something about that  
6 and I have had a tutor for the last 2 or 3 years. As  
7 a result I have gone from grade 2 level reading and  
8 writing to grade 7. Now I manage okay and my wife  
9 helps.

10 "I have a lot of problems with my feet now which  
11 because of having to wear shoes that were too small for  
12 me while I was at Boys' Town. Sometimes I could barely  
13 get my feet into the shoes I was given. I have had  
14 two toes taken off because my toes had been twisted and  
15 pushed under one another.

16 "I also used to suffer tremendously badly from  
17 chilblains. Sometimes my hands were so swollen  
18 I couldn't hold anything. We were in shorts winter and  
19 summer and winters in Tasmania when I was at Boys' Town  
20 were very cold.

21 "I have never had any support or counselling for my  
22 experiences as a child in care or as a child migrant.

23 "I have never tried to get a copy of my records from  
24 when I was in care or to do with my migration.

25 "Some time during the mid-1990s, about 11 or

1 12 o'clock at night, I was in bed when the phone rang.  
2 My wife answered and told me it was someone from the  
3 Child Migrants Trust in England. I wasn't wanting to  
4 speak to them at that time, but I did and I was pretty  
5 blunt with the woman who phoned. I asked her who had  
6 given her permission to look into my background because  
7 I had never asked them to do anything for me. I told  
8 her I didn't want them to do anything more and slammed  
9 the phone down.

10 "Not long after that I got a letter from my uncle  
11 introducing himself and telling me a few things about my  
12 family back in the UK. I think the CMT had contacted me  
13 because my uncle had been trying to trace me.

14 "My wife and I went to England and Scotland in 1996  
15 and stopped for a few weeks. That's when I first met my  
16 uncle and other members of my family and learned a bit  
17 more about my background. Some of my aunts and uncles  
18 said that they hadn't any idea that I'd come to  
19 Australia but that they couldn't find where I was.

20 "There's a saying that you can pick your friends but  
21 you can't pick your family, and there are some  
22 I wouldn't waste my time with again, although others  
23 I got on really well with.

24 "I still keep in touch with my uncle's daughter but  
25 she's the only one. She came over here to Tasmania in

1           2000.

2           "Apparently we boys that went on to Tasmania were  
3 very lucky because some of the boys that stayed at  
4 Fairbridge in Western Australia were treated something  
5 shocking.

6           "I never raised my experiences as a child migrant  
7 with anybody official although I recently received  
8 a payment £20,000 sterling from the British Government.  
9 I also received compensation from the Tasmanian  
10 Government, which I think was AU\$30,000. I'm not sure  
11 when that was, but it was well before the British  
12 payment. The Tasmanian premier at the time apparently  
13 thought we child migrants should receive some  
14 compensation for what we'd been through.

15           "If I receive further compensation I would accept  
16 it. If they decide not to give us anything more, I am  
17 not going to carry on about it.

18           "I had nothing when my wife and I first got married.  
19 I had no family to help us and we found it pretty hard.  
20 Now we are in our own house and we are happy with what  
21 we've got, but a little more would make a big  
22 difference.

23           "The day I left school I wanted to be a naturalised  
24 Australian citizen but in those days you didn't have to  
25 be. When I went to work for the Commonwealth Bank,

1 I had to be, so I got my citizenship at that time on  
2 16 July 1998. I now have the certificate hanging up on  
3 the wall. I've always been able to access any benefits  
4 even before I was naturalised.

5 "I am aware that the Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry  
6 have a copy of a letter dated 30 May 1998 bearing my  
7 name and address at the time, addressed to the British  
8 Consulate General in Melbourne."

9 That document is at HOC.001.001.0255:

10 "I don't recall sending this letter but I believe it  
11 contains some detail of my migration and outlines some  
12 of my experiences.

13 "Attached to this letter is another letter, which is  
14 addressed to me and is from my uncle. It is dated  
15 27 May 1998 and I am aware the inquiry have a copy of  
16 this also."

17 That document is at HOC.001.001.0257:

18 "I have been asked if I would ever go back to  
19 Britain, but my response is to question why I ever would  
20 when they threw me out of my country in the first place.  
21 That's what annoys me more than anything. Some of the  
22 kids that were sent over as child migrants were told  
23 that they had no family whatsoever. It was only in  
24 later life that those kids found out their mothers and  
25 fathers were still alive and that they hadn't been told



1 their children were being shipped off to Australia.  
2 I was told by the priests and the brothers when I first  
3 came to Tasmania that I had nobody.

4 "Governments must tell the truth about what happened  
5 and admit to the lies that were told. I can't see why  
6 they did what they did and I wonder what the benefit  
7 was. I just hope that this doesn't happen to anybody  
8 else.

9 "None of the homes are in existence now and the  
10 people are not around today, so where do we go from  
11 here? Boys' Town has had about four different names  
12 over the years and is now called Dominic College and has  
13 an old scholars' association. For a long time  
14 I wouldn't have anything to do with them, but we sent  
15 our son there and I thought I'd get a little bit  
16 involved with them. I don't have anything to do with  
17 them whatsoever now though.

18 "The principal of the school now, Beth Gilligan, has  
19 done a tremendous amount of working for the  
20 child migrants. She got everyone together for the  
21 commemoration of the 60th anniversary of our arrival at  
22 Boys' Town and went through all the boys' histories.  
23 I don't think there was much for her to look at for me  
24 and, other than her, nobody was interested whatsoever.  
25 I went along and met up with a few of the other lads.

1 I've always felt though that I had my own life to live  
2 and I was never one for mixing once I left.

3 "There is a plaque at the school praising what  
4 Father LHH did but every time I went there, I always  
5 point out that there are two sides to every story.

6 "I think coming to Australia was probably the best  
7 thing that happened to me. I couldn't possibly live in  
8 Britain. I have my own house with plenty of room to  
9 roam around and I enjoy my life here in Tasmania.

10 "I have no objection to my witness statement being  
11 published as part of the evidence to the inquiry.

12 "I believe the facts stated in this witness  
13 statement are true."

14 The statement was signed by John on 31 January 2020.

15 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

16 MR MACLEOD: My Lady, I wonder if we could have a short  
17 break now just to make final arrangements for the  
18 witness who I think is ready to go.

19 LADY SMITH: Very well. We'll do that, a short break.

20 (10.15 am)

21 (A short break)

22 (10.25 am)

23 LADY SMITH: Mr MacAulay.

24 MR MacAULAY: My Lady, the next witness is Frederick  
25 Wooltorton Smith.

1

2

FREDERICK WOOLTORTON SMITH (sworn)

3

LADY SMITH: Please sit down and make yourself comfortable.

4

5

6

7

8

It looks as though you're in a comfortable position, particularly for the microphone, and that's really helpful to us, if you can try and make sure you're speaking through the microphone and then everybody can --

9

A. Is this all right?

10

LADY SMITH: That's brilliant. Keep that up and that'll

11

work very well. If you are ready, I'll hand over to

12

Mr MacAulay and he'll explain what happens next.

13

Questions from MR MacAULAY

14

MR MacAULAY: Good morning, Frederick.

15

A. Good morning.

16

Q. Are you well?

17

A. Yes, thank you.

18

Q. In that red folder in front of you you'll find your

19

statement. I'll give the reference for the transcript:

20

WIT.001.002.8122. Could you turn to the last page of

21

the statement? Can you confirm that you have signed it?

22

A. Yes, absolutely.

23

Q. Do you tell us in the final paragraph there that

24

you have no objection to the witness statement being

25

published as part of the evidence to the inquiry?

1 Is that right?

2 A. Correct.

3 Q. Do you also tell us that the facts stated in the witness  
4 statement are true?

5 A. Sorry, mate?

6 Q. That what you say in the statement is the truth.

7 A. Oh, absolutely, mate.

8 Q. Frederick, can you confirm for me that you were born on  
9 [REDACTED] 1938?

10 A. Correct.

11 Q. And you're now 81; is that right?

12 A. Correct.

13 Q. Shortly to be 82?

14 A. Sorry?

15 Q. Very shortly, you'll be 82?

16 A. Yes, [REDACTED] mate.

17 Q. The statement that's in the folder will also come up on  
18 the screen in front of you, so if it's easier or more  
19 convenient for you to look at the screen then feel free  
20 to do that.

21 You've come here today to provide us with evidence  
22 as to your experiences as a child migrant; is that  
23 right?

24 A. Correct.

25 Q. I'll be looking at this in a bit more detail later, but

1           am I right in saying that after you had been sent to  
2           Australia, and I'll look at the background to that,  
3           you were in four places run by the Christian Brothers?

4           A. Yes, that's correct.

5           Q. In particular, were you in a place at Bindoon,  
6           St Joseph's at Bindoon?

7           A. Yes. Correct.

8           Q. And were you also in St Vincent's Castledare Junior  
9           Orphanage?

10          A. Correct.

11          Q. And then, after that, in St Vincent's Clontarf?

12          A. Correct.

13          Q. Finally, were you at St Mary's Agricultural School in  
14          Tardun?

15          A. Correct.

16          Q. I'll refer to these places as "Bindoon", "Castledare",  
17          "Clontarf" and "Tardun" when I'm asking you about your  
18          evidence.

19                 It is the case, I think, Frederick, as you tell us  
20                 in your statement, that at the age of 9 months or  
21                 thereabouts you were placed in Nazareth House; is that  
22                 right?

23          A. As far as I know, that is correct.

24          Q. And it is the case that you are Scottish; is that right?

25          A. Mm.

1 Q. But you were placed in a Nazareth House in England,  
2 is that correct?

3 A. Correct.

4 Q. At that time I think you were admitted to the  
5 Nazareth House in Lancaster on 3 December 1938. You  
6 left there and went to Carlisle on 27 July 1940. And  
7 you left Carlisle on 13 November 1947, at the age of 9?

8 A. Correct.

9 Q. It was shortly after that that you went to Australia;  
10 is that right?

11 A. Say that again?

12 Q. It was then that you went off to Australia after you  
13 left Carlisle?

14 A. Yes, I went to Australia, yes.

15 LADY SMITH: We see from your statement that you were born  
16 in Dundee.

17 A. Yes.

18 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

19 A. Can I just clarify, mate? My two sisters, after I'd  
20 found my family and all that, they actually explained to  
21 me and took me to a house where I was born in Dundee.  
22 But on my birth certificate, I believe that it was all  
23 done down in Pommiland and they put Chelmsford.

24 LADY SMITH: Ah, right.

25 A. As far as I am concerned, I'm still Scottish. I prefer

1           to believe my two sisters that I was definitely born in  
2           Scotland.

3           MR MacAULAY: You tell us a bit about your life in  
4           particular in Carlisle with the Sisters of Nazareth.  
5           Do you have much of a memory as to what life was like at  
6           that time?

7           A. No, just during the war, it wasn't bad because the Yanks  
8           had an air base pretty close and they used to come in on  
9           a Sunday and all that and bring in ice creams and also  
10          they used to bring in these tins of toothpaste, pink  
11          toothpaste, for us to clean our teeth because during the  
12          war we were using salt to clean our teeth, so the Yanks  
13          sort of helped us out with that.

14          But the nuns, I found, were pretty good. They used  
15          the strap, but that's all part and parcel of growing up.  
16          For some reason or other, if they found you were  
17          naughty, you got the wide strap that they had, you got  
18          that or the ruler over your knuckles.

19          Q. In the main what you're saying is that the nuns were  
20          pretty good to you?

21          A. Oh, to me they were, yes.

22          Q. And I think you also say in the statement the food was  
23          fine.

24          A. Yes, the food was good in Nazareth House Carlisle.

25          Q. Can I then just look at how it came to be that you were

1           selected to go to Australia. Can you just help me with  
2           that? What's your recollection about how Australia  
3           became a possibility for you?

4           A. Well, the Mother Superior called us into the hall and  
5           in the hall there was two guys in black dresses standing  
6           there. We later were to know that they were  
7           Christian Brothers. We thought they were dresses  
8           because the nuns had the same gear, you know?

9                     These two guys were speaking about Australia and  
10           saying: we need people, young kids to come out to  
11           Australia where we can educate them, and all that type  
12           of stuff, but you have to go through a very, very strict  
13           medical, and if you pass the medical then you'll be  
14           accepted to come down to Southampton on the SS Asturias  
15           and off to Australia.

16          Q. And what sort of things did they say to you about  
17           Australia and what life might be like there?

18          A. Oh, it's a land of sun and glory and there's gold and  
19           there's fruit trees everywhere and all that type of  
20           stuff. They painted a pretty good picture about it.  
21           Of course, being 9 or something like that, your eyes  
22           open up like saucers and you think, this doesn't sound  
23           like a bad move. Also, what I was really happy about is  
24           we were going on a boat trip.

25          Q. And how many were in the group then when you came to



1 leave?

2 A. That I can't correctly tell you, to be truthful. But  
3 there was a mob of us. I'd say, just roughly, looking  
4 back on it, maybe 30, 35 of us. But I can't swear on  
5 that, mate.

6 Q. Were there boys and girls?

7 A. No, no, we were all boys in Carlisle.

8 Q. Can I ask you to look at this document? I think you may  
9 have seen it before, it's a migration form. It'll come  
10 on the screen in front of you, Frederick. The reference  
11 for it is WIT.003.001.8672.

12 (Pause).

13 We're having difficulty with the ...

14 (Pause)

15 I'll leave that and I might come back to it.

16 LADY SMITH: We may come back to it, Frederick, don't worry  
17 just now.

18 Is there any information in that form that Frederick  
19 might just remember without having it on the screen, so  
20 that we can take that now even if we come back to the  
21 document later?

22 MR MacAULAY: What I was going to ask you about this  
23 particular document is that I think it was signed by  
24 a sister, by a nun, on your behalf as your guardian. Do  
25 you remember that?

1 A. No, no, I don't remember any signatures or paperwork.  
2 Personally, I never handled any paper. It was all done  
3 between the Christian Brothers and the nuns at the  
4 orphanage.

5 Q. It's now on the screen in front of you, the form.

6 A. Oh yes, got it, yes.

7 Q. This is the migration form that was completed on your  
8 behalf and I understand that at the time this was  
9 completed you were only 8. So it was before you sailed  
10 to Australia. Do you see your name is on the form --

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. -- "Frederick Smith" and we've got the address of  
13 Nazareth House in Carlisle.

14 A. Correct.

15 Q. Your age is given, along with your date of birth.  
16 Can you see there:

17 "Furnish name and address of guardian"?

18 And Sister Mary Fidelis, the Mother Superior's name,  
19 is given. Can you see that?

20 A. Yes, I can see that, yes.

21 Q. There's a signature at paragraph 8 and it looks like a  
22 PA Conlan or Cowlan; do you see that signature? Oh it's  
23 redacted and you can't --

24 A. That's better, I can see that now, thanks.

25 Q. Again, what's called the consent section towards the

1 bottom has been signed by the Mother Superior. Had you  
2 seen this form before?

3 A. Never. No, never.

4 Q. Can I then take you to the trip to Australia. What was  
5 the trip on the ship like?

6 A. Oh, absolutely brilliant, mate. We had a ball on that.

7 Q. What made it so good?

8 A. Well, it was freedom and the best part about it was  
9 there was no punishment, like if you played up, as the  
10 nuns called it. No, there was no punishment.

11 Apparently for some reason or another, most probably  
12 because there were other people on board, they wouldn't  
13 hit us, so it's really good. It was a good long trip.  
14 I think it was about six weeks or something. And most  
15 enjoyable.

16 Q. We'll look at, for example, the food. What was the food  
17 like?

18 A. The food was brilliant, mate, yeah, right off the top  
19 shelf, good tucker.

20 Q. You've told us that your group was comprised of boys  
21 only. Are you able to say whether the boys were  
22 English, Scottish, Welsh?

23 A. Just all a mixture of Scottish, Irish, yeah, they were  
24 all UK people, boys.

25 Q. The age range of the boys in your group, can you help me

1 with that? You were 9 by now. What about the other  
2 boys?

3 A. Well, we were all roughly about the same age. I reckon  
4 the oldest one -- and this is only what I reckon,  
5 I can't swear on the Bible about it -- the oldest one  
6 would most probably have been about 11.

7 Q. You've also mentioned the ship's name was the  
8 SS Asturias.

9 A. Correct.

10 Q. And you told us in your statement that you arrived in  
11 Fremantle on 10 December 1947.

12 A. Correct.

13 Q. Apart from your group, Frederick, were there other  
14 children who were also child migrants on the ship?

15 A. Correct.

16 Q. Can I then ask you what happened when you arrived in  
17 Australia? What was the first thing that happened to  
18 you when you got off the ship?

19 A. They lined us all up on the wharf and they had buses  
20 lined up and they took a group photo of all the kids  
21 with our cases and little hats on and all that type of  
22 stuff. Someone who must have had a bit of authority,  
23 done a bit of a talk and all that, which I can't even  
24 remember, mate. Then when that was over, they loaded us  
25 on the bus to go to Clontarf Boys' Home.

1 Q. Was Bindoon the first home you went to?

2 A. No, we went to Clontarf first and then that same day,  
3 we were shipped up to Bindoon. Bindoon was the first  
4 living place.

5 Q. Where you went to stay?

6 A. Correct, mate.

7 Q. And was there some way that the boys were divided up?

8 A. Absolutely.

9 Q. How was that done, can you tell me?

10 A. Well, a lot of it was -- sadly and unfortunately for  
11 a lot of the kids, the brothers were split up. You  
12 know, like, if I had a brother I might have stayed and  
13 he might have stayed in Clontarf or he might have gone  
14 to Bindoon and I stayed in Clontarf. There was a lot of  
15 that that went on.

16 Q. Was that because of age?

17 A. There I can't say whether it was age or what, mate.

18 Q. In any event, you were taken to Bindoon; is that right?

19 A. Absolutely.

20 Q. And how many were in your final group then when you went  
21 to Bindoon?

22 A. There was a busload of us. The bus was chock-a-block,  
23 so two a seat, you know.

24 Q. You tell us in your statement, Frederick, that at  
25 a point in your life you decided to write about your

1           experience in the four Christian Brothers homes that you  
2           were in; is that right?

3           A. Yes, I started -- it was actually a mate of mine who  
4           said, you know, what you want to do is put it all on  
5           paper, mate, before you get too old and you forget a few  
6           things. So I thought about it and then I did start, and  
7           once I started it took a long time, and over 121 pages  
8           with all scribbling and all that. But eventually,  
9           I condensed it down and, with the help of people, got  
10          rid of a lot of violence out of it, all that type of  
11          stuff, and swear words, and got it down to whatever  
12          it is now, 21 pages.

13          Q. You tell us about this in your statement and I'll  
14          perhaps put this part of the statement on the screen,  
15          paragraph 129 at 8142. This'll come on the screen in  
16          front of you.

17                 What you say at paragraph 129 is:

18                 "It took me a long time to write."

19                 And this is the title of the story:

20                 "Nine Years Under the Christian Brothers -- the 15  
21          Evil Ones."

22                 That was the title, is that right?

23          A. Correct, yes.

24          Q. You tell us the background to that. Am I right in  
25          saying that your story was taken up and reproduced in

1 a book called The Fifth Estate?

2 A. That's right, yes, The Fifth Estate.

3 Q. So that's public, that's a book that's available to the  
4 public?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. And it forms a chapter in that book; is that right?

7 A. That's correct, yes.

8 Q. So if I can put this on the screen for you. It's at  
9 WIT.003.001.8214. Again, this'll come on the screen.

10 Are we looking here at chapter 11, and the heading  
11 is "Fred's Story"?

12 A. Correct.

13 Q. Is this your account of what you say happened at the  
14 four establishments we've mentioned?

15 A. Correct.

16 Q. If we look towards the following page, page 8214,  
17 towards the very bottom -- and this is the author of the  
18 book itself saying this:

19 "A free copy of this book, which includes the  
20 verbatim story Fred has written, will be sent to every  
21 politician in this country as my nomination of Fred  
22 [that's yourself] as the next Australian of the Year."

23 That's what he's written, is that right?

24 A. Yeah, I cracked up over that. I didn't think it was  
25 necessary.

1 Q. If we move to the following page 8215, the photograph  
2 that we're looking at there, Frederick, is that  
3 yourself?

4 A. That is me, correct.

5 Q. As a young boy?

6 A. Yes. That's up at Tardun as a 14-year-old kid. We  
7 worked full-time out in the paddocks, sucker-bashing,  
8 fencing, road making, instead of being in school -- and  
9 burning up the -- seeding, harvesting, feeding the pigs,  
10 the sheep, and the cattle. That was my full-time job in  
11 Tardun.

12 Q. So far as Bindoon is concerned, you went there at the  
13 age of 9?

14 A. Mm.

15 Q. Were you there then from December 1947 through until  
16 about some time in 1948?

17 A. Correct.

18 Q. If I go on to the next page of the chapter, page 3,  
19 8216, these are now your words as the prologue to your  
20 account. You begin by saying:

21 "I am Frederick Wooltorton Smith, born Dundee,  
22 Scotland."

23 That's how you begin?

24 A. Correct.

25 Q. If we go on to the following page, can I just read that



1 paragraph for you? On the same page, the other side of  
2 the page, page 3., what you say on the top of the page  
3 there is:

4 "The whole time I spent in the orphanages I do not  
5 recall any of the other receiving a letter from the UK.  
6 I find this very strange because a lot of the boys knew  
7 they had left family, brothers and sisters behind, and  
8 not one ever received a letter."

9 And is that the case so far as --

10 A. That is correct, yes. Most of the boys that I know  
11 never found that they had parents or brothers or sisters  
12 for 30-odd years after when it all hit the fan.

13 Q. What was your own understanding as to your own status?  
14 What did you think you were?

15 A. Well, I thought, as I was informed, that I'm a war  
16 orphan and my parents and family were killed in the war.

17 Q. Who told you that?

18 A. I was told that by the Christian Brothers.

19 Q. You go on to tell us about your arrival at Fremantle in  
20 December 1947 and you go on to say:

21 "I was sent to Bindoon Boys' Town, some 60 miles  
22 north-east of Perth. Here I met, for the first time,  
23 the Christian Brothers. My clothes, shoes and other  
24 gear I arrived with were taken from me, never to be seen  
25 again."

1           Is that what happened?

2       A. Yeah, that was correct. They took all our gear off us  
3       and they gave us a pair of khaki shorts and a khaki  
4       shirt and we never, ever saw the gear that we brought  
5       over from Europe, or UK, whatever you want to call it --  
6       we never, ever saw that again, mate. That was the end  
7       of it. We wore khaki shirts and khaki shorts for the  
8       rest of the time.

9       Q. If I move on to the next page, since we have this on the  
10       screen, this is at 8214, and here you're looking at your  
11       time in Bindoon, part 1; is that right?

12      A. Yes, part 1, yes.

13      Q. And again, if I read the first couple of paragraphs.

14           You say:

15           "I am 7 [I think in fact you may have been 9 at the  
16           time] years old, standing at about 3 foot tall, weighing  
17           roughly 3 stone with blond hair [and I think we saw that  
18           from the photograph] and white skin with freckles and  
19           buckteeth."

20           And then you go on to say:

21           "Some 15 brothers over the next 9 years were going  
22           to, without my permission, educate me in the art of  
23           brutalisation and the sexual abuse of my body."

24      A. Correct.

25      Q. Is that what happened in the following years at the

1 different places?

2 A. Yeah, it started off in Bindoon.

3 Q. Can I just leave the story aside for the moment and look  
4 at some aspects of life at Bindoon. First of all,  
5 can you tell me, was there a particular brother who was  
6 in charge at Bindoon?

7 A. Brother MDJ .

8 Q. What can you tell me about him?

9 A. Brother MDJ was a very tall, ex-copper from  
10 Queensland, as far as the information I received later  
11 on, and he was in charge of us and he was a very, very  
12 brutal man. A big man, would have weighed 18 stone at  
13 least, and used to ride a horse. If you were a bit  
14 slow, he'd just knock you over with the horse, you know,  
15 if you were a bit slow at work, chipping the bricks and  
16 all that stuff.

17 He was a real mongrel. He had a knotted stick  
18 around that long (indicating), which he called his --  
19 shillelagh, is that the word?

20 Q. Shillelagh, yes.

21 A. He'd used that over your back and all that to move you  
22 along.

23 Q. You're indicating something about 3 feet or about  
24 a metre long?

25 A. Yeah, whatever, mate.

1 Q. And then you say:

2 "He was a brutal man ..."

3 And you have given us some examples. Can you give  
4 us any other examples as to what sort of behaviour he  
5 engaged in?

6 A. Like I said, when he was on the horse and if you were  
7 working there and you weren't working fast enough, he  
8 would just ride the horse straight into you and knock  
9 you over. And then he'd lean down and use his  
10 shillelagh on your back or your head. But that's about  
11 the only brutal part that MDJ performed on me.

12 Q. And in particular, he wasn't a sex abuser? Did he abuse  
13 you sexually?

14 A. Oh, no, no, not MDJ, not him, mate.

15 Q. Can you name some of the other brothers who were there  
16 when you were there?

17 A. Yeah, there was Brother MIU, Brother MDI,  
18 Brother LZF -- that's when all the abuse started in  
19 Bindoon.

20 Q. I'll come to that.

21 Before we look at that, Frederick, can you describe  
22 the premises for me? What was Bindoon?

23 A. Oh, the premises were good. They were good, solid  
24 buildings built by the boys over the years. There were  
25 big bedrooms -- or the veranda, you slept out on the

1 veranda, wherever the brother put you. So they were  
2 pretty good. The mess hall was good, it was nice and  
3 big to take the whole lot of us.

4 The meals were absolutely pathetic. And the grounds  
5 were huge. They had 72,000 acres of land.

6 Q. Focusing on the buildings, you mentioned in passing  
7 there that much of the work was done by the boys. Is  
8 that right? Were you involved in building work?

9 A. Yes, that's what I was saying about MDJ before.

10 After school we had to chip bricks -- they'd bring in --  
11 after buildings were demolished in Perth they'd bring  
12 the -- they'd truck the bricks up and then we had to use  
13 tomahawks to chip all the mortar off them so they could  
14 be reused to build, say, the piggery or the chook yard  
15 or whatever building that was on at the moment.

16 LADY SMITH: Frederick, how old were you when you started to  
17 do that work with the bricks?

18 A. I thought I was 7 years old, but I've found out that  
19 I was actually 9 when I come over. So to correct that,  
20 I was 9 years old.

21 LADY SMITH: So really from when you first went to Bindoon,  
22 you were having to do this building work?

23 A. Yes, straight into labour, mate, absolutely.

24 MR MacAULAY: The other boys, were they also engaged --

25 A. Yes, absolutely.

1 Q. What about the building itself? If you're building the  
2 piggery or whatever, who's doing the work?

3 A. Well, MDJ was in charge of the whole scenario, but  
4 for the ... for the marble and all that, he had the  
5 Italian workers come in to do that, the fancy work and  
6 ceilings and all that, but we built the staircases and  
7 the building with the mortar and bricks and all that.  
8 We mixed the mortar and everything like that. So  
9 we were actually -- as they call it now, we were TAs,  
10 trade assistants, to the specialists, put it that way.

11 Q. Are you able to tell me how many boys were at Bindoon  
12 when you were there?

13 A. Roughly, I reckon there was about between 120 and 150 of  
14 all different ages.

15 Q. How many brothers?

16 A. Oh, jeez, mate ... maybe eight or nine. It might have  
17 been 10 or 12. I can't give you a correct figure on  
18 that, mate.

19 Q. I'll ask you to look at a photograph and see if you  
20 recognise the place. This is at INQ-150. It'll come on  
21 the screen.

22 A. Yeah, that's Bindoon there, mate.

23 Q. It looks quite a grand building.

24 A. Oh, it was, yeah.

25 Q. When you arrived, was that part of the building built?

1 A. The main part of the building was built and also where  
2 the -- the big water tank, that was built there. But  
3 the other stuff was then all added on over the years.

4 Q. If we look at another photograph, INQ-170, is that  
5 another view of Bindoon?

6 A. Pardon?

7 Q. Is that another view of --

8 A. Absolutely, mate, 100%.

9 Q. The other photograph I just want to ask you about, and  
10 see if you recognise this one, is at INQ-146.

11 A. Yes, that's another part. That's the main entrance.  
12 All the fancy work that was done was done inside that  
13 main entrance with the marble, the marble staircases and  
14 all that.

15 Q. So the main entrance is the door we see in the centre of  
16 the photograph?

17 A. Yes, exactly.

18 Q. Can I just ask you a little bit about the routine then  
19 at Bindoon. Where did you sleep?

20 A. In a dorm or on the veranda, it depended. When we first  
21 went there, because the whole heap of us arrived there  
22 in the afternoon, I slept out on the veranda, and -- the  
23 dorm was taken up, plus the permanent boys were already  
24 there, so we slept on the veranda for most probably  
25 six months until eventually we went into the dorms.

1 Q. How many beds would there be in the dorms?

2 A. Oh ... 30 or 40, at least, at a minimum.

3 Q. Would the ages of the boys in the dormitories be mixed?

4 A. Yes, all mixed, yes, all mixed.

5 Q. So far as schooling was concerned, what was the  
6 schooling like at Bindoon?

7 A. Well, for me -- I can't talk for the other boys, but for  
8 me it was pretty well non-existent. I done -- over the  
9 four orphanages I only done two grades, and how that  
10 happened was when I went to the first grade in Bindoon,  
11 instead of putting me up the next year, I didn't go up  
12 the next year, because in 1948 I was moved out to  
13 Castledare. So I only learned one grade in Bindoon and  
14 the rest of it was all working.

15 Q. Was the schooling done in Bindoon itself?

16 A. The what?

17 Q. Was the education in-house, so to speak? Was the school  
18 in the building?

19 A. Oh yes, they had the classrooms, mate, yes.

20 Q. Were the brothers the teachers?

21 A. The brothers were the teachers, correct.

22 Q. At this time when you were at Bindoon, and we'll move on  
23 to the other places in a moment, did you know when your  
24 birthday was? Did you know your birthday?

25 A. You've lost me, mate.



1 LADY SMITH: Did you know the date that you were born,  
2 Frederick?

3 A. Oh, no, no, I knew nothing about my family or when I was  
4 born. I didn't even know how old I was until I left the  
5 orphanage.

6 LADY SMITH: Right.

7 MR MacAULAY: Did people come to visit Bindoon?

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. Who came to visit?

10 A. Only the -- I believe it was government representatives  
11 because when they were coming, we had to have clean  
12 clothes on and shoes on our feet, so we knew someone  
13 important was coming, and they'd just walk around and  
14 the pets, as we would call them, were the only ones who  
15 the people who came to visit were allowed to talk to.  
16 They weren't allowed to talk to the general population.

17 Q. And the boys who were the pets, who were they, why were  
18 they chosen?

19 A. Well, because they were better than what we were. They  
20 were better at school than what we were. They weren't  
21 troublemakers, as we were called, and all that stuff.  
22 They were taught how to speak to these people that came  
23 up, you know, the visitors that came up and all that.  
24 And there was always two or three brothers around to  
25 make sure that nothing went wrong.

1 Q. Were you ever in that category, were you ever a pet?

2 A. No way in the bloody world, mate.

3 Q. You've already mentioned how Brother MDJ behaved and  
4 how he would hit boys. What about other brothers? Did  
5 other brothers hit boys?

6 A. Yes. The majority of brothers in Bindoon used the strap  
7 very, very regularly, but guys like MDY and  
8 Brother LZF -- Brother LZF was in charge of the  
9 stock -- he'd use the whip on you if you were too slow,  
10 that was in the shearing sheds and in the cattle sheds  
11 and all that. Brother MDY would turn around and punch  
12 you straight in the head. I never got a strap off MDY  
13 in all the time I was there: it was always punches in  
14 the head.

15 Q. Was that treatment given to other boys?

16 A. Oh yes, absolutely. Absolutely, mate. The strap was on  
17 all the time. On all the time. You only had to be late  
18 in coming into the classroom or late turning up for work  
19 and you got six of the best.

20 Q. And which part on the body would you be hit on?

21 A. You could get it on your bum or you could get it on the  
22 hands -- and that depended on the brother at the time.  
23 There wasn't a set rule, like you had to get six on the  
24 hand all the time, no. So it depended on the brother  
25 who was going to give it to you.

1 Q. If it was on your bottom, would that be over your  
2 clothing or not?

3 A. In Bindoon, it was over your dacks, but in Clontarf you  
4 had to drop your dacks.

5 Q. If I can take you back to the chapter in the book  
6 that is your account of what happened. This is at  
7 WIT.003.001.8217 and it's page 4.

8 In this part 1 where you're looking at Bindoon,  
9 Fred, do you name a number of brothers who sexually  
10 abused you?

11 A. Correct.

12 Q. The first brother you mention there, although it has  
13 been redacted, is Brother MIU; is that right?

14 A. Correct.

15 Q. You go on to mention other brothers and I think some  
16 you've mentioned already. There's Brother MHZ ?

17 A. Correct.

18 Q. A Brother AKL ?

19 A. Correct.

20 Q. And also a Brother MDY, who you have already mentioned.

21 A. Brother who?

22 Q. MDY or MDY --

23 A. MDY I think it was.

24 Q. You have set out in the chapter that we're looking at,  
25 in some detail, Frederick, what happened to you; that is

1 the case, isn't it, the nature of the abuse?

2 A. Sorry?

3 Q. You've set out in your story the type and nature and  
4 extent of the sexual abuse.

5 A. Oh yes, mate, had to do that, otherwise it would have  
6 been useless, you know, to leave it out.

7 Q. If we turn to page 8220, page 7, this is the end of your  
8 time at Bindoon. If I can just read the second last  
9 paragraph, what you say is:

10 "So much for Bindoon: much pain; much horror; much  
11 brutality."

12 Does that summarise your --

13 A. It summarises the whole thing, mate, absolutely.

14 Q. "Many good friends I am about to leave behind. I hope  
15 you did not suffer at the hands of my tormentors.  
16 I have been told I am gong to a place called Castledare  
17 because I am so small. Some other boys are coming with  
18 me."

19 And you had been told that you were moving to  
20 Castledare?

21 A. Yes, I was called in one morning and they said, you're  
22 on the truck with Brother MDY and you're going to  
23 Castledare.

24 Q. If this is 1948 or thereabouts, so you'd be about 10?

25 A. Something like that.

1 Q. You go on to say:

2 "The Bindoon chapter closes. As a 9-year-old I am  
3 looking forward to the move because the horror will stop  
4 and my bottom, and other parts, will heal."

5 Does that perhaps tell us the extent of the sexual  
6 abuse that you suffered at Bindoon?

7 A. Yes. It was full on, mate. Absolutely full on, and it  
8 was also -- it led to a sad chapter of my time in the  
9 four orphanages where I used to have nightmares at  
10 night-time and also wet my bed, and through wetting my  
11 bed, I got really belted in the morning and had to stand  
12 out with the wet sheet over my head so the other boys  
13 could look and say, "He's a wet-the-bedder".

14 Q. Did that happen to you at Bindoon?

15 A. Yes, at Bindoon and Clontarf.

16 Q. Did other boys wet the bed?

17 A. Yes, especially in Clontarf. It was full on, that.

18 Q. And did that happen to them?

19 A. Yes, you had to stand out on the quadrangle with it over  
20 your head, the full sheet.

21 Q. Looking then to the position at Bindoon, Frederick,

22 I think you've named Brothers MIU, MHZ, AKL and

23 MDY. That's the four brothers in particular who  
24 sexually abused you?

25 A. Correct.

1 Q. Can I ask you this: so far as you are aware, do you  
2 think brothers generally knew that you were being  
3 sexually abused?

4 A. Oh, Jesus, mate, I couldn't answer that. I wouldn't  
5 have a bloody clue. I mean, I knew something was wrong,  
6 but I only knew that because they used to say if you  
7 sin, you're going to go to Purgatory and if you commit  
8 a bigger sin, like sex, you're going to go to Hell. But  
9 they were doing it and it was total confusion. You know  
10 what I mean? You understand that? It was total  
11 confusion and they were doing exactly to me what they  
12 were saying you're going to Purgatory or you're going to  
13 go to Hell for. And I never understood the whole thing.

14 It was only until I left the orphanage that  
15 I started talking to people and then I understood what  
16 it was all about.

17 Q. Are you able to say whether, for example,  
18 Brother [REDACTED] would know that Brother [REDACTED] was also  
19 sexually abusing you?

20 A. I believe so. I strongly believe so.

21 Q. And would Brother [REDACTED], for example, know that  
22 Brother [REDACTED] was sexually abusing you?

23 A. I would say so because Brother [REDACTED] was the first  
24 brother to attack me. It wasn't long after that when  
25 I was down in the piggery that Brother [REDACTED] come to me,

1 and they started all this, you know, "You play with  
2 yourself", and all this type of stuff, you know? And  
3 next thing you know, your dacks are down and they're  
4 inside your bum.

5 So the only conclusion you can come to is that  
6 MIU lagged on me to MHZ and maybe MHZ lagged on  
7 me to MDY and maybe MDY lagged on to me about  
8 Brother LZF That's all you could think, you know.

9 Q. So far as the sexual abuse at Bindoon was concerned,  
10 you have mentioned the piggery. What were the  
11 locations? Where was this abuse taking place?

12 A. It first started off with MIU -- I came from the --  
13 we had a swimming hole down the bottom of the hill where  
14 we used to swim in, and I come up from there and I was  
15 running late, but I was also limping and I had a blood  
16 blister on my foot, and also because I was a Pom, or  
17 from Europe, we were really white skinned and I got  
18 sunburned and I had blisters on my back, arms and legs,  
19 right?

20 So anyhow, he called me over and said, "I'll see you  
21 tonight in my room", and I said, "Yes, brother, no  
22 worries." He said, "We'll fix these blisters up for you  
23 and also we'll pierce the stone blister." Anyhow,  
24 I went to his room and he pricked all the sunburned  
25 blisters with a pin, and all the water come out of it

1 and that, and then he fixed up the stone blister, but at  
2 that time, I'd had my PJs off, you know? I had to take  
3 them off. Then he put calamine lotion on, which was  
4 a white paste sort of thing --

5 LADY SMITH: And it goes hard. It's liquid when it goes on  
6 the skin --

7 A. Yes. Absolutely. And then after that, he said, "Oh by  
8 the way, I believe you play with yourself." I said,  
9 "I don't know what you're talking about", and he said,  
10 "You know what I'm talking about", and he give me  
11 a beautiful backhander, and I said, "No, I don't",  
12 because the only thing I play with myself was with  
13 doogs, the marbles, I played doogs on my own. He said,  
14 "Don't be a smart one", and I got another backhander.  
15 Then after that, he was inside my bum.

16 MR MacAULAY: That was in his room. What about

17 Brother **MHZ**? Where did he abuse you?

18 A. Brother **MHZ** was a pretty sort of shrewd bugger.  
19 It would happen everywhere -- because he actually worked  
20 on the farm and he wasn't a teacher, he worked the farm  
21 with Brother **LZF** and all that.

22 So we'd be sucker-bashing and he'd drive up in the  
23 Fargo ute and turn around and say, "Right, Smith, I want  
24 you to open the gates for me because we're going to  
25 drive the sheep through there." So I'd get in the ute



1 with him, go and open the gate. I'd only open one gate  
2 and next thing he's all over me and my dacks are down  
3 and I'm getting raped on the back of the Fargo ute.

4 Q. Brother AKL if we look at page 5 of the chapter, 8218,  
5 if I can put that up, his name has been blacked out.  
6 It's "brother number 4" and that's Brother AKL.

7 If you go on to the following side of this page, you  
8 set out in your account here towards the top that you  
9 tell Brother AKL, "Brother MHZ plays with me all the  
10 time." Do you see that? Did you tell Brother AKL that  
11 you were being abused by Brother MHZ?

12 A. Well, I actually mentioned it to AKL because AKL  
13 didn't seem sort of a bad sort of guy. I'd never been  
14 belted by him, and it seemed to me that maybe I should  
15 sort of pass it on. I said, "Brother MHZ has been  
16 into my bottom and into my mouth", you know, and he  
17 asked me to explain and he done the same bloody thing.  
18 It was crazy. Just crazy life, mate. It was all part  
19 and parcel of growing up though. That was the system.

20 Q. If we go back to the page we looked at before at  
21 page 8220, page 7 of the chapter. You've reproduced  
22 here a photograph but again the face has been blacked  
23 out, but was that a photograph of Brother MDJ that's  
24 there?

25 A. Correct.

1 Q. You also have -- and we can make out the cap -- another  
2 photograph. Does the text tell us:

3 "Right [that's the photograph on the right], Police  
4 Commissioner John Doyle, whose friendship with MDJ  
5 helped keep the lid on the horrors of Bindoon."

6 And then below:

7 MDJ Man of God or 'Beast of  
8 Bindoon'?"

9 A. Correct.

10 Q. So what you're saying there is that there was  
11 a connection between Doyle and MDJ?

12 A. Yes. Well, it was pretty well-known, but it mainly came  
13 out when we left the orphanage system, why no police  
14 were ever involved in it, because what happened was  
15 there was a case that turned up in Bindoon where  
16 syphilis had gone through the orphanage, right? The  
17 health department came in and I believe the police were  
18 involved in it. But about the only way syphilis could  
19 have got into the orphanage, because there were no  
20 females there at all, was the brothers must have handed  
21 it on to the boys.

22 MDJ and Doyle were very, very good mates, both  
23 Irishmen, I believe they were, to be honest, but we  
24 didn't find that out until we actually left the  
25 orphanage.

1 Q. The outbreak of syphilis that you have mentioned, was  
2 that during your time or was it after you left Bindoon?

3 A. No, I think it was just before my time, mate. Just  
4 around about the time when I was there, but ...

5 Q. Then when you came to leave Bindoon, I think you tell us  
6 in your statement at paragraph 57 that you left Bindoon  
7 on 28 May 1948 and you were sent to Castledare Boys'  
8 Home; is that right? That's where you next went to,  
9 Castledare?

10 A. Yes, Castledare, I went to Castledare, absolutely.  
11 Castledare was the home for us little blokes who  
12 couldn't do the physical heavy work at Bindoon or  
13 Clontarf. We were sent there to mature a bit, if that's  
14 the word you want to use, and yeah, we went there.

15 Q. When you went, was there a group of young boys sent at  
16 that time?

17 A. When I went to Castledare, there was three or four kids  
18 who came with me from Bindoon. We went to Castledare.

19 Q. Again, if I could ask you to look at a photograph. I'll  
20 put this on the screen: INQ.001.004.0806.

21 A. Castledare, yeah, for sure, mate.

22 Q. Again, it's a grand looking building.

23 A. Oh yeah, they were all grand looking buildings, mate.

24 Q. And I don't think you had the same situation at  
25 Castledare as you had at Bindoon in that there wasn't

1           the building work that you had at Bindoon; is that  
2           right?

3           A. No, none.

4           Q. The next photograph -- I'll just ask you about this and  
5           see if it means anything to you -- is at INQ-165.

6           A. Yes, that's the dorm beds, that's the dormitory with all  
7           the beds in it.

8           Q. In Castledare?

9           A. Yes.

10          Q. So there seems to be quite a number of beds in that  
11          particular space.

12          A. Yes, mate.

13          Q. Are you able to say how many boys were at Castledare?

14          A. Castledare, most probably, give or take -- I'm just  
15          having a go at this -- I'd say maybe 40 or 50. It  
16          wasn't a big orphanage. As you can see, it was only  
17          a small place.

18          Q. The age range of the boys?

19          A. They would have been around about my age and some of  
20          them would have been younger.

21          Q. You were 10, so in that range and perhaps younger  
22          children?

23          A. Yes.

24          Q. Insofar as the routine was concerned then at Castledare,  
25          I think you didn't have the same work to do as you had

1           at Bindoon; is that correct? You didn't have building  
2           work or anything of that sort?

3           A. Oh, no, no, no.

4           Q. Do you remember visitors coming to Castledare to look  
5           at the place?

6           A. No, I don't remember visitors coming to Castledare.  
7           Only the official party, whatever they were, whether  
8           they were state government or whatever, but whoever they  
9           were, they were always -- had hats on and ties on, so  
10          they must have been someone high.

11          Q. So some official-looking people?

12          A. Yeah, they were definitely official-looking people.

13          Q. And what about speaking to the boys then? What was the  
14          set-up at Castledare?

15          A. Same set-up as Bindoon. A few of the boys were picked  
16          out and they just talked to them and that was it and  
17          they never bothered about the other boys.

18          Q. Were you ever picked?

19          A. Never. Never, mate. I was a bit of a mongrel.

20          Q. And discipline then? What can you tell me about the  
21          discipline at Castledare, what was that like?

22          A. The difference between Castledare -- in my eyes, we got  
23          better tucker, which was a big improvement, and they hit  
24          you with straps and all that type of stuff. The  
25          bed-wetters really got beltings, kids who wet their beds

1           really got a real hard time and all that type of stuff,  
2           but in reality they weren't as brutal as what the  
3           Bindoon brothers were.

4           Q. At that time were you still a bed-wetter?

5           A. Oh yes, mate, yes.

6           Q. And how were the bed-wetters treated apart from being  
7           belted?

8           A. They got punished pretty hard, we did, yes.

9           Q. And were you called any names?

10          A. Oh, no, only by the kids, but kids are kids. It's all  
11          part and parcel of growing up, mate, yeah? "Ah, you wet  
12          the bed, you wet the bed." It was nothing, mate.

13          LADY SMITH: I take it none of the brothers told them not to  
14          do that?

15          A. To wet the bed?

16          LADY SMITH: No, no, not to make fun of the boys who did wet  
17          the bed.

18          A. Oh no, they encouraged it. That's why they put the  
19          sheets over your head and stood you out on the  
20          quadrangle. No, they encouraged it, hoping that  
21          it would stop you from doing it. But trust me, it never  
22          worked, mate.

23          MR MacAULAY: Were there many boys --

24          A. Ah yes, there were a few wet-the-bedders, yes. In the  
25          four orphanages there were a few wet-the-bedders,

1 absolutely.

2 Q. Can I then go back to your account and to see what you  
3 say about Castledare. This will come on the screen  
4 again for you, Frederick. WIT.003.001.8221.

5 In your statement you say that you couldn't remember  
6 who was in charge at Castledare; is that right?

7 A. Yes, that's quite true, yes.

8 Q. You begin your chapter on Castledare by saying:

9 "The memories of Bindoon have disappeared. My  
10 bottom and private parts have healed. My head is  
11 getting better. I am enjoying life. The brothers are  
12 different. They only hit you on the hands ..."

13 Is that correct?

14 A. That's correct, yes, on my behalf, yes.

15 Q. "... or cuff you across the ear. Life was pretty easy.  
16 All the boys were small, aged about 6 to 8."

17 And you were 10. You then say:

18 "Brother MDH was the boss there. Not a bad guy,  
19 really."

20 A. I did say that. That's a long time ago. I couldn't  
21 actually say that he was the boss, but I'm pretty sure  
22 he was in my days.

23 Q. Okay. You then mention two particular brothers,  
24 a Brother MDF and a Brother MYK.

25 A. Correct.

1 Q. So far as Brother MDF was concerned, were you  
2 sexually abused by him?

3 A. Correct.

4 Q. How long had you been at Castledare before that began?

5 A. I'd say the beltings started pretty early because I was  
6 a wet-the-bedder, but the abuse would have started most  
7 probably about 5 weeks after being in Castledare.

8 Brother MDF was the first one to attack me in  
9 Castledare and then MYK joined into the affair.

10 Q. So far as Brother MDF was concerned, did he rape you?

11 A. Well, it was all rape, mate. I never gave them  
12 permission to enter my body at all, mate.

13 Q. And did that happen on a regular basis?

14 A. Correct.

15 Q. Insofar as Brother MYK is concerned, you say he's  
16 brother number 7. You say you gave him the nickname

17 "MYK"?

18 A. I nicknamed him MYK in Clontarf because if  
19 you can picture a truck engine and you get a hose,  
20 a little hose about as thick as that (indicating) coming  
21 from the carbie into the fuel bowl, right? And  
22 that's -- from the fuel bowl to the carbie, that's the  
23 fuel going in to keep the engine running, right?

24 Well, he used to be a mechanic, a lay brother, and  
25 because he used the -- so he had this hose what they



1 used to wrap up and he had it in his long dress, and  
2 when he used that, mate, trust me, I tell you what, it  
3 brought tears to the eyes. It'd have you dancing on  
4 your bloody toes like a ballerina, absolutely. Very,  
5 very painful.

6 Q. Where would he hit with you that?

7 A. You're too late, you looked at him the wrong way,  
8 whatever, you know. Or they heard the word, me saying  
9 "bloody" to someone, that was a real flogging.

10 Q. If we look at page 8222 of the account, that's at  
11 page 9. What you say if we look at the page on the  
12 right, above halfway:

13 "MYK [that's been blanked out]  
14 scrambled my head, or whatever you want to call it.  
15 While lying in that corner for so long, not seeing or  
16 hearing anything, just feeling the tears and snot on my  
17 face, feeling my body lying in my own pee and mess.  
18 I am so ashamed."

19 Did he have some sort of practice where he'd put you  
20 in a corner?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. What would happen?

23 A. What happened with MYK he was the only  
24 brother who could make me wet myself just if he looked  
25 at me, even if I was walking out on the parade ground or

1 I was down at the piggery or anything like that.

2 Once he looked at me and I just lost everything,  
3 because in his room he used to make me dance on my toes  
4 and used to wrap the hose around my private parts and  
5 also he'd hit my private parts with them and all that.  
6 And he'd stick it up my backside and then he used to  
7 make me go and lie in the corner and I'd be bawling my  
8 bloody eyes out and I'd lose everything, which was worse  
9 to me than what he was doing to me, because I messed  
10 myself and I peed myself, and that really affected me  
11 big time. It overpowered the use of the hose and the  
12 sexual abuse. It really did.

13 Q. So looking then to life at Castledare, so far as abuse  
14 or sexual abuse is concerned, it's really Brother **MDF**  
15 and **MYK** that you're pointing to; is that  
16 right?

17 A. Correct.

18 Q. If we look at page 8223, on to the next page, what you  
19 say towards the top there on the right-hand side is:

20 "I am leaving Castledare in the nick of time.  
21 I never made time to make friends. Brother **MYK**  
22 [that's **MYK**] was always in my head. I hope  
23 with all my body that **MYK** never got at  
24 another boy. If he did, to that boy I say, 'I hope you  
25 can survive like I did.'"

1 A. Correct.

2 Q. So were you happy to leave Castledare?

3 A. Oh, without a doubt, mate, I was over the bloody moon.

4 LADY SMITH: If I can just get this right, Frederick.

5 Initially, it looked like things were going to be okay  
6 at Castledare?

7 A. Sorry?

8 LADY SMITH: Initially, it looked like things were going to  
9 be okay at Castledare.

10 A. Initially, yes, I thought, oh this, is good because it  
11 started -- the first five weeks was only the strap. It  
12 was good, no problems. But jeez, I tell you what, it  
13 opened up like a bloody (overspeaking) gate.

14 LADY SMITH: From your description it sounds a bit like  
15 pushed over the edge of a cliff, would that be right?

16 A. Oh easy, yes, absolutely. And that was full time,  
17 madam.

18 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

19 A. Absolute full time.

20 MR MacAULAY: Can we then look at Clontarf? When you went  
21 to Clontarf, did other boys go with you?

22 A. I can't remember that, mate. I know I went, but I can't  
23 remember if any others come with me.

24 Q. And I think you went there in about 1950; is that right?

25 A. Yes, the sisters requested that -- I was too old to be

1 at Castledare and I must be shipped through to Clontarf.

2 Q. And if it's 1950, you're now about 12 years of age;  
3 is that right?

4 A. Yes, about that, yes.

5 Q. Again, if I can ask you about Clontarf. Again, all boys  
6 there, is that right? All boys? Can you tell me how  
7 many boys you think?

8 A. I'd say there would be -- there must have been 150 to  
9 200 kids there.

10 Q. The age range now?

11 A. The age range would have been between my age and going  
12 up to 14 and all that, you know.

13 Q. I should have asked you this about Castledare: so far as  
14 schooling was concerned, did you receive any education  
15 when you were at Castledare?

16 A. I received the education while I was there, but I stayed  
17 in the one grade all the time.

18 Q. At Castledare?

19 A. At Castledare, yes.

20 Q. Again, if I could ask you to look at a photograph to see  
21 if you can recognise what's in it. INQ.001.004.0807.

22 A. Yes, that's Clonnie, mate, that's Clontarf.

23 Q. If we look at the next photograph, that's  
24 INQ.001.004.0808, is that also --

25 A. Yes, that's the church.

1 Q. There's also another photograph if I can perhaps get to  
2 you look at that. It's INQ-167; do you recognise that?

3 A. Yes, that's a dorm, yes.

4 Q. At Clontarf?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. Again, there are quite a number of beds, not just at the  
7 sides but also down the middle of the dorm?

8 A. Oh yes, yes.

9 LADY SMITH: Frederick, in these dorms, where did you put  
10 your clothes at night?

11 A. Well, you only had a shirt and a pair of dacks.

12 LADY SMITH: Where did you put them?

13 A. Just put them alongside your bed.

14 LADY SMITH: Or on the floor?

15 A. On the floor, yes.

16 LADY SMITH: It doesn't look as though you had even a wee  
17 cupboard or a table for yourself.

18 A. No, nothing like that, not in the four orphanages,  
19 I never had that.

20 This one's ideal, this gives you a true picture  
21 basically of what it was like in Clonnie in the  
22 dormitories in my time. I must stipulate that.

23 MR MacAULAY: What about washing facilities? Where would  
24 you go to wash?

25 A. They had a community shower thing, you know. What we

1           used to have in the army: you all go into one shower,  
2           the showers come on, and you shower and soap yourself  
3           and all that. That was the same in Clontarf, that was  
4           the same in Castledare and in Tardun and also in  
5           Bindoon.

6           Q. Then you've told us about the number of boys you think  
7           might have been there. What about brothers? Can you  
8           tell me how many brothers were there?

9           A. I'd say at Clontarf there would have been a good dozen  
10          of them, maybe more.

11          Q. But were there particular brothers that you would deal  
12          with then on a daily basis?

13          A. Absolutely, yes.

14          LADY SMITH: Mr MacAulay, I wonder whether, before we go on  
15          to the individual brothers, we should take the morning  
16          break now, if that would work for Frederick.

17          MR MacAULAY: I think so.

18          LADY SMITH: Frederick, we usually take a break about this  
19          time of quarter of an hour or so. Would that work for  
20          you?

21          A. I wouldn't mind.

22          LADY SMITH: Let's do that then.

23          (11.32 am)

24   (A short break)

25          (11.50 am)

1 LADY SMITH: I hope the break helped, Frederick.

2 A. It did, Smithy, fair dinkum.

3 LADY SMITH: Good.

4 A. It was absolutely beautiful, mate.

5 LADY SMITH: Mr MacAulay, when you're ready.

6 MR MacAULAY: We've arrived at Clontarf, Frederick, and

7 I think you got there in about 1950.

8 A. Yeah, 1950 I went to Clonnie.

9 Q. And you have told us about, in particular, the physical  
10 and sexual abuse that you suffered at Bindoon and  
11 Castledare. I think you are saying that you saw other  
12 boys being physically abused at these places.

13 A. Oh, big time.

14 Q. Did you have any sense as to whether or not at these two  
15 places, Castledare and Bindoon, other boys were being  
16 sexually abused?

17 A. Well, it never entered my head because I had my own  
18 problems. I had voices in my head and everything like  
19 that, I was talking to them and they were talking to me,  
20 and it never entered my head that brothers were doing  
21 others. I thought I was a one-outer, you know, a loner.  
22 That was the way I thought all the way through the  
23 orphanage system.

24 Q. Do I take it from that that boys then did not discuss  
25 sexual abuse amongst themselves?

1 A. You've hit the nail on the head, mate. You've hit the  
2 nail on the head there.

3 Q. Do I take it you never discussed what was happening to  
4 you?

5 A. No way, no. That was under the fear of real bad  
6 treatment. Every one of the brothers who attacked me  
7 said the same thing, "You open your mouth, you'll pay."  
8 And I knew what "you pay" would be, you know.

9 Q. Let's then look at Clontarf for a moment or two. If  
10 I can take you back to the chapter in the book, this is  
11 at WIT.003.001.8224. That's page 11.

12 You begin by saying -- it has been blanked out, but  
13 you say there that Brother AKG was the boss.

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. Do you go on to say, "██████." Was he known as ██████?

16 A. I wouldn't know that, mate.

17 Q. But you say:

18 "He wasn't too bad."

19 A. No, he was a pretty harmless sort of old bugger.

20 Q. I think he was replaced during your time, is that right?

21 A. He was replaced, yes.

22 Q. And who replaced him?

23 A. I can't remember whether it was Brother MDI or ...

24 I can't think, mate.

25 Q. In your statement you mention -- what you say at



1 paragraph 72:

2 "Brother AKG was in charge at first before  
3 Brother MXC took over."

4 A. That's right, Brother MXC. A little fat Irish  
5 mongrel.

6 Q. The one thing you do tell us in this part of the  
7 account, in that second paragraph, is that:

8 "School dropped off a lot here."

9 A. Mm.

10 Q. "I was starting to get pulled out of school more often  
11 now, getting the way that some days I would only be in  
12 class for an hour, and finally it finished completely."

13 So I think what you're telling us there is that  
14 essentially, at the age of about 12 or so, your  
15 education finished; is that right?

16 A. Oh absolutely, yes.

17 Q. And you were essentially working?

18 A. Full time.

19 Q. And what sort of work were you doing?

20 A. I was milking the cows, feeding the chooks, feeding the  
21 pigs, looking after the horses. It was actually all  
22 farm work, put it that way. That's the easiest way to  
23 put it.

24 Q. Were you still wetting the bed?

25 A. Absolutely.

1 Q. And were there other boys who wet the bed as well?

2 A. Yes, they had the wet the bed dorm in Clonnie.

3 Q. Did anything happen to those that wet the bed?

4 A. Yes, they had to wear the sheet over their heads. I can  
5 say that for sure because normally I don't talk about  
6 the other boys because that's their story, you know, and  
7 this is mine.

8 Q. One of the things you say in your statement at  
9 paragraph 71 was -- and this is how you put it:

10 "Clontarf Boys' Home really opened the floodgates of  
11 abuse, especially the brutality of the physical abuse.  
12 All the brothers were violent."

13 A. Yes, absolutely, mate.

14 Q. How did that manifest itself, what did they do?

15 A. Well, on the violence side of it, the physical side of  
16 it, you'd get punched in the head, you'd be standing up  
17 against the wall and he'd say, "You've been playing up",  
18 and obviously you'd say, "No, I haven't played up at  
19 all, brother", and next thing you'd get a ripper to the  
20 bloody face, you'd get a double banger because your head  
21 would hit the wall and you'd slide down the wall and  
22 you'd see stars and everything -- or the boot would go  
23 right into your private parts.

24 The violence was horrendous at Clonnie, absolutely  
25 horrendous. They never bothered about the strap. When

1           you got the strap, you had to drop your dacks and you  
2           had to get it and the boys had to count, "One brother,  
3           two brother", so if you're getting 12 on the bum the  
4           boys were standing on the tables in the mess hall and  
5           counting out the strokes for the brother.

6           Q. Was this on your bare bottom?

7           A. Oh yeah, absolutely, yeah. It did stop eventually, but  
8           while I was there it was full on.

9           Q. You tell us about an incident that happened involving  
10          Brother **MXC** and a young boy who was told to put his  
11          hands into hot water. This is at paragraph 91. Perhaps  
12          we can put that on the screen.

13          A. Yes. We were working -- I was working in the kitchen  
14          that day as a pot-walloper and Brother **MXC** came in --  
15          and this guy was totally mental, he was off the deep  
16          end -- and he said to the young guy, I can't think of  
17          his name, he said to the young bloke, "Put your hand  
18          in the water, those dishes are greasy, your water's not  
19          hot enough", and he said, "It is, brother." Then he put  
20          it in and pulled it straight out again. **MXC** just  
21          picked him up and threw him straight into the trough.

22                 He come out screaming so we had to grab hold of him  
23                 and he was all pink, all his skin was really, really  
24                 pink and swollen up. And **MXC** just said, "Take him  
25                 straight across the road", because across the road the

1 nuns had the first aid type thing, if you could call it  
2 that, and we took him across there and that was the end  
3 of it. That was beyond punishment, mate, that was  
4 just -- that was an act of an animal, you know.

5 Q. I think you say in your statement that he was in the  
6 infirmary for about a week or so.

7 A. Pardon?

8 Q. You say in the --

9 A. Yes, that's the word I was looking for before, the  
10 infirmary, not the first aid.

11 Q. You mentioned nuns there. Did the nuns have a presence  
12 then at Clontarf?

13 A. Yes. They were in charge of the infirmary, but they had  
14 nothing to do with the boys, it was only on the sickness  
15 side of it. They had their own headquarters further up  
16 towards the main Dumbartung road. And they were up  
17 there, we had nothing to do with them, we weren't  
18 allowed to go anywhere near their quarters or anything  
19 like that.

20 Q. I should have perhaps asked you this before. If you  
21 look at Bindoon and Castledare, was there a female  
22 presence in these places?

23 A. There was nuns in Bindoon. They were right up on the  
24 hill to the right-hand side of the main building. And  
25 in Castledare, no, I don't remember seeing a nun, mate.

1 Q. So was it just the Christian Brothers themselves?

2 A. Yes, just the Christian Brothers, yes.

3 Q. But at Bindoon did you have much to do with the nuns?

4 A. No, mate, no. Very, very little. Again, if you broke  
5 a shank or anything like that, or a wing, you went off  
6 to hospital, but if you had just taken bark off and  
7 stuff like that and it just needed a bandage on it, or  
8 swollen ankle, well, the nuns would fix that up because  
9 they had a fear of sending you off to hospital. That  
10 stood out big time too, believe you me, this fear of  
11 taking you off to hospital.

12 Q. Do you know why that fear was there?

13 A. They had to answer to the child welfare department, why  
14 and what happened, and everything like that.

15 Q. Another thing you tell us about Brother <sup>MXC</sup> was that  
16 he was gun crazy.

17 A. Oh!

18 Q. And I think you give an example of something that  
19 happened. Can you tell us about that incident?

20 A. Well, we used to have pet horses, right? <sup>MXC</sup> one  
21 day when we were all in church, went out there and shot  
22 four of them. Then we had to go -- put the chain around  
23 their legs, take them down to the piggery, chop them up  
24 and put them in the boilers to feed the pigs.

25 Another time, we were on the truck up at Lancelin

1 and we went out to Rushuden(?) and one of the kids  
2 turned around and said, "There's a roo, brother", and  
3 **MXC** turned around and said, "Who said that?" and  
4 there were at least 30 of us on the back of this bloody  
5 inter(?) and he turned around and he hit them on the  
6 head with a fully loaded gun, just bang. Crazy, man,  
7 absolutely crazy.

8 Q. The shooting of the horses, was that simply for horse  
9 meat or was it --

10 A. No, no, that was it. He was just gun crazy, mate, he  
11 just shot all our pet horses. And that upset a lot of  
12 boys. That really hit them hard.

13 Q. Were the boys present when this happened?

14 A. Oh, no, no, no, no.

15 Q. You also tell us that he shot all the pet dogs.

16 A. Yes, absolutely, yes, shot all the pet dogs.

17 Q. Do you know why he did that?

18 A. Actually, that caused a bit of a hassle, shooting the  
19 dogs, because as you know, I don't know if you're an  
20 animal lover, but if you've got a pet dog and you're  
21 looking after it and you bath it and all that type of  
22 stuff, and then someone comes out of the blue and just  
23 puts it down, you're going to go off the deep end. So  
24 we sort of rioted a bit.

25 Eventually it all calmed down and everything like

1           that, but the ones who were in the riot really got  
2           floggings big time.

3           Q. Are you saying because he shot the dogs --

4           A. Absolutely, 100%.

5           Q. -- the children made a row about it?

6           A. Oh absolutely.

7           Q. What did they do? What happened, what did the children  
8           do?

9           A. Well, we were supposed to go into church, we were all  
10          lined up, and then we heard that the dogs had been shot,  
11          so we didn't go into church and we just were marching up  
12          and down, calling him a killer and everything like that,  
13          and the pets raced into the brothers' place, the  
14          brothers were all looking out and writing down the names  
15          of the ringleaders and everything like that, that type  
16          of stuff. They made us pay later on, they made us pay  
17          big time.

18          Q. In what way?

19          A. Oh, beltings, absolutely big time, really big time. Two  
20          brothers on to one kid. And when you are talking  
21          about -- I'm only a little runt, so you can imagine me  
22          at 12, no fat on me, just skin and bones, and getting  
23          stuck into by two guys with boots and fists. You can  
24          imagine the damage that they're doing to me.

25          Q. And how many boys were targeted in this way?

1 A. They got shipped up to Tardun. That's why we ended up  
2 in Tardun. There were eight of us shipped up.

3 Q. Do you relate that to the fact that you had been  
4 involved in this --

5 A. In this riot, yes.

6 Q. Can we go back to your account in the book then,  
7 Frederick? This is at WIT.003.001.8224. Towards the  
8 top of the page, you mention brother number 8. This is  
9 Brother [MDI] is that right?

10 A. Brother [MDI] yes, [MDI].

11 Q. Was that his nickname?

12 A. Yes, [MDI].

13 Q. You begin by describing him, that he was over 6 feet  
14 tall and he weighed about 16 stone; is that right?

15 A. Yes, he was as big as [MDJ]. Yeah, he was a big man,  
16 he was.

17 Q. You then go on to say this:

18 "When he gave me six of the best on the bottom in  
19 front of the rest of the boys, I copped that sweet. But  
20 when he did it with no one around, I had to go to his  
21 room and he went about it in a different way."

22 Is that right?

23 A. Definitely, yes.

24 Q. Did he sexually abuse you?

25 A. Correct. Getting belted in front of the other kids, you



1 got so -- by the age of bloody 9 or 10, you were so used  
 2 to it, it didn't worry you, you know. You got a belting  
 3 and you'd be sore and blue, and 10 minutes later you're  
 4 out with your mates and you're playing and laughing and  
 5 bloody joking. But when I went to his room, then I had  
 6 to give him a blow job. I still got six or eight on the  
 7 bum, because I had to take my clothes off, and then  
 8 I had to put my head under his black dress and give him  
 9 a bloody blow job. So just entirely different  
 10 punishment.

11 Q. Did that happen more than once?

12 A. Yes. In Clontarf, the easiest way to put it to you,  
 13 I was used as a girl, three times a week on average for  
 14 the two years I was there. And that included blow jobs  
 15 and also raping of the bum. That averaged three times  
 16 a week.

17 Q. Was that Brother MDI in particular?

18 A. Not only Brother MDI; Brother MHZ, Brother MYK,  
 19 there was a few of them, Brother AKL.

20 Q. Brother AKL, he of course was at Castledare.

21 A. No, not AKL ... I'm not sure any more.

22 Q. I think you tell us, if we read on in the book, that  
 23 Brother MHZ appeared again.

24 A. Yes. MHZ was shipped down from Bindoon to Clontarf  
 25 and he was working overtime, that bloke, with the kids,

1 had to be.

2 Q. You think he might have been moved because he had been  
3 abusing children?

4 A. It was the rumour. It was rumoured in Clonnie that  
5 he was shipped because of his -- you know, interfering  
6 with kiddies.

7 Q. He had been one of your abusers when you'd been in  
8 Bindoon?

9 A. He was an abuser in Bindoon and an abuser in Clontarf.

10 Q. You mention in that main paragraph an incident involving  
11 another boy, a 13-year-old boy who had run away and was  
12 taken back by the police.

13 A. Correct.

14 Q. Can you tell me about what happened there?

15 A. [REDACTED]? Did you say [REDACTED]?

16 Q. You are telling us there about a boy, we needn't name  
17 him, but he ran away and then when he was brought back  
18 by the police, something happened to him?

19 A. Yes. They lined us all up in the quadrangle all in  
20 file, and Brother [REDACTED] MDI -- [REDACTED] MDI as we called  
21 him -- and Brother [REDACTED] AKN had [REDACTED] up there,  
22 because he was the kid who ran away, and they really got  
23 stuck into him, boots, fists and everything.

24 [REDACTED] was only my age then, so we were about  
25 12 years old.

1           When they finished, he wasn't moving. He just  
2 wasn't moving. He was on the deck and that was it. And  
3 that was done and the brothers turned around and then  
4 addressed the lot of us and said, "This is what happens  
5 when you run away, because it involves the police, it  
6 involves the child welfare." Again, you see, it was  
7 that fear of getting outside -- outside help coming in,  
8 sort of business. It all had to be kept in office or  
9 whatever ...

10 Q. In-house?

11 A. In-house, that's the word I'm looking for, curly.

12 Q. Did you ever run away?

13 A. Oh God, no, mate, no. After what they done to

14 [REDACTED], no way in the world, mate.

15 Q. If I can take you to the bottom of that particular page,  
16 what you say is this, in relation to Brother MHZ  
17 that:

18           "He turned from touching at night in Bindoon to  
19 taking me during the day in Clontarf"; is that right?

20 A. Exactly, yes. Down at the chook yard or the piggery or  
21 the cowshed.

22 Q. You then go on to say:

23           "The brothers were shipped around the orphanages to  
24 carry out their vile deeds."

25           Is that something you have learned since? How

1 do you come about to make that statement?

2 A. I made the statement through my own brain, that when  
3 MHZ was shifted from Bindoon to Clontarf and then  
4 MYK was shifted from Castledare to Clontarf, and  
5 there was another brother shifted ... I can't think of  
6 his name at the moment. It had to do with something  
7 that had gone overboard, somehow or other it might have  
8 got to the superior or whatever. You know? I don't  
9 know. But I assume that.

10 Q. Right.

11 A. Because it didn't make sense. They were already settled  
12 in Bindoon and they were already settled in Clontarf, so  
13 why shift them around? It never made sense to us.

14 Q. You go on to say in the next sentence there:

15 "The times I stood over drinking troughs, sat in  
16 them to wash my bottom ..."

17 That's something you'd do. Would that be relatively  
18 public, would people see that?

19 A. Say that again?

20 Q. It's that sentence if you look at what's on the board,  
21 you say:

22 "The times I stood over drinking troughs, sat in  
23 them to wash my bottom. I am so confused, what has  
24 happened to me?"

25 This washing your bottom in the trough, was that

1 something that people would see you were doing?

2 A. Oh, no, no, because it was always done one-outer, I mean  
3 the brother would never sexually abuse you in front of  
4 another kid, no way in the world. It was all secrecy.

5 So when they finished with you, and you had stuff  
6 coming out of your bottom, especially when I was down  
7 the piggery or in the chook yard and that, I used to  
8 wash it in the drinking trough.

9 When I was out in the bush up in Tardun and that,  
10 I used to wipe it with the gum leaves and clean myself  
11 up and then pull my pants back up.

12 Q. You also mention, if we move on to the next page, at  
13 8225, page 12 of the account, you mention

14 a Brother [AKP] ?

15 A. Brother [AKP].

16 Q. I think he was also an abuser?

17 A. Yes, exactly. Brother [AKP] was the name I was looking  
18 for before, not Brother [AKL] [AKP] we called  
19 him because he was a fist mongrel.

20 Q. You talk about him, in that section of the account, him  
21 making you dance on your toes?

22 A. Yes, the one who made me dance on my toes was  
23 Brother [AKP] but also Brother [MYK]. He was unreal,  
24 that guy. He was totally unreal. He stuffed my head up  
25 real bad, real, real bad.

1 Q. That's Brother MYK [REDACTED] ?

2 A. Yes. This was in Clonnie. [REDACTED]

3 [REDACTED] to end it all. I didn't know I was attempting  
4 suicide, but [REDACTED]. I was gone for  
5 all money, I was just gone. [REDACTED]

6 [REDACTED] and all that. Sadly, I didn't have the guts to  
7 bloody complete it. [REDACTED]

8 [REDACTED]

9 [REDACTED] So sadly, I didn't complete  
10 the act. But at that time, I didn't know that was  
11 suicide. I only found that out when I went into the  
12 army and the psychos got stuck into me.

13 Q. But in relation to Brother AKP [REDACTED] he also did things to  
14 you that made you dance on your toes?

15 A. He inflicted pain with his fingers on my private parts,  
16 my testicles and all that, and he'd twist them and I'd  
17 be crying away there and he'd call me a sook and I'd be  
18 dancing on my bloody toes. Pain does weird things to  
19 you, mate. I wouldn't dance on my toes in front of  
20 a bloody brother if my life depended on it, but when  
21 they inflict that type of pain on your private parts,  
22 you've got to try and do something to ease it.

23 Q. Where would this happen?

24 A. In his bedroom.

25 Q. You also tell us in your statement at paragraph 87 about

1 a brother who had the nickname MXD [REDACTED].

2 A. Oh, MXD [REDACTED]. Brother MXD [REDACTED] yes.

3 Q. What about him? Why did he have that nickname?

4 A. Well, he was the quiet perpetrator. He ran the tuck  
5 shop. The tuck shop used to open on a Saturday,  
6 Saturday afternoon, and if you were a good kid, you got  
7 a block of chocolate or a handful of lollies, but if you  
8 had played up or had been punished during the week, you  
9 didn't get anything. But he used to take kids into the  
10 tuck shop and used to interfere with them.

11 He used to roam the bedrooms at night -- you saw the  
12 big bedroom, he used to roam those at night-time and  
13 pick his prey. That was quite common, that was  
14 well-known, and that's why they called him MXD [REDACTED]

15 [REDACTED] MXD [REDACTED]

16 You couldn't hear him walk past your bed or anything  
17 like that, but it was a touch on the head and wake you  
18 up and then off he'd go and he'd take you into the tuck  
19 shop because he was the only bloke who had a key to it.  
20 Then he'd give you a couple of lollies or a bar of  
21 chocolate and tell you: keep your mouth bloody shut.

22 Q. Did that happen to you?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. Were you sexually abused by him?

25 A. Yes, but he's not mentioned as a sexual abuser, the

1 simple reason is he never entered me, never entered my  
2 mouth, never entered my bottom. I didn't know what  
3 he was doing in those days -- I know now it's sexual,  
4 but in those days I just thought he was playing with me.

5 Q. You also tell us in your statement, Frederick, about the  
6 bandmaster.

7 A. Oh, yeah, **AKG** -- no, not him --

8 Q. I think you mention the name **LZD**.

9 A. **LZD** yes, yes.

10 Q. Can you tell us about him? What did he do?

11 A. **LZD** was a bit of a weirdo. I was in the band learning  
12 to play the trombone.

13 Q. This person wasn't a brother?

14 A. No, no, he wasn't a brother, he was an Aboriginal.  
15 He was the bandmaster, he was teaching me how to play  
16 the trombone. I couldn't get on to it.

17 Just to shorten it all, he'd invite you back to his  
18 room and he'd start off -- he'd have an apple or an  
19 orange in his pants and he'd ask you to put your hand in  
20 there and get it out and all that. You know? I didn't  
21 put that down as sexual abuse, but what he used to do  
22 was he used to dress you with no understranglers or  
23 anything like that in a girl's dress and put powder on  
24 you and this bloody lipstick and all that type of stuff.  
25 Then he would put his hand under the dress and you had



1 to lift the dress up and he'd be playing with you.

2 He was a very vile man.

3 Q. Did that happen to you on more than one occasion?

4 A. Oh absolutely, I'd say with <sup>LZD</sup> [REDACTED] it'd be a good  
5 eight times and then I left the band. Once I left the  
6 band, I had nothing else to do with him.

7 Q. Were there boys there who were the brothers' pets? Were  
8 there boys at Clontarf who were the pets, pets of the  
9 brothers?

10 A. The boys who were pets at Clontarf were sent on to  
11 Aquinas College for further education, whereas with me,  
12 Brother <sup>AKG</sup> [REDACTED] called me in when I first went to  
13 Clonnie after a couple of months and said, "The brothers  
14 can't teach you, so from now on you're on the farm and  
15 that's it, your education's finished, mate."

16 But the pets, they were sent off because they were  
17 better educated and they had more brains than what we  
18 had, and they were sent off to Aquinas College to learn  
19 proper and they got good meals and everything like that,  
20 whereas we got boo-goo in the morning, a plate of soup  
21 at night-time, and bloody stewed veggies and all that at  
22 lunchtime.

23 Q. In relation to each of the places you've been telling us  
24 about so far, Bindoon, Castledare and Clontarf, you were  
25 a child migrant there --

1 A. Correct.

2 Q. -- as were others. Were there children there who were  
3 not child migrants?

4 A. Yes, there were some Aussies there for sure.

5 Q. At each of these places?

6 A. And a couple of them were -- I think the [REDACTED] brothers  
7 were of Aboriginal descent. They were good bluers(?),  
8 they were, good kids too.

9 Q. But were there Australian children in each of these  
10 places so far as --

11 A. No, not in Bindoon and not in Castledare, but in Clonnie  
12 there was people like [REDACTED], for argument's  
13 sake, he had a mother and father, and he was an Aussie,  
14 but he grew up with us.

15 Q. You tell us that he left Clontarf and went to Tardun  
16 Farm School in September 1952.

17 A. Correct.

18 Q. And in September 1952, you would be coming up to 14,  
19 maybe 14?

20 A. Yes, about that, yes.

21 Q. When you went to Tardun, did you go alone or did other  
22 boys go with you?

23 A. No, there was about eight of us. That distance --  
24 because we were on the right and eight of us were  
25 shifted 300 miles north-east of Perth on to Tardun, up

1 to Tardun, which was another orphanage run by the  
2 Christian Brothers.

3 Q. If I could ask you again to look at another photograph,  
4 that's at INQ-171.

5 A. Yes, that is Tardun, mate, even though it's upside down.  
6 That's it.

7 Q. Again, it's a fairly substantial building?

8 A. Oh, Christ, yeah. They all were, mate, they were  
9 rippers.

10 Q. And do we see the chapel, for example, to the very --  
11 sticking out at the front in that photograph?

12 A. Yes. That chapel was built after I left. The other  
13 buildings we were working on. But the chapel after  
14 I left was actually built -- it was built by the Maltese  
15 migrants and paid for too.

16 Q. Then focusing on life at Tardun for a moment or two,  
17 again can I ask you, how many boys were there when  
18 you were there?

19 A. I'd say at Tardun, there would most probably be about 80  
20 of us.

21 Q. And the age range?

22 A. The age range would have been 14 upwards.

23 Q. So far as brothers were concerned, can you say how many  
24 brothers were there?

25 A. Maybe 13 or 14. But some of them were lay brothers.

1           They actually controlled the farm, the wheat and the  
2           sheep and the cattle and the pigs and the chooks and all  
3           that type of stuff. They had 72,000 acres of land.

4           Q. When you went there, were you essentially going there to  
5           work on the farm?

6           A. That's the way it looked to me, mate.

7           Q. Were there boys there, though, who were being schooled,  
8           who were getting some education?

9           A. Yeah, other kids were getting an education, yes.

10          Q. And so far as Tardun is concerned, were there Australian  
11          children there as well as migrants?

12          A. No, I'm not too sure about at Tardun because they had  
13          Maltese and all us child migrants there. The Maltese  
14          were child migrants too. But they sort of started  
15          outnumbering the Poms and all that, and the Irish, yes.

16          Q. Apart from yourself working there, were there other boys  
17          of your age who were also working on the farm?

18          A. Oh absolutely, yes. Absolutely. The same age as me.

19          ██████████ and I worked 8 hours a day on the farm,  
20          mate: sucker-bashing, fencing, building roads, rock  
21          crushing, the whole lot, driving sheep, cattle, you  
22          know, milking, feeding the pigs. It was a full-time  
23          8-hour a day job, it was, and no schooling. Only you  
24          had to go to church, but you had to go to church in the  
25          morning before you went out and when you came back,

1 before you went to bed, you had to go to bloody church  
2 again.

3 Q. Did you sleep in dormitories as you had done before?

4 A. Yes, I slept out on the veranda at Tardun. But they had  
5 dorms, but nowhere near as big as Clonnie.

6 Q. And the food now, what was the food like at Tardun?

7 A. The fruit?

8 Q. The food.

9 A. Oh, just basic, mate. It was a bit better than Clonnie  
10 because the work was a lot harder, it was a bit better,  
11 but it was just plain. Everything was steam cooked.

12 Q. If we look at your account in the book, the chapter  
13 in the book, if I can turn to page 8225, that's page 12.  
14 We're now looking at Tardun. You mention a brother  
15 number 10, Brother LZG ?

16 A. Yes, he was an Irish bloke and he was the boss.

17 Q. I think you were punished by him on a number of  
18 occasions, is that right?

19 A. A lot of occasions, yeah. I was reported for not  
20 working hard enough on the farm doing the sucker-bashing  
21 and all that type of stuff, and I had to report to  
22 Brother LZG and the brother who lagged on me had  
23 to be there and give his story, and I just used to say  
24 I worked as hard as I could. That's all I could. I had  
25 no other way of putting it.

1           Anyhow, the brother was dismissed and I had to take  
2 my clothes off and lie across his bench like that  
3 (indicating), and at that time he used to -- he had  
4 a bamboo stick and he used to give me 12 across the bum.  
5 Not fast either, just nice and slow and methodical, it  
6 was.

7           Q. Would that cause injury?

8           A. Oh, big time. The pain, mate, Jesus. For a couple of  
9 days later, yes, you'd have the pain in your bum.

10          Q. Were you sexually abused when you were --

11          A. No, not by -- I'll give them that, never by him. That's  
12 all it was with him.

13          Q. But were you sexually abused there by other brothers?

14          A. Oh, absolutely, mate, yeah, absolutely. Brother **LZF**,  
15 Brother **AKR** Brother **AKJ**. I think that was all  
16 in Tardun. Tardun wasn't as bad as Clonnie. But it  
17 still worked out in Tardun a couple of times a week that  
18 I was used as a girl.

19          Q. By different brothers?

20          A. By different brothers, yes.

21          Q. You're getting older now of course, you're 14 and  
22 getting older.

23          A. Absolutely.

24          Q. Did there come a point in time at Tardun when the sexual  
25 abuse stopped?

1 A. The sexual abuse stopped when I got rheumatic fever.

2 Q. I was asking going to ask you about that. What age were  
3 you when what happened?

4 A. Fifteen.

5 Q. What happened when you had rheumatic fever?

6 A. When I had rheumatic fever, I still got my punishments  
7 off <sup>LZG</sup> [REDACTED] for not doing things properly according to  
8 the brother who lagged on me, and I had swollen joints,  
9 my knees and ankles were swollen up, my wrists were  
10 swollen up and I used to have to hold on to the table  
11 and I'd still get 12 on the bum. And it was  
12 double-bangers because every time it landed on my bum,  
13 the pain went straight through my knees and my ankles  
14 and also my wrists were all swollen up. But he never,  
15 ever sexually abused me, that guy, never, but he  
16 believed in punishment.

17 I used to have to crawl across the part of the --  
18 part of the punishment was I used to get from the main  
19 building to the dunny, which was over here, and I used  
20 to have to sit on my bum and crawl across there because  
21 I couldn't walk on my ankles and my knees and I couldn't  
22 make the dunny, so I'd mess myself or pee myself, and  
23 then I had to go to the brother and tell him that I'd  
24 messed myself and he'd give me a flogging and put me  
25 under the cold shower and the cold shower used to hit my

1           swollen joints and all that, and the pain was  
2           horrendous. Absolutely horrendous.

3       Q. Did you --

4       A. And because I couldn't stand up in the shower, I had to  
5       sit on the floor.

6       Q. Did you eventually get treatment for the rheumatic  
7       fever?

8       A. The only thing that was moving was my eyes. I couldn't  
9       talk and everything was swollen, my neck, my whole body  
10      was round. And eventually, they had no choice but to  
11      send me to the Motherwell hospital on the back of a ute,  
12      25 miles away on corrugated roads. And I was to tell  
13      the doctor that I'd walked in my sleep and fell down the  
14      stairs. I told the doctor that and a couple of days  
15      later, he came back to me and said, "That's a lie,  
16      Frederick, that is a lie, you didn't fall down no  
17      stairs." I said, "That's what the brothers told me,  
18      mate, I'm telling you." He said, "No, you're a very,  
19      very sick boy", and I was in hospital for 61 days with  
20      rheumatic fever. So that was painful, very painful.

21      Q. Did you recover?

22      A. Well, yeah, I recovered, but the best part about it is  
23      peace started to arrive. After that, no brothers  
24      sexually abused me because I explained to Dr Lynch  
25      what was going on, he asked me, and my food improved.



1           They had to give me eggs and bacon and proper food  
2           because of the rheumatic fever to build my heart and all  
3           that up. The rest of the stay in Tardun, I still had to  
4           work out in the paddock, but it wasn't bad.

5           Q. So you went back to Tardun after you'd been in hospital?

6           A. Oh yes, absolutely, mate.

7           Q. In your statement, if I can look at paragraph 111, when  
8           you were in hospital with rheumatic fever in 1953, you  
9           say that one of the nurses caught you playing with  
10          yourself.

11          A. Exactly, yes.

12          Q. And you say she couldn't understand why you weren't  
13          embarrassed.

14          A. But I wasn't.

15          Q. Is that because you didn't consider you were doing  
16          anything wrong?

17          A. It wasn't wrong because the brothers were doing it to  
18          me, so how could it be wrong if I'm playing with myself?  
19          They were doing worse things to me, they were entering  
20          my mouth and my bottom. All I was doing was playing  
21          with myself because it felt good, so to me, I thought,  
22          shit, there's nothing wrong with that, mate.

23          Q. Was it after that you spoke to Dr Lynch?

24          A. Dr Lynch came and saw me, yeah.

25          Q. And in relation to the abuse, what did you tell

1 Dr Lynch?

2 A. I told him exactly what went on and he said he'd look  
3 into it, but like everything else, it was covered up.  
4 No further action was proceeded with.

5 Q. But did you tell him that you were sexually abused,  
6 including being raped by a brother or brothers?

7 A. Mm. All the brothers who attacked my rear end or mouth  
8 raped me. There's no argument. I didn't know about  
9 that in those days, that it was rape or whatever, but  
10 when I got out the orphanage, and when I explained it to  
11 someone, he said, "That's complete rape, no more, no  
12 less." So that's what it was.

13 Q. Did you tell the doctor, Dr Lynch, that?

14 A. I told Dr Lynch that, yeah, they were entering my bottom  
15 and my mouth and he said he'd definitely look into it.  
16 He must have said something to the brothers because when  
17 I came back to Tardun after the 61 days in hospital, it  
18 all stopped, even the beltings stopped.

19 Q. And what you tell us in your account at page 8228  
20 is that you were in hospital -- and you give the date --  
21 until 12 January 1953.

22 A. Mm-hm.

23 Q. And you went back to Tardun after that?

24 A. Mm-hm.

25 Q. When did you leave Tardun?

1 A. I left Tardun when I turned 16, which was the first time  
2 I knew how old I was.

3 Q. How did that come about?

4 A. Well, apparently the contract with the  
5 Christian Brothers and the Commonwealth Government and  
6 the child welfare department was when we turned 16, we  
7 had to leave the orphanage and we had to go out to work,  
8 but under the child welfare then, until we were 21. So  
9 we were basically on probation until we were 21, and  
10 they put us on farms and all that type of stuff, you  
11 know.

12 But I always -- even today, I still laugh at it, but  
13 I was called into LZG's office and AKJ was  
14 standing alongside him. He said, "Well, Smith, you have  
15 turned 16 and now you've got to leave the orphanage.  
16 I've tried everything to turn you into a decent person.  
17 One day they're going to make a rope and they're going  
18 to bloody hang you, I'm telling you. Get out of here.  
19 Take him to the Tardun railway station."

20 They gave me a little pack of sandwiches to travel  
21 all the way to Perth on the train, over 300 miles away.

22 Q. Then if I can go back to your account at  
23 WIT.003.001.8229.

24 On that page I think you do tell us about when you  
25 came to leave Tardun. Towards the bottom do you say:

1            "I walked out of Tardun and the care of the  
2 Christian Brothers. This ended my education in the arts  
3 of brutality, sex, religion and violence."

4            Is that right?

5            A. Correct.

6            Q. When you mention at the bottom:

7            "Brothers AKR, MBC, LXD [these are names  
8 that have been blocked out], shame on you."

9            What are you referring to there?

10           A. Well, it's what they done to me. I couldn't think of  
11 what to say. I just didn't have the education. There  
12 was words I wanted to put there, so I just put, "Shame  
13 on you for what you done to me." That was pretty  
14 simple. I wanted to put proper words in there, but  
15 I just didn't have the brains to do it, so I just put,  
16 "Shame on you."

17           Q. Do you apply that to all the brothers that --

18           A. Absolutely, the whole 15 of them.

19           Q. And you then in what is part 5, you have the heading:

20           "The Four Homes: an Overview."

21           If we go through this:

22           "Bindoon, there were more good times than bad times.  
23 I hope other boys never went through the evil side of  
24 this place."

25           Is that your overview of Bindoon?

1 A. Yes. Well, see, even though it all started in Bindoon,  
2 what I liked about Bindoon was I was working more than  
3 I was in school, because ... I don't know what it was.  
4 Maybe because I wasn't getting belted in school and all  
5 that type of stuff with rulers and straps for not being  
6 able to do my work, schooling work. But there was still  
7 an evil side, don't get me wrong there, still an evil  
8 side for sure.

9 Q. For Castledare you say:

10 "Life there was mostly good. Things were a lot  
11 easier."

12 And you go on to say:

13 "I hope none of these small boys met the same fate  
14 as I did at the hands of my sexual abuser, especially  
15 MYK."

16 A. Yes, exactly, yes, because even though I was a skinny  
17 little runt, some of these kids were a lot smaller than  
18 me and a lot younger than me and I sincerely hoped in my  
19 own heart and mind that they hadn't gone through what  
20 I went through, because it's such a painful experience  
21 and could damage them too, you know. It could have  
22 damaged them.

23 Q. Then with Clontarf, you say:

24 "I enjoyed my stay there. Again mostly good times,  
25 which we made ourselves."

1           Just on that, the good times that you made for  
2           yourselves, do you mean by that, the boys?

3           A. Yes. We used to make gings and we'd go shooting pigeons  
4           and all that type of stuff. We used to make tin boats,  
5           what we would put out on the water. We had gidges(?)  
6           and we'd go fishing and all that type of stuff. We'd  
7           pull the floating grass back and we'd get the juggies(?)  
8           and cook them down at the end. We'd raid the orchard,  
9           which if we got caught, cost us dearly, but they were  
10          good times.

11          But the hard times, I've written all that, and I had  
12          to make sure that there was also good times because  
13          there was. There was a lot of times I enjoyed myself  
14          in the orphanage because -- with our mates and all that  
15          type of stuff ...

16          Q. And coming to Tardun, you say:

17                 "The only good thing I can say about this place  
18                 is that I had some very good friends."

19                 Is that the case, was it?

20          A. Quite true, yes. I had really good mates, made really  
21          good mates in Tardun. Still know half a dozen today and  
22          it was really good, yeah.

23          Q. And you say the rest was "very evil"?

24          A. The rest was, yeah. **AKJ** and **LZE** and them, they  
25          were cruel buggers, absolutely, right off the top shelf.

1           The whole 15 of them were off the top shelf in brutality  
2           and sexual abuse.

3           Q. What you say there is:

4                     "I hope none of the other boys went through what  
5           I did."

6           A. Correct.

7           Q. Well, can I then look at your life after you left  
8           Tardun. You've told us that you were 16 when that  
9           happened. Did you have any further contact with the  
10          brothers after you left?

11          A. Definitely not, mate.

12          Q. What was the first thing that you did? Where did you go  
13          when you left?

14          A. When I left Tardun, I went down to Perth and the child  
15          welfare met me. They outfitted me with clothes, boots  
16          working gear and all that, then they put me on a train  
17          to Pithara, and I worked on the farm for Mr and  
18          Mrs Perry, which was really good. They were a really  
19          good couple, so I worked on the farm for them for  
20          a couple of years.

21                     Then I thought, I need to do more than this, I've  
22          been a labourer all my life, so I left that and when  
23          I went back to Perth, they put me back on another farm  
24          and then another farm and another farm, and I wanted to  
25          do an apprenticeship in painting.

1           I went to the PWD department, the public works  
2 department in those days, and they took me on, but  
3 because I had no education, I couldn't do the theory  
4 side, I just was hopeless, and I failed miserably to  
5 become an apprentice painter and that happened all the  
6 way through my life.

7           Even in the army, I wanted to stay in the army but  
8 I couldn't do the exams. I could do the practical side  
9 of it, you know, the guns and the tanks and all that  
10 type of stuff, and the Jeeps and everything, but  
11 I couldn't do the paperwork.

12           That lack of education really has followed me right  
13 through my life, even today, because even today I'm  
14 doing a course and I failed it because I'm doing  
15 a course in bar management and I failed it miserably  
16 because I couldn't -- I just couldn't put it on paper.

17           The bar job, I done that really good, I passed that  
18 with flying colours, but you had to have 100%,  
19 everything had to be 100%, but I failed miserably. But  
20 still, you give it a go and it's part and parcel of  
21 growing up.

22       Q. Just touching upon the army, what you tell us in your  
23 statement is that you joined the army on  
24 1 February 1958.

25       A. Correct.



1 Q. You'd be just coming up to 20 at that time?

2 A. Yes. I was actually 18, I think. It was national  
3 service in Chocos.

4 Q. You stayed in the army until June 1964?

5 A. Exactly.

6 Q. And you were in the 28th infantry battalion and also the  
7 Cameron Highlanders.

8 A. That's right, the 28th infantry battalion and the  
9 Cameron Highlanders -- or the 16th infantry battalion it  
10 as called. That's where I failed, I failed my exams,  
11 mate, and I really wanted to stay in there. It was  
12 a good life.

13 Q. You've told us that the lack of education really has  
14 followed you throughout your whole life?

15 A. Big time, mate, right off the top shelf.

16 Q. You then go on to tell us about your employment and the  
17 jobs you did after you left the army. In particular,  
18 you went on the oil rigs and you were driving trucks in  
19 Australia.

20 A. Correct.

21 Q. You also, I think, tell us that you met your wife and  
22 you got married.

23 A. Yes, absolutely. Greatest thing I ever bloody did,  
24 mate.

25 Q. Did you later on in life report the abuse that you'd

1           suffered at the orphanages?

2           A. Yes. As I said, Whitey, he told me, you've got to put  
3           it down on paper, mate, because it's very, very  
4           interesting but you've got to take all this violence out  
5           and all that type of stuff. It was my violence that  
6           I wanted to perform on the Christian Brothers, if you  
7           understand, and all the swear words and all that. So  
8           all that had to be deleted, but he helped me to do that  
9           and then we kept condensing down and condensing down,  
10          and finally I got it down to where I was quite happy  
11          with it. This is what it's all about (indicating).

12          Q. And we have been looking at that.

13          A. Yes.

14          Q. Did you go to the police at a point in time and tell  
15          them about the abuse?

16          A. I spoke to a DS Maxy White and I explained to him --  
17          because to follow that up, I got arrested, and every  
18          time I got arrested was always by  
19          Detective Sergeant Maxy White for ... it was a vagrant  
20          charge in those days. So you'd do a couple of weeks  
21          in the slammer and all that. He said, "What's wrong  
22          with you? All you orphan kids that I come across,  
23          you're all bloody mental cases." I said, "Mate, I'll  
24          just tell you one orphanage I was in and I'll tell you  
25          what it was all about", and I told him about Clontarf.

1           He said, "I'll go and see my superior", and he was  
2           told to drop the whole bloody matter. He came back to  
3           me, I will give him that, and after that he never  
4           arrested me again.

5           Q. What year was this? When do you think this particular  
6           report happened? When did you speak to this police  
7           officer?

8           A. Oh ... It was after the army, so ... I would have been  
9           around about 32 then --

10          Q. You tell us in your statement --

11          A. -- maybe more.

12          Q. -- that in the 1990s you got in touch with the sexual  
13          abuse team in the police and you told them then about  
14          the abuse.

15          A. Yes, I got in touch with the sexual abuse department,  
16          I got a very, very good hearing from them, they checked  
17          out Brother [REDACTED] and all that and they found out, which  
18          really surprised me, because we were kids, but they were  
19          under the age of 21, a lot of them.

20          Q. The brothers?

21          A. Yeah, and they couldn't be charged because they were  
22          minors in those days. I said to them, "You've got to be  
23          bloody joking, mate." I mean, they still done it and  
24          we were only babies.

25          Q. The brothers that you've mentioned like Brother [REDACTED]

1 and so on, they were grown men?

2 A. Oh yeah, absolutely. So the DPP got on to me then and  
3 they said that -- and they were going to charge  
4 Brother <sup>MDF</sup> [REDACTED] and I was going up to court.  
5 They had my documentation and they got back to me and  
6 said that you weren't in Castledare, and I said, "No,  
7 you're bloody wrong, mate, I was in Castledare, I know  
8 the four orphanages", "No, no, you weren't, the brothers  
9 have stated that."

10 So luckily enough, I had the paperwork of my release  
11 from the sisters -- requesting me to be transferred  
12 because of my age from Castledare to Clontarf, so  
13 we were going to go ahead with this, but they reckoned  
14 it was too bloody ... he had no brain or whatever you  
15 call it, a mental case, to bloody charge him. So we  
16 never got into court, sadly. We never got into court.

17 Q. You have, I think, applied for redress to the  
18 Western Australia scheme and you got an award from that  
19 scheme; is that right?

20 A. Yes. I got compensation on the sexual abuse and the  
21 brutality. Yes, no problems there, mate.

22 Q. Did you also have a private session with one of the  
23 Commissioners of the Australian Royal Commission?

24 A. Yes. I can't think of his name. He was a bloody good  
25 bloke, he was too. We had a private session for about

1 an hour and a half, 2 hours, in a hotel. He was  
2 a bloody ripper, that bloke. We went right through  
3 everything.

4 Q. Can I then ask you a little bit about efforts to trace  
5 your family? I think you've told us already that when  
6 you were in the orphanages, you looked upon yourself as  
7 a war orphan; is that right?

8 A. Correct, yes.

9 Q. Did that change at any point in time?

10 A. Well, because I never knew that I had a mother and  
11 father, it wasn't an issue with me. I just thought  
12 I was born and I'm under the nuns and then I'm under the  
13 Christian Brothers. I didn't know my age or anything  
14 like that. So you know it just wasn't an issue.

15 But then someone said, "You've got a mother and  
16 father, you might have brothers and sisters, you don't  
17 know, but you might have uncles and nieces and nephews",  
18 and all this family stuff.

19 Anyhow, I started sniffing around like a dog on heat  
20 and finally got a little bit of information through  
21 a mate of mine that, yeah, I had a mum and dad, and then  
22 I went to another bloke who lived on the Isle of Wight  
23 and gave him all my information, not this stuff, and he  
24 found that my mother and father were dead, but I had all  
25 these uncles and cousins and everything in Dundee.

1 Q. When was it that you discovered this?

2 A. Shit, mate ... Give or take, 1992, 1993. I can't be  
3 correct on the date. I know I swore on the Bible,  
4 but ...

5 Q. You tell us in your statement that you've been in touch  
6 with the Child Migrants Trust.

7 A. Correct.

8 Q. And have they assisted you in --

9 A. Yes, they assisted me in coming to -- in August last  
10 year, yeah. I think it was August.

11 Q. To Scotland?

12 A. Yes, they picked up the tab and the airfares and the  
13 hotel and the taxis and all that. I come across there  
14 and I was brought here by Jackie to show me, "This is  
15 what's going on happen when you come back to Scotland  
16 again."

17 Q. Was that your first time back in Scotland --

18 A. Absolutely, yes.

19 Q. -- since you were a baby, essentially? And you have  
20 discovered that you do have relatives and, in  
21 particular, relatives who live in Dundee; is that right?

22 A. Absolutely, yes.

23 Q. And that's indeed where you are staying at the moment?

24 A. Exactly, yes.

25 Q. And what was it like meeting your relatives for the

1 first time?

2 A. Mate, it was bloody horrendous. It really gave me  
3 a couple of dunny rolls, fair dinkum. I could not  
4 associate with them, they're crying and bawling and  
5 hugging me, and I just couldn't cop it. I said to them,  
6 "Look, just back off, I need my own space, I don't know  
7 you from a bar of soap, mate." I think I was about 75  
8 or 76 then. "Who the bloody hell are you?" And  
9 I couldn't gel with them, you know? I just couldn't gel  
10 with them. And my sisters and my brother, I just ...

11 I didn't want anything to do with them, but now I've  
12 got all these rellies and all that, that's a different  
13 kettle of fish, but they're all over me slobbering and  
14 crying and all that type of muck. So the rellies I have  
15 got now, they're all good.

16 Q. Can I ask you then, Frederick, if you're able to tell us  
17 what you consider the impact has been upon you of being  
18 in the -- particularly being sent as a child migrant and  
19 being in the four places that you've told us about?  
20 What do you see the impact of that to have been on you?

21 A. Well, the impact of being sent away was bloody good,  
22 I've got to be honest, I really enjoyed -- I thought,  
23 you little ripper, we're going to the country of gold,  
24 fruit everywhere, and everything like that. I thought  
25 that was absolutely off the top shelf. Then we went

1 through the really bad time of it.

2 After that I came back out and I came into the world  
3 of reality, and I really enjoyed that and I've enjoyed  
4 my life.

5 I met my missus, but because of what I went through,  
6 the Catholic scenario, the orphanages and all that, my  
7 wife and I sat down and I said, "Look, kid, we can't  
8 have kids because if anything happens to me, you're  
9 a strict Catholic and the nuns actually still rule you  
10 and I don't want my kids to go into a Catholic  
11 orphanage, mate".

12 So that was sad. I wanted to have kids, but that  
13 was sad. I couldn't let them go through -- on the  
14 off chance that I kick the bucket or something like that  
15 and then my missus was left with the kids and she was  
16 battling and then the nuns come along and say, "We'll  
17 look after them", and all that. I just couldn't do  
18 that. I wouldn't do it to anyone.

19 But we've had a bloody good life together. Sadly  
20 she's got dementia now and she's been in a nursing home  
21 for three years, but she still remembers my rough head.  
22 She doesn't know my name, but she remembers my rough  
23 head. When I walk in there, she points to me and  
24 smiles. And then she said, "Oh, you're my husband."  
25 I love that, absolutely love it. So it's really good.



1           The bottom line is what really left me -- it left me  
2           with bad, bad memories and dreams and also you might  
3           have to correct me on this, which affects me, they both  
4           affect me today, irritable bowel system, is it?

5           Q. Syndrome.

6           A. Yeah. And when I got stressed, that's big time, mate,  
7           absolutely. So those two things, it really left me  
8           feeling bad and still do today. I still have bad dreams  
9           at night-time. But good things like the army stopped me  
10          from peeing my bed and all that. And I have worked.  
11          I've worked all my life. I've got on well and at the  
12          moment we're sitting pretty.

13          Q. Okay. And I think you tell us in your statement at  
14          paragraph 155 that the rheumatic fever still has an  
15          effect on you.

16          A. Oh yes. Every time I go and see the vet, they turn  
17          around and put machines on me and everything like that,  
18          but -- 2 years ago I had a double bypass. So every time  
19          I go to the vet, they sort of worry and they put  
20          machines on me and clamps everywhere. But I'm all  
21          right, mate, trust me.

22          Q. As you've already explained, Frederick, really being  
23          uneducated has had a significant impact on your life?

24          A. Sorry, I don't understand that --

25          Q. I think you have already told us that being uneducated

1 has had a significant effect --

2 A. Oh big time, mate. Oh, absolutely. I can't really  
3 describe the lack of education. I know one thing, it  
4 has helped me down -- I've always thought that I'm  
5 better than what I believe I am and I could have also  
6 made a real good living earning good money, you know  
7 what I mean? I might have been a -- well, I could have  
8 been anything, a doctor or a nurse. I could have been  
9 anything. But I'll never know, mate. I'll die not  
10 knowing that, so there's no bloody dramas.

11 Q. And indeed, what you say at the very end of your  
12 statement is at paragraph 162, just to follow that  
13 through:

14 "I have no drama about my story being public because  
15 if it can help someone, it'll be such a bonus."

16 A. Oh, it had to be told because in the early stages,  
17 especially after I got out of the army, because while  
18 I was in the army it never entered my head. But after  
19 I got out of the army, it started playing on my mind and  
20 all that type of stuff. It was like going back to  
21 MYK, you know, my head was talking to myself and  
22 I was talking to it, and it was all jumbled and mumbled.  
23 Then I'm thinking of bloody, you know, [REDACTED]

24 [REDACTED]

25 But in saying that, I got over that and now I have

1 no drama and I wanted the story to come out, it needed  
2 to come out, especially for me, to make me feel good,  
3 because the truth is the truth and it needed to be put  
4 on paper for people to understand.

5 Q. And perhaps the last thing I'll just ask you about --  
6 and I'll put this on the screen -- is a letter you wrote  
7 to this inquiry. It's at WIT.003.001.8668. You wrote  
8 to the Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry and you begin by  
9 saying:

10 "I want to inform the Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry  
11 about my ordeal after I was sent to Australia as  
12 a child migrant. I am Frederick Woollorton Smith and  
13 I believe I was born in Dundee, Scotland."

14 And you tell us where you were baptised.

15 A. Correct.

16 Q. You go on to say:

17 "My family's place of origin is Scotland."

18 Is that right? And you were anxious to come to this  
19 inquiry and tell your story.

20 A. Well, it was the first time -- excuse me, is this  
21 a court of law?

22 LADY SMITH: We're not a court, we're a public inquiry. Why  
23 are you asking me this, Frederick? I am a judge, but  
24 I'm sitting as chair of a public inquiry. Why do you  
25 want to know?

1 A. What I'm asking about is what you just asked me.

2 I wanted it out in the public and I wanted it to be  
3 known, but I wanted it to be known by a judge --

4 LADY SMITH: Yes.

5 A. -- so I know I'm getting a fair hearing.

6 LADY SMITH: I am a judge and I have been a judge for a long  
7 time, Frederick.

8 A. Good on you, mate, good on you.

9 That's what I wanted. Because now I'm happy that  
10 I've been heard and I've been allowed to have my say.  
11 Because I've never had that before. So I'm very happy  
12 that I wrote to the Scottish tribunal to -- and also  
13 it's off my chest.

14 MR MacAULAY: Well, thank you, Frederick, for writing your  
15 letter, thank you for coming to the inquiry, and  
16 thank you for telling your story to this inquiry.

17 My Lady, I think I've asked all the questions I have  
18 been asked to ask as I have gone along.

19 LADY SMITH: Are there any outstanding applications for  
20 questions? No.

21 Frederick, that completes all the questions we have  
22 for you. You are a remarkable man. Thank you so much  
23 for engaging with us in the way that you have done, and  
24 being able to relate the horrific details that you  
25 recall of your time as a child migrant.

1 I am of course also struck by your ability to look  
2 at the positive side. That, as I say is remarkable.  
3 I won't forget having heard from you about that in  
4 particular.

5 I'm now able to let you go and I hope you're able to  
6 now relax in the rest of your time in Scotland, knowing  
7 that you certainly have been heard and listened to and  
8 the evidence you've given to us will be thought about  
9 a lot in great detail in the time to come in this  
10 inquiry.

11 Thank you very much.

12 A. No, thank you, Smithy, for allowing me to be here, mate.

13 I'm over the moon now. I'm on the top shelf, mate.

14 Thanks very much. And also to Col, thanks a lot, mate.

15 LADY SMITH: You're doing very well up there, Frederick,  
16 keep it up.

17 A. I'll try to, mate.

18 (The witness withdrew)

19 MR MacAULAY: My Lady, it's shortly after 1 o'clock. The  
20 afternoon will be rather dull after that as we have some  
21 read-ins.

22 LADY SMITH: We'll start those about 2 o'clock.

23 Thank you.

24 (1.02 pm)

25 (The lunch adjournment)

1 (2.00 pm)

2 LADY SMITH: Ms Rattray, good afternoon.

3 Witness statement of "AMY" (read)

4 MS RATTRAY: My Lady, this is the first of two read-ins that  
5 we will hear today. The first one is a statement of an  
6 applicant who wishes to remain anonymous and has chosen  
7 the pseudonym "Amy".

8 Her statement can be found at WIT.001.002.6372:

9 "My name is Amy. I was born in 1943. My contact  
10 details are known to the inquiry.

11 "I went into care as a baby. I was never told that  
12 I had a family. I had no idea, until I got my records  
13 from Barnardo's, that my father died when I was a baby.

14 "My father worked in Glasgow with Rolls Royce.  
15 He was 53 years old when he died from aortic disease.  
16 My mother was 26 years old when I was born.

17 "They had three children together. I have an older  
18 brother and an older sister. My sister is just under  
19 3 years older than me and my brother is 18 months older  
20 than me.

21 "My mother decided to keep my brother and put my  
22 sister and I in a home. I have a half-sister who's  
23 5 years younger than me.

24 "I found out later that my mother and father were  
25 not married. My father had a previous marriage. My

1 mother moved to Scotland from England with my father  
2 when he got the job at Rolls Royce. My mother was left  
3 stranded when my father suddenly died. Everything was  
4 taken out of the house because the things were on hire  
5 purchase.

6 "My mother came down to Wolverhampton where her  
7 family lived. She moved in with my grandparents, who  
8 already had other grown-up children and grandchildren  
9 living with them. There were 11 people in this small  
10 house.

11 "My grandparents decided to put the girls in a home  
12 and keep the boy. I don't know why we didn't go into  
13 care in Wolverhampton."

14 My Lady, the records show that Amy was admitted to  
15 Comlongon, a Barnardo's home, on [REDACTED] 1944, and then  
16 to Glasclune on [REDACTED] 1949. She migrated to  
17 Australia on [REDACTED] 1956. Those dates can be found at  
18 BAR.001.001.0947.

19 Amy's name appears on the passenger list for the  
20 SS Orontes, which arrived in Fremantle on [REDACTED] 1956.  
21 The passenger list can be found at NAA.001.001.0472:

22 "Dr Barnardo's kept babies at Comlongon Castle until  
23 they were school age. For the first five or six years,  
24 my sister and I were both in Comlongon Castle but not  
25 together. I didn't know my sister then. I don't know

1           whether she knew about me. I didn't know I had  
2           a brother either. I stayed at Comlongon Castle until  
3           I was 5 years old, when I went to Glasclune in  
4           North Berwick.

5           "I have good memories of Comlongon Castle. When  
6           I went back there as an adult, it still looked the same  
7           as I remembered it.

8           "Comlongon Castle was beautiful. There was  
9           a balcony that the staff put all the babies' prams on to  
10          get a bit of sunshine for the day.

11          "My first memory is when I was about 3 or 4 years  
12          old. I have funny memories like stealing the gardener's  
13          hammer and throwing it in a bed of daffodils. I was  
14          a bit naughty.

15          "There were quite a few children, boys and girls.  
16          There were always seven or eight ladies dressed up like  
17          nurses with caps on and an apron.

18          "Comlongon Castle was comfortable. I have no bad  
19          feelings about that stage of my life. There was nothing  
20          abusive that I can remember.

21          "We slept in big rooms, dormitories. I think it was  
22          girls in one dormitory and boys in another. Sometimes  
23          we shared beds; we were so tiny then.

24          "The routine was very rigid and regimented but not  
25          painful. You had to make your bed before breakfast.



1           Then you'd have a Bible reading. We shared baths.

2           "The dining room was big and had a beautiful  
3 fireplace with a big mirror above it. The staff  
4 discovered a secret compartment behind the mirror. The  
5 staff asked us all to sit down cross legged on the floor  
6 so we could see what they were going to find. There was  
7 beautiful bone china hidden in the secret compartment.  
8 I was quite fascinated by that.

9           "The staff organised us to be ready for meals. They  
10 herded ed us into the dining room. The food was  
11 wholesome, meat and three veg. Breakfast would be  
12 cereal and juice. I was fed well. No one was forced to  
13 eat at that early stage. That came later on at  
14 Glasclune.

15           "We wore normal clothes and shoes, although they  
16 were hand-me-downs. There wasn't a uniform as such.  
17 There was a place where the staff would fit shoes to  
18 your feet. We went on some outings and to a pantomime  
19 once. Games and activities would be planned.

20           "I had a little black metal pram I pushed around,  
21 a dolly and a three-wheeler bike. Those things were  
22 shared with the other children; I didn't have any  
23 personal possessions. We played in the gardens or in  
24 the building depending on the weather. There were books  
25 about to read and staff would read stories. I learned

1 to read later at Glasclune.

2 "There were prayers at meals and you always said  
3 grace. We went to church on Sunday. The church was  
4 Presbyterian, although I think Barnardo's is Church of  
5 England.

6 "When I was about 4 years old I went to hospital to  
7 have my tonsils out. I remember going to hospital very  
8 well. After the operation, I was lying on my pillow  
9 saying that I wanted ice cream. I got my ice cream but  
10 I felt very sorry for myself. There was another child  
11 sharing the bed with me at the other end of it.

12 "I had bed-wetting problems, but I wasn't punished  
13 for it at Comlongon.

14 "My sister was already at Glasclune North Berwick  
15 when Dr Barnardo's decided that I was old enough to go  
16 there. I didn't know I had a sister until Barnardo's  
17 were removing me from Comlongon Castle to Glasclune.  
18 The staff said to me that I was going to move to  
19 Glasclune. That didn't mean much to me. I protested  
20 bitterly that I didn't want to go and I cried. I had  
21 become secure where I was.

22 "The staff said I would meet my sister to encourage  
23 me. That didn't have a big impact on me. I didn't  
24 understand anything about sisters and brothers. It  
25 didn't mean anything to me. I was an individual little

1 girl.

2 "Glasclune was a beautiful home. My first  
3 impression was walking through the front door of this  
4 mansion and seeing this beautiful hallway. The hallway  
5 was where we all used to congregate on special occasions  
6 for Christmas and things. It was all oak panelling.  
7 I was impressed with that. I thought Glasclune was  
8 lovely.

9 "As you walked into the hallway, to the right was  
10 the big dining room and to the left was a playroom for  
11 the children and a downstairs bathroom and toilet.  
12 There was another room off the playroom where we  
13 sometimes went to play games. There were stairs up to  
14 the next floor where the dormitories were.

15 "There were several big dormitories. The  
16 dormitories went in age groups. There were about 70 or  
17 80 kids, boys and girls. There were several bathrooms.

18 "My sister and I didn't get on very well. She used  
19 to do things like throw salt in my eyes. I thought, if  
20 this is what having a sister was like, I didn't want to  
21 have a sister.

22 "MPI [REDACTED] was the matron in charge when I first  
23 arrived at Glasclune. I think she was at Glasclune on  
24 her own. I don't recall a husband. MPI [REDACTED] wore  
25 a pinstriped suit. She looked like a bulldog; that's

1 what I always thought of her. MPI [REDACTED] wasn't at  
2 Glasclune for too long; she left or retired a year or so  
3 after I went to Glasclune.

4 "After MPI [REDACTED], BDO/SPO [REDACTED] came to  
5 Glasclune. They were the superintendents who ran the  
6 home. BDO/SPO [REDACTED] were in their late 30s or 40s.  
7 They had their own separate apartment on the second  
8 floor.

9 "I never saw BDO/SPO [REDACTED] very often.  
10 She was away somewhere else in the home doing things.  
11 BDO/SPO [REDACTED] had two children, a boy and a girl.  
12 They were about my age. I got on quite well with the  
13 girl; the boy was a crybaby. They mingled in with us  
14 quite a lot, they were part of the crowd. They weren't  
15 special or treated differently.

16 "I think most of the staff lived in. There seemed  
17 to be a staff member for each group, all female. More  
18 than one member of staff dealt with me. There was  
19 always different staff around you. There was  
20 a Mrs Kenny, who was there a lot. I can't remember the  
21 names of the other staff, but I can remember their  
22 faces.

23 "My negative memories all begin in Glasclune.  
24 Glasclune was quite traumatic. I was terrified of the  
25 whole thing. There were no questions asked, I just did

1           what I was told. The regime was very strict.

2           "I think staff from Glasclune came to pick me up  
3           from Comlongon Castle. When I arrived at Glasclune it  
4           was quite overwhelming for me. I cried and I said  
5           I didn't want to go into the home.

6           "It was when I went to Glasclune that I first got to  
7           really know my sister. She had a little pink plastic  
8           tea set that she shared with me. She offered me a cup  
9           of tea. That was my introduction to my sister. She  
10          didn't know me and she was being forced to look on me as  
11          her sister.

12          "The staff guided me and told me what I had to do.  
13          I met all the other children.

14          "We slept in dormitories. In the first dormitory  
15          I was in there were about 10 children in single beds,  
16          all girls. My sister was in a different dormitory  
17          because of her age.

18          "A lady, one of the staff, would come in and say  
19          good morning and we'd have to say good morning to  
20          whoever it was. You had to make your bed straightaway.  
21          Then you went downstairs.

22          "Downstairs was a huge eagle Bible stand. We would  
23          stand and stare at that waiting for **BDO/SPO** to  
24          read us the Bible. Then there were prayers. I would  
25          start to faint because I hadn't eaten. I needed to sit

1 down and have breakfast.

2 "The older ones stayed up later than the younger  
3 ones. The younger ones were off to bed quite early.  
4 A staff member would be supervising. You didn't get  
5 a story read to you at night as the staff were too busy  
6 getting us off to bed. I imagine it was quite a handful  
7 getting all those people in a dormitory settled.

8 "There were several baths in the bath room. We had  
9 a bath every day. We were kept clean. We had our own  
10 toothbrush and Gibbs pink toothpaste in a tin. I loved  
11 the smell of it.

12 "We all went into the same dining room and had our  
13 tables to sit at. The food was brought to us.  
14 Breakfast was basic: a bit of cereal, porridge or toast  
15 and a drink. We had a cooked lunch at school. Dinner  
16 was quite reasonable: vegetables, mashed potatoes and  
17 meat. On Sunday afternoons we had dripping on bread; it  
18 wasn't good for you but it was nice with salt and pepper  
19 on it.

20 "Sometimes the staff made you sit there and eat your  
21 food if it was something you didn't like. Sometimes you  
22 would vomit because you didn't like it. It's not a good  
23 thing force-feeding anyone.

24 "We had a school uniform: a black pleated tunic,  
25 white blouse, tie, white socks and black shoes. We had

1 our own individual clothing in Glasclune. You had one  
2 special dress for special occasions; I had a blue  
3 taffeta dress. The clothes were all right. I don't  
4 think any of the clothes or footwear were new. You wore  
5 your clothes until you grew out of them. Our name was  
6 in the clothes. There was a huge room full of shoes.  
7 The only time I got taken out to go clothes shopping  
8 when was I was leaving England to come to Australia.  
9 The staff took us to a place to get everything new.

10 "Starting school was daunting. I had to meet new  
11 people at school as well. The school was a public  
12 primary school, North Berwick Junior Primary. There  
13 were things about school I enjoyed. I was average at  
14 school from my school reports.

15 "The children from Glasclune were teased  
16 mercilessly. They called us 'the banana kids' because  
17 we were from Barnardo's. We were made to feel we were  
18 a bit different to everyone else at school.

19 "There were always punishments at school. Like if  
20 you had your words with a children next to you or in the  
21 playground, you would have to hold your hands out, one  
22 on top of the other with palms up, and be hit on the  
23 palms of your hand with a two-tongued leather strap.  
24 That happened at an early age.

25 "I didn't like the headmistress. She was the one

1 who gave me the strap. The headmistress was brutal.

2 "I liked reading, playing games and the high jump.  
3 There were books at Glasclune and you could sit by the  
4 window and read. I played dollies. We nicked fruit  
5 from the orchard. We were children and we did naughty  
6 things just because we could. I remember there were  
7 girls around me a lot of the time. The boys were kept  
8 separate.

9 "There were some lovely times at the beach at  
10 North Berwick. We had swimming lessons and went  
11 swimming during the course of the year. We went to the  
12 pantomime in Edinburgh. We went ice-skating. That was  
13 such a thrill. There were always a few activities.

14 "From the age of 9 until I went to Australia, my  
15 sister and I went on holidays with a couple called  
16 [REDACTED]. We called [REDACTED]  
17 [REDACTED]. [REDACTED]  
18 were in there late 30s or 40s. They would take my  
19 sister and I out of Glasclune. They were in Stranraer.  
20 They met us somewhere half way, Glasgow or somewhere.  
21 We went there every holiday.

22 "[REDACTED] were really nice. They had no  
23 children when my sister and I went there. Later they  
24 adopted a boy. I never met him because by then we were  
25 getting ready to come to Australia.



1           "██████████ was a big rosy-cheeked farmer. My sister  
2 and I used to tickle him because he didn't like being  
3 tickled. It was an innocent thing to do. ██████████ was  
4 always giggling and carrying on over that. We went to  
5 a few Highland Gatherings. ██████████ was especially  
6 nice. I didn't like coming back home to Glasclune.

7           "Christmas is one of my few happy memories of  
8 Glasclune. Christmas was exciting. You always had  
9 a stocking on the end of your bed in the morning when  
10 you woke up. In the stocking were walnuts, an apple, a  
11 mandarin and some sweets. There was the most beautiful  
12 Christmas tree in the hall.

13           "You were allowed to make a short Christmas list of  
14 what you would like. I always said a stamp album and  
15 a fountain pen. They were the main things I wanted.  
16 I got them. I got a beautiful doll which was used in  
17 the nativity play. These things were for me to keep.

18           "There was a gift for each children on the Christmas  
19 tree. A lot of donations were gifted to the home. You  
20 had a nice Christmas dinner.

21           "On your birthday you always had a cake and everyone  
22 sang Happy Birthday. You got a gift. At Hallowe'en we  
23 scraped out the orange pumpkins and put a candle in it.

24           "Judging by my health records, Barnardo's was very  
25 particular about healthcare. There were regular

1 check-ups for everything. A doctor came to the home to  
2 examine us. I had bronchitis a lot and I was always  
3 being checked for that. Once, when I was about 8 or  
4 9 years old, I burned myself with an iron. I stupidly  
5 put the iron up to my jumper and it burnt through to the  
6 skin. It wasn't serious but I had to have the doctor  
7 look at it. We went to the dentist regularly.

8 "We were out on a Sunday walk and I broke my ankle  
9 running down a hill. The staff didn't believe I'd done  
10 much to it, so they were twisting my ankle this way and  
11 that way. I was screaming with pain. The staff checked  
12 my ankle later in the afternoon and realised it was  
13 swollen up like a football. I went to hospital in  
14 Edinburgh and my leg was put in a cast. I was in  
15 hospital and then I got the mumps.

16 "There were prayers at meals. We went to church on  
17 Sundays. At Christmastime we went to church twice, in  
18 the morning and in the evening. We had smarter clothes  
19 and polished shoes for church.

20 "There were a lot of baths to clean and I did a lot  
21 of cleaning of baths. I think I was too young to be  
22 cleaning baths.

23 "I cleaned hand basins. We did all the cleaning  
24 sometimes in the morning. I polished shoes. There were  
25 eternal inspections of everything by the staff. If you

1 didn't do the cleaning right, you did it all again.  
2 I learned quickly in life to make sure I did it right  
3 the first time.

4 "The staff didn't have much tolerance for  
5 bed-wetting and you were always punished. You were made  
6 to feel really bad for doing it. Once, when BDO/SPO  
7 BDO/SPO were running the home, the matron in charge of  
8 the dormitory tied my knickers round my face. The  
9 matron left me sitting there on a chair in the middle of  
10 the dormitory. It seemed like ages that I sat there, a  
11 couple of hours, probably more. I don't know the lady's  
12 name. I was quite young at the time and hadn't been at  
13 Glasclune that long.

14 "The bed-wetting went on for a few years. I was  
15 wetting my bed from 5 to 8 years of age. There were  
16 other children who wet themselves.

17 "When I was 8 or 9 years old I was given a bluebird  
18 of happiness brooch for my birthday from Barnardo's.  
19 I thought the brooch was beautiful. I wet myself and  
20 the staff took the brooch off me. I never got it back.

21 "I was always being punished for something or  
22 another. I was quite mischievous and I can remember all  
23 the mischievous things I did. We walked past the  
24 kitchen, which was a big old-fashioned kitchen with  
25 a stone floor. We saw a loaf of bread on the board with a

1 knife. We went in and nicked a slice off it and ran for  
2 our lives.

3 "Our dormitory was near the BDO/SPO apartment. The  
4 BDO/SPO stored all their biscuits and things in a  
5 cupboard. We found a key for the BDO/SPO cupboard on  
6 the floor near our dormitory. I got the key, opened the  
7 cupboard, and got this tin of biscuits out. I took the  
8 tin all the way downstairs out of the home into the back  
9 garden and up to the tree house with a baby's blanket  
10 over it. A whole heap of us munched the biscuits in the  
11 dormitory as well.

12 "We left evidence everywhere, crumbs. We got  
13 punished for that. We had to stand against the wall  
14 outside the dormitory for quite some time. It wasn't  
15 a horrendous crime.

16 "Sometimes I'd be physically punished by BDO  
17 because I hadn't done my chores right, usually by being  
18 hit with the ruler. BDO hit me on the knuckles  
19 three times on both hands. I hurt, I was crying.

20 "MPI beat me on one occasion. When I had  
21 broken my ankle and had the mumps I was isolated in my  
22 dormitory. I was the only one in there. The coal fire  
23 was going. I had a brown and white checked apron. When  
24 you're stuck on your own for all these hours at a time  
25 you want to be doing something. I decided to wave the

1 apron in front of the coal fire. It caught fire just as  
2 the matron, MPI ██████████, walked past.

3 "MPI ██████████ came in and asked what I was doing.  
4 I sat on the floor, cried my eyes out and wet myself in  
5 fear. MPI ██████████ enjoyed seeing me fearful. I was  
6 fearful of what she was going to do to me. MPI ██████████  
7 punished me severely for that, even though I had a sore  
8 ankle and mumps. MPI ██████████ whipped me hard on the bum  
9 quite a few times with some sort of stick. It hurt.

10 "When the BDO/SPO ██████████ took over it was BDO ██████████ who beat  
11 me. He would take me to the second room on the left  
12 in the foyer area where we played games. BDO ██████████ hit  
13 me a lot with the ruler and with a leather strap, three  
14 on each hand. BDO ██████████ hit me on a regular basis.  
15 There was always something wrong. He derived a lot of  
16 pleasure from that. Other children got punished as  
17 well.

18 "I can't even remember what I'd done wrong, but  
19 I was hauled into the bathroom by BDO ██████████. I was made  
20 to strip and bend over a bath. BDO ██████████ hit me with the  
21 back of a brush on my bottom. There were just two of us  
22 in the bathroom. I was 9 or 10 years old. I was  
23 terrified because I didn't know why I was being  
24 punished. I was so fearful thinking, 'What have  
25 I done?'

1 "BDO [REDACTED] was always caressing the teenage girls who  
2 were developing breasts, myself included. I was 11 to  
3 12 years old. He would come up behind you and his hands  
4 would be around and over your breast area, feeling your  
5 nipples. I saw BDO [REDACTED] do it to other girls.

6 He would do it in the foyer where everyone was  
7 mingling. BDO [REDACTED] did that on a regular basis when the  
8 opportunity arose. I was too frightened to say anything  
9 and who do you say it to? You know it's not right. You  
10 live in fear in places like Glasclune because the staff  
11 are the ones in charge. They gave out the punishment.  
12 How do you turn to someone like that, confess that  
13 you're worried and don't like what they're doing?

14 "I don't recall anyone at Glasclune ever asking me  
15 anything. The girls didn't talk about what BDO [REDACTED] was  
16 doing; we were all too fearful. People like BDO [REDACTED]  
17 prey on that.

18 "My [REDACTED] had a relative; I assume he was her  
19 brother. We were asked to call him BKU [REDACTED]. He  
20 seemed old to me. I can still vaguely see him in my  
21 mind. BKU [REDACTED] didn't live with [REDACTED] he lived  
22 a few miles away on a farm. From when I was 9 years old  
23 until I was 12 years old, BKU [REDACTED] would take my sister  
24 and I into the fields. BKU [REDACTED] would sit on the brick  
25 wall, sit me on his lap, and put his hands up on my

1 knickers. On every occasion we went to Stranraer, if  
2 we were to meet up with **BKU**, this would happen.  
3 It happened more than once or twice or three times.

4 **BKU** did this to my sister too.

5 "It was many years later that it came out between my  
6 sister and I that we'd both experienced it. My sister  
7 was with me when I was on **BKU** lap, but we never  
8 discussed it at the time. I was so innocent. Something  
9 in your brain says, 'Is this right or wrong?' You  
10 question it, I was confused. You realise when you get  
11 older it was wrong. How does a young girl approach an  
12 adult and say, 'This happened to me today?'

13 "I always lived in fear of being punished. I don't  
14 think anyone would have believed me anyway. Now  
15 I realise how wrong that was.

16 "When I was 12 years old **BKU** asked me if  
17 I would like to go to Australia. I said, yes, I'd love  
18 to. I had no idea where Australia was. I didn't  
19 realise just how far away Australia was. I just thought  
20 of the thrill of it all.

21 "I was on my own when I was asked. My sister didn't  
22 want to go. She was 15 years old. In my records it  
23 says that I seemed thrilled that my sister didn't want  
24 to come. She ended up with me, so at some point she  
25 must have changed her mind and wanted to go. I don't

1 know if Barnardo's talked her into it. I'm glad it  
2 worked out the way it did. My sister was the only  
3 precious family I had when I came to Australia.

4 "To be approved to go to Australia there was  
5 a medical and an intelligence test. The tests were in  
6 Glasclune. Barnardo's approved me to go. After we were  
7 approved, there were a few weeks before my sister and  
8 I were taken by train to Barkingside in Essex, England.  
9 [REDACTED], or someone from Glasclune, took us.

10 "On the train we met a woman from Sydney. My sister  
11 and I were talking to the woman and told her we were  
12 going to Sydney, Australia. It was long journey but it  
13 was an enjoyable experience.

14 "I wasn't told I'd be going on a boat for 6 weeks  
15 until I arrived at Barkingside. At Barkingside there  
16 was a group of around 30 children from age 10 to 16  
17 years. My sister and I were the only ones from  
18 Glasclune.

19 "There were a whole heap of cottages. She and  
20 I were in Bath cottage with six or eight other girls.  
21 Boys were in a separate cottage. I don't know if  
22 everyone from our cottage went to Australia.

23 "Some of the girls were working age, 16 or 17 years  
24 old. They came to Australia in our party.

25 "We stayed at Barkingside for 3 weeks and the staff



1 gave us lessons. A big map of Australia was put on the  
2 wall. The staff would point to Sydney with a stick and  
3 say that we were going to Sydney. I had no idea how  
4 vast Australia was. We were given a brief history of  
5 Australia. We had basic reading, writing and arithmetic  
6 lessons.

7 "Barkingside was exciting in a way. There was the  
8 thrill of it. Something different was happening every  
9 day.

10 "I found out I had a mother a week before we left  
11 the shores of England to come to Australia. Suddenly  
12 I had a mother and a brother. I was 12 years old. That  
13 was traumatic for me. That was when my sister found out  
14 too. She was 15 years old. That's when I started to  
15 feel an emotional wreck. I felt like that for a while.

16 "Barnardo's said to my mother to either visit or  
17 write a letter before my sister and I left England. My  
18 mother chose to write a short letter and put in  
19 a photograph of herself and my brother. The letter was  
20 posted to the cottage and handed to me. The letter was  
21 for both my sister and I.

22 "I opened the letter. I was bewildered. There was  
23 a photo of my mum. There was a photo of my brother in  
24 choir robes. He was 10 or 11 years old in the photo.  
25 The letter and photo changed my whole way of thinking.

1           The happiness I was looking forward to in going to  
2           Australia changed because I had this knowledge. It was  
3           awful. No one spoke to me about the information.  
4           I didn't get any counselling.

5           " My sister was 15 or 16 years old at this time.  
6           Finding this out must have been awful to her. She was  
7           handed over to Barnardo's when she was 3 years of age.

8           " I sailed off to Australia with this new found  
9           information. When I got to Australia I was supposed to  
10          not be concerned about finding out I had a mother and  
11          a brother, not to be curious or enquire about it. The  
12          attitude from Barnardo's was: she doesn't know her  
13          mother so why should she be concerned? How dare I be  
14          talking about it?

15          " We went to Tilbury Docks. There were 30 children  
16          of various ages. Tommy Trinder, the comedian, came to  
17          see us off. I have a photo of my sister and I with him  
18          and the other children before we went on the ship, the  
19          SS Orontes.

20          " On the boat I was seasick every day. It was  
21          miserable. It wasn't such a pleasure cruise after all.  
22          The staff who looked after us on the boat were  
23          Miss Bickmore, she was a nice lady, and a Mr Garrett.  
24          I was in a cabin with six bunks. I was in the top bunk.  
25          We were all girls in the cabin.

1           "The younger children were confined to a certain  
2 area of the ship. I went on deck when I felt like it.  
3 We didn't get free rein, although my sister did because  
4 she was older.

5           "There were another two girls who were my sister's  
6 age. They were almost adults. My sister was 16 years  
7 old, at an age when she would be interested in boys.  
8 I was following her around being a pesky younger sister.  
9 She was smoking when she shouldn't have been. My sister  
10 turned round and told me to stop following her. She  
11 stubbed the cigarette out on my hand. I thought that  
12 was awfully mean. I was a nuisance to her.

13           "We stopped at all these different places such as  
14 Port Said, Naples and Colombo. We were all supervised  
15 and went on day trips. Sometimes the boat would be in  
16 port for a couple of days. When we got off at Colombo,  
17 they warned us not to eat the pineapples because they  
18 could give you a rash.

19           "The first stop in Australia was Fremantle. I loved  
20 that. We went out for the day. The main street is  
21 quite historic and there is a lovely clock.

22           "We met a lot of people in Fremantle who came to  
23 greet us and to take us out on a bus. The driver ran  
24 over a dog. That was traumatic for everyone.

25           "We stopped in Perth Western Australia and went to

1 the famous forest there.

2 "It was [REDACTED] when we arrived in Sydney.  
3 It was autumn, so the temperature was quite mild. The  
4 heat wasn't overwhelming. We landed about [REDACTED] at  
5 Sydney. When we arrived at Sydney, my sister and I were  
6 separated straightaway. She went into a job with  
7 a lady. I didn't get told anything about my sister.  
8 I didn't see her for a long time. We were separated  
9 again.

10 "My sister was in the workforce and I was at school.  
11 Burwood is about an hour's drive from Sydney harbour.  
12 Another girl was with me. She was about my age.  
13 Burwood was all girls and I stayed there from when I was  
14 12 years old until I was 15 years old.

15 "Miss Bickmore, who came out from England with us,  
16 was in charge of Burwood and was a nice lady. I got to  
17 know Miss Bickmore on the boat journey. An  
18 ex-Barnardo's girl sent me some black and white  
19 photographs a few years ago where I'm sitting in the  
20 garden at Burwood with my head resting on Miss  
21 Bickmore's shoulder. Miss Bickmore was a comfort to me.

22 "Joyce and Tom Price were the heads of Barnardo's in  
23 Australia. I had contact with them too. Joyce and  
24 Tom Price, more so than Mrs Price, came to Burwood  
25 regularly.

1           "The first summer in Australia was horrendous. It  
2 was a bit of a shock. I had never known so much  
3 sunshine. All I remembered was rain and snow in  
4 Scotland. I didn't like Burwood, I wasn't happy there  
5 in the end.

6           "We went to the home in Burwood. When we arrived,  
7 I saw all these hippeastrums in bloom. I thought they  
8 were beautiful. I thought the home was lovely. It was  
9 an old building with a lace veranda.

10          "Burwood was a big, beautiful place. There were  
11 dormitories. All the girls there were business girls.  
12 That's what they called them. The girls were out to  
13 work.

14          "There were eight to ten girls aged 18 or over and  
15 another girl and I who were 12 and 13. The routine was  
16 always regimented. I shared a dormitory with the older  
17 girls.

18          "It was the usual routine. Institution stuff. You  
19 got up in the morning and made your bed. Everything was  
20 always under inspection too. Bedtime was later, but  
21 we were still tightly watched.

22          "The food was good. I always enjoyed it. It was  
23 a bit better in Burwood. We had baths every day.  
24 Showers weren't much of a thing back then. The staff  
25 were real sticklers for hygiene, keeping clean and

1 always having a good clean appearance.

2 "Mrs Price would come to Burwood and play the piano.  
3 We would all sit around and sing songs with her. Mr and  
4 Mrs Price lived not far from Burwood. I could cycle  
5 down to their house. I went from Burwood to stay with  
6 Mr and Mrs Price in their private home for a few weeks  
7 in Roseville, Sydney. Mr and Mrs Price were nice.  
8 Mr and Mrs Price had a daughter my age, and I got on  
9 quite well with her.

10 "I was unsettled at Burwood. I read and played  
11 games. We weren't allowed to go into Sydney on our own.  
12 The staff would take you anywhere you went.

13 "We had a school uniform, Barnardo's gave you  
14 clothes to wear. You had no choice. You wore them  
15 whether you liked them or not. You were becoming more  
16 self-conscious about how you looked and interested in  
17 the opposite sex.

18 "When I arrived in Australia I went to Burwood Home  
19 Science School. When I was 15 years old I went to  
20 Hornsby High School in Sydney. I didn't mind school.  
21 I managed all right. I didn't leave with any  
22 qualifications. I was an average student.

23 "Christmas at Burwood was not so exciting and happy.  
24 My birthday wasn't celebrated quite the same as it was  
25 at Glasclune. I wasn't given any presents.

1            "All the possessions I had at Glasclune I lost.  
2            When I came to Australia, I didn't have anything.

3            "I was looked after health wise. Barnardo's always  
4            took you to the dentist or the doctor whenever you  
5            needed to. I didn't feel it was quite so religious in  
6            Burwood as it was in Scotland. You were always given  
7            a penny to drop in the penny dish at church. I used to  
8            clink the penny into the other pennies but keep it. You  
9            could get a lot for a penny back there in Wilson's sweet  
10           shop.

11           "A lot of my young life consisted of cleaning. In  
12           Burwood we swept, mopped and cleaned the bathrooms. We  
13           did that at weekends. It was a chore.

14           "I had very little contact with my sister. My  
15           sister was busy in her world and I was busy in mine.  
16           From my records, Barnardo's seemed to think my sister  
17           had neglected me and hadn't kept in touch with me.  
18           That's true, she didn't. I'm not blaming her for that.

19           "Barnardo's asked my sister to make the effort to  
20           come and see me. I don't remember seeing my sister at  
21           Burwood, but she came in to see me at work when I first  
22           started work.

23           "I didn't have time to write to my mother before we  
24           left for Australia. I was a prolific letter writer when  
25           we arrived at Burwood. I found writing helpful because

1 of the way I was feeling about finding out I had  
2 a mother and brother. Through my records I found out  
3 that Barnardo's were having to ask my mother to write to  
4 me more often and keep in contact. My mother had  
5 stopped writing. The impression I got was that my  
6 mother was being forced to write to me and she didn't  
7 want to. I spoke to Tom Price about my mother and said  
8 that I needed to know more about her. I was making  
9 a lot of enquiries. Barnardo's weren't forthcoming.  
10 They weren't helpful to me at all. Barnardo's fobbed me  
11 off.

12 "From my records I know the Prices were  
13 corresponding with Barnardo's in the United Kingdom.  
14 There are letters saying that I'm very concerned about  
15 my mother, that perhaps someone in London can sort  
16 something out and go and see my mother. I think I was  
17 being a pest. I wanted to pursue my mother.

18 "The other girl, who was the same age as me, and  
19 I would go out in the garden. The gardener would be  
20 gardening and would expose himself. You called it  
21 flashing. He did that or two three times. The gardener  
22 was about 30 or 40 years old. The other girl and  
23 I thought that was wrong.

24 "I moved to Burwood to Normanhurst. There was  
25 a home there called Greenwood. Greenwood was for older



1 girls. There were cottages for boys as well. I was  
2 only at Greenwood for a short while until I went out  
3 into the working world. I started work when I was 14  
4 going on 15. From then I was outboarding.

5 "Barnardo's put you out to work. They found  
6 somewhere for you to live and you would board there.  
7 I went to a place called Asquith and boarded with a lady  
8 called [REDACTED] in her own home. The boarding place  
9 was found for me through a friend of Tom Price's,  
10 [REDACTED] MPJ [REDACTED] was [REDACTED] MPJ [REDACTED] mother.  
11 [REDACTED] MPJ [REDACTED] was a bit touchy-feely. He made comments  
12 like, 'I can see your knickers', and I would say, 'My  
13 knickers are pretty, aren't they?' [REDACTED] MPJ [REDACTED] told me  
14 off for saying that. Now I realise how dare he even  
15 mention that.

16 "One night I had been to [REDACTED] MPJ [REDACTED] and his wife's  
17 house. I was friends with their daughter. [REDACTED] MPJ [REDACTED]  
18 brought me home to his mother's house where I was  
19 boarding. He was too close to me when he said to me to  
20 be a good girl. [REDACTED] MPJ [REDACTED] was caressing me, I felt  
21 it was wrong. I didn't like the comment about my  
22 panties or the caressing.

23 "I got a job in an office in Sydney as a secretary  
24 and at the same time I went to business college for  
25 12 months. I did typing. I worked in that job for

1 14 months. I moved to a few different places after  
2 boarding at [REDACTED]. Barnardo's helped me to find  
3 the places to board and to get jobs. I was still under  
4 their care until I was 21 years old.

5 "I met my husband. He came from England. He left  
6 home when he was 16 and came to Australia as part of the  
7 Big Brother movement. He came to Australia on his own  
8 with a group of other Big Brother boys. He went out  
9 into the countryside and worked on a farm. He and I met  
10 in the guest house we were both living in in Sydney.

11 "I wrote to Barnardo's to ask for permission to get  
12 married. I was 19 years old, going on 20 years old.  
13 Barnardo's gave me permission.

14 "I was married to my husband for 44 years. My  
15 husband wanted to go back to England to live, he was  
16 homesick. In 1963 I was pregnant with my eldest  
17 daughter. I wanted to go back when I was pregnant  
18 rather than with a little baby. I'd been away from the  
19 United Kingdom for seven years.

20 "I was going back to the United Kingdom first before  
21 my husband and I got in touch with Barnardo's. I asked  
22 Barnardo's if I could stay at the home at Glasclune.  
23 I had a friend who was staying in Glasclune and I was  
24 going to stay with her. Barnardo's wouldn't let me stay  
25 at the home but allowed my friend to stay. From my

1 records, the reason was that I wasn't good enough. New  
2 people were running the home, QON/QOQ and  
3 QOQ wouldn't have me there.

4 "When I got back to the United Kingdom, I didn't  
5 want to stay there. It was too cold and wet after the  
6 Sydney beaches. I stayed for 14 months with my  
7 husband's parents in Walthamstow. I persuaded him to  
8 stay in Australia and I came back. I think we had  
9 a better future in Australia than in Walthamstow.

10 "We had three beautiful children. My children have  
11 all grown into lovely human beings. I have a loving  
12 family. The house I'm living in now I've been in for  
13 35 years. As an adult, I've had a very happy life.  
14 I feel blessed. I met the right man.

15 "I was more or less a stay-at-home mum. That's what  
16 I wanted to be: a full-on, hands-on mum for my children.  
17 I had part-time jobs when my younger son was a baby at  
18 the local delicatessen.

19 "My sister and I didn't know each other at Glasclune  
20 and we didn't get on at first. I didn't like her and  
21 she didn't like me. We were never close because of our  
22 separation. Now we love each other. My sister and  
23 I couldn't imagine life without each other. She's my  
24 sister and she's been a godsend to me throughout the  
25 years. She was the only family I had. I didn't meet my

1 family in the United Kingdom until I was 55 years old.

2 "For the first few years of our lives, my sister and  
3 I met then separated, met then separated. That's how it  
4 was. It's understandable why we didn't get on very well  
5 for a few years.

6 "Deep down in my heart I always knew she was my  
7 sister. We had the same mother and father. She and  
8 I shared what we had been through, being in  
9 institutions. It was difficult. You can't form warm  
10 relationships with anyone.

11 "The staff at Glasclune were not very nice. I don't  
12 ever remember feel warm and comforted. The only good  
13 that has come out of my experience is that it has made  
14 me into a very strong person. I'm able to deal with  
15 anything. In the early years of my life I had a few  
16 insecurities all because of my childhood.

17 "There was one emotional trauma after another.  
18 I couldn't mix well with people. I have improved over  
19 the years. I have learned a lot in life and I am quite  
20 savvy. There were some nice times at Glasclune, but  
21 sadly, the thing you wanted was missing: the emotion,  
22 the love, the hugs, the kisses.

23 "I was afraid to show my emotions in the end.  
24 I always vowed I'd make up for that with my own family.  
25 My family got love, hugs and kisses. I was very loving

1 with my family. All the time I must have been  
2 subconsciously thinking: this isn't going to happen to  
3 my family, they'll get the attention I didn't get.

4 "One of the cruellest blows that ever happened to me  
5 was being given the letter and photograph of my mother  
6 at Barkingside. I got to Australia because I didn't  
7 have much choice after receiving the letter. I felt  
8 devastated. I was lonely. I felt empty. I felt  
9 cheated and deceived. Barnardo's shouldn't have done  
10 what they did to me. There was no support about how  
11 I felt at all. I was dealing with all these emotions  
12 that I didn't know how to handle.

13 "I was stuck in a home in Burwood, Sydney with  
14 working age Barnardo's girls. There was only one other  
15 girl who was my age who came out on the boat with me.  
16 When I eventually did enquire about my mother in Sydney,  
17 my records from Barnardo's say that the staff didn't  
18 even know why I'm worried about my mother because  
19 I don't know my mother. Barnardo's just disregarded my  
20 enquiries.

21 "Barnardo's knew everything about my mother. They  
22 never told my sister and I a thing. They didn't ask  
23 about my parents when I was in Scotland. Barnardo's  
24 never said that our parents had died. I presumed they  
25 had. I used to tell all the girls at school and my

1 friends that my parents were dead. I said that because  
2 I was in a home and to make me feel better.

3 "I felt so isolated when I came to Australia and  
4 I found it hard to settle. I left school and went out  
5 to work. It was hard.

6 "As each year went by always in the back of my mind  
7 were my brother and mother. It was a traumatic change  
8 for me coming from Scotland to Australia for lots of  
9 reasons. I cried in bed. I was homesick for Scotland  
10 and I was thinking about my mother and my brother. It  
11 still makes me cry to this day. It was cruel what  
12 Barnardo's did. It's shocking.

13 "I suffered with my feet for the rest of my life  
14 because I had had to wear the wrong footwear at  
15 Glasclune. You were forced to wear shoes that didn't  
16 fit your feet.

17 "In 1998 meeting my mother in the United Kingdom was  
18 overwhelming. The meeting was a bit strained. I didn't  
19 think my mother was very loving towards me, not as much  
20 as I would have liked. I think she was overwhelmed. My  
21 mother wasn't a young woman anymore.

22 "My mother and I really got to know each other  
23 in the end with the help of the Child Migrants Trust  
24 giving us assistance to get over there. Out of the nine  
25 visits I made, Child Migrants helped on three occasions.

1            "I got on quite well with my mother considering  
2 I thought I'd never get to know my mother. It was quite  
3 a journey those last 20 years of her life. We got each  
4 other's sense of humour. My mother was very  
5 affectionate in her ways with me. She would say,  
6 'Hello, my beauty', and cup my face with matter hands.

7            "I have never blamed my mother for putting us i na  
8 home. She was given 12 months to take us back. My  
9 mother would have had to pay Barnardo's for my upkeep  
10 in the first 12 months. It became obvious my mother  
11 didn't have the money so I was kept in the home.  
12 I think my mother had to live with this terrible guilt  
13 that she was forced to hand two children over. I have  
14 always reassured my mother that I never once held it  
15 against her. What must it have been like for her to be  
16 left stranded with a wee baby, a 3-year-old daughter and  
17 a little boy? She did what she thought was best.  
18 I have no regrets.

19           "I feel my life's been one big journey. It has been  
20 completed because of meeting my mother and brother.  
21 I love my brother. I have seen him every time I've been  
22 over to the United Kingdom. He adores my daughter  
23 [REDACTED] who he's met a few times. He and I talk on the  
24 phone. He's always asking when I'm coming over again.  
25 I'm waiting on confirmation from Child Migrants as to

1           whether they're going to give me another trip. The  
2           first thing I will do when I hear is to ring him.

3           My half-sister is a lovely person. She has always  
4           been extremely defensive about my mother. She doesn't  
5           want to believe her mother gave two children up. She's  
6           always had a problem with that. My mother and I were  
7           never allowed to discuss anything about that in front of  
8           my half-sister. My half-sister didn't say that, but you  
9           got the feeling that was a no-no.

10          "My relationship with my sister blossomed when we  
11          both started having children in our early 20s. I had my  
12          daughter. My sister didn't have children then. She  
13          idolised my daughter. My sister married two or  
14          three years after me and had two boys. For the first  
15          time in my life there was a family. I felt I had  
16          a little girl and was married.

17          "I visited my sister and she visited me. We got  
18          closer from there. Now it's wonderful. I love all her  
19          family. They're all so sweet to me and my family. My  
20          children and I are sweet and lovely to her family. It's  
21          all good. I'm enjoying life. I'm going to be  
22          a great-grandmother for the first time in April.

23          "I have come out the other end and I'm okay. There  
24          was a lot that wasn't okay for so long. Too many people  
25          got away with too much. Everyone goes through trials



1 and tribulations and they experience things that aren't  
2 good, some worse than others. I've picked myself up and  
3 tried to be strong. I've accomplished a lot that I'm  
4 happy and proud of, my family, my sister and her family.

5 "For the first time I found people around me that  
6 listen to me and care about me. I have never been cared  
7 for like that before. My family means the world to me.  
8 I have all my friends and I live a nice life. I'm  
9 happy.

10 "I could so easily have gone off the rails when  
11 I was a teenager at 16 and 17 years old. No one was  
12 looking after me in the right way. I stayed on the  
13 right side of the tracks. I met the most wonderful man.  
14 Everything has come together beautifully. It's only in  
15 recent years that I've opened up to my family about my  
16 experiences. It's the most cathartic thing I've ever  
17 done, getting it out.

18 "I'm glad I wrote that letter to my half-sister.  
19 She was the beginning of this journey. I feel good  
20 I did that. I don't wish to gain anything from talking  
21 about my experiences, I just want it to be useful for  
22 the future.

23 "I have an Australian passport. Barnardo's were  
24 helpful with the information that was required to get my  
25 passport. I have Australian citizenship. My husband

1 and I both became Australian citizens on the same day.

2 "I'm very proud to say I'm Scottish; that will never  
3 go away. I was born in Scotland and I have 12 years of  
4 happy memories of Scotland. The trips we've made to  
5 Scotland have really confirmed that to me. There's  
6 something about Scotland. My sister sees herself as  
7 Scottish but she wasn't born in Scotland; she was born  
8 in Southport. She's Scottish through and through.

9 "I receive an Australian state pension and an  
10 Australian Government pension. I haven't received  
11 redress payment from the Australian or British  
12 governments. There's talk about redress from the  
13 British Government for child migrants because of the  
14 fact they sent us out to Australia.

15 "I got in touch with the Child Migrants Trust  
16 through Barnardo's. I started to receive magazines from  
17 the trust. I have been in close contact with the trust  
18 on a number of occasions over 12 years. I've had  
19 counselling with the trust. The trust has been  
20 absolutely wonderful. I've been on the phone for hours  
21 talking to them, especially when I found my brother.  
22 The counsellors let you talk. They advise you and  
23 listen to you. I've spoken to different people. It  
24 just depends who's available.

25 "Talking about things is the best way to help

1           yourself. That's what I've been doing, trying to help  
2           myself. I got my records from Barnardo's about 20 years  
3           ago. Barnardo's gave me information that I could apply  
4           for my records. Barnardo's vetted the records first and  
5           blacked things out they didn't want me to see like  
6           family addresses. Getting my records was devastated.  
7           It was the cold way Barnardo's wrote their reports on  
8           you, like you were nothing, just a number. It was  
9           awful, the way they wrote the reports, almost like you  
10          weren't there. It's like the reports are not about you.

11                 "I got the records from Barnardo's in Australia.  
12          They had got information from Barnardo's in the  
13          United Kingdom, collated it, and sent what they thought  
14          you could see. There were quite a lot of records but  
15          I do feel some of it is missing. There was a lot of  
16          about my family that I would have liked to have known  
17          more. I don't think Barnardo's were telling me  
18          everything.

19                 "There is information about my mother when  
20          Barnardo's interviewed her. Barnardo's commented that  
21          my mother was a fine-looking woman, well kept but  
22          evasive about certain information Barnardo's wanted from  
23          her."

24                 My Lady, from paragraphs 129 to 137, Amy gives  
25          a detailed account of how she was reunited with her

1 mother and her brother and her half-sister. Moving to  
2 paragraph 138 on page 6372:

3 "I would like to think in the future people will be  
4 vetted and trained more thoroughly so that children  
5 cannot be exposed in the way we were ever again.  
6 We were very exposed. We weren't being helped. That  
7 shouldn't be allowed to happen anymore. Institutions  
8 should allow for children's feelings and emotions.  
9 There should be warmth and understanding. Even if the  
10 staff can just put their arm around your shoulder and  
11 ask how you are.

12 "There was none of that for me. My life is well on  
13 its way. If people can learn from it and if whatever  
14 I have said can help anyone and improve the way things  
15 are done for the kids of the future in homes, I'm happy.

16 "I have no objection to my witness statement being  
17 published as part of the evidence to the inquiry.

18 "I believe the facts stated in this witness  
19 statement are true."

20 The statement was signed by Amy on 24 May 2019.

21 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

22 Is that the only statement we're reading this  
23 afternoon or are we going to another one?

24 MS RATTRAY: We do have another read-in.

25 LADY SMITH: Very well, let's do that then.

1                   Witness statement of "MARY" (read)

2           MS MACLEOD: My Lady, the next statement is that of an  
3           applicant who wishes to remain anonymous and to use the  
4           pseudonym "Mary". It is to be found at  
5           WIT.001.002.4769:

6                   "My name is Mary. I was born in 1944. My contact  
7           details are known to the inquiry.

8                   "I went into care when I was a baby. I was put into  
9           an orphanage in Dumfries. I found out years later, when  
10          I was married with children, that I had brothers and  
11          sisters overseas. I just couldn't believe it. There  
12          were four boys and four girls, so there were eight of us  
13          altogether.

14                   "I don't know how old I was when I went from the  
15          orphanage to Nazareth House in Kilmarnock. The nuns  
16          told us we were orphans and tramps and that's why they  
17          were looking after us. I think I've just blocked the  
18          early times out. I remember coming to Australia and  
19          that was the start of my life."

20                   My Lady, the inquiry has a record recovered from the  
21          Sisters of Nazareth at NAZ.001.001.8329, which notes  
22          this witness and her sister, who was a year and  
23          four months older than her, as being received in  
24          Nazareth House Kilmarnock on [REDACTED] 1946, when the  
25          witness would have been a year and a half, and leaving

1 Kilmarnock on [REDACTED] 1954 when the witness would have  
2 been 9 and a half:

3 "I came to Australia in 1954 with my older sister.  
4 We were the only ones from the family sent away. I was  
5 9 going on 10. I have no memory of Kilmarnock or of the  
6 journey, but I know it was by boat."

7 There's a record at NAA.001.001.1436, which is  
8 a consent form in relation to Mary, and is signed by  
9 Sister Aloysius Magdalene and dated [REDACTED] 1953,  
10 and I think we know from other evidence that Sister  
11 Aloysius Magdalene was the Mother Superior at Kilmarnock  
12 at the time.

13 There is a handwritten note on page 2 of the consent  
14 form, which reads:

15 "Bright little girl. Good appearance, well spoken.  
16 Considered suitable. Medical arranged."

17 And the medical form itself can be found at  
18 NAA.001.001.1439.

19 The passenger manifest relating to this witness is  
20 at NAA.001.001.0248. This is a list of the passengers  
21 who travelled on the ship, the Orontes, which arrived in  
22 Fremantle on [REDACTED] 1954. This witness, Mary, and her  
23 sister are listed as passengers with their address being  
24 noted as "care of Nazareth House in Melbourne".

25 There is also a record which relates to this witness

1 at BEW.001.001.0594, which is a list prepared by the  
2 Catholic Child Welfare Council of children sent to  
3 Australia between 1938 and 1943. This witness is  
4 included in the list and that notes the date that she  
5 sailed from the United Kingdom as [REDACTED] 1954, which fits  
6 in with the arrival date of [REDACTED] 1954:

7 "I can remember getting off the ship and there being  
8 buses waiting to take us to Nazareth House Camberwell.  
9 There seemed to be a lot of kids who came from all over  
10 to Australia from the British isles. I think they split  
11 us all up as we were going to different places. They  
12 didn't tell us anything, we were shown to a bus.  
13 Luckily, I stayed with my sister.

14 "I can't remember who took us to Nazareth House  
15 Camberwell. Nazareth House was set in a very well-to-do  
16 area of Melbourne. The building also housed elderly men  
17 and women. They were on the other side, but they  
18 weren't far away from the girls' part.

19 "I think there were four levels. There was a level  
20 that was called the flat roof where we did exercise. It  
21 was a play sort of area. The bottom level was the  
22 dining and the kitchen area.

23 "I can't remember who took us to Camberwell or my  
24 first day there. I think I've suppressed it because  
25 I can't remember much about when I arrived. I just knew

1 it was horrible. I don't know if maybe because I had  
2 grown up in an orphanage, I just went along with it and  
3 thought, 'This is my life and I haven't got anybody.'

4 "I was also very quiet in those days. I can vaguely  
5 remember lining up for a drink of orange juice. I think  
6 you had to go into a parlour with nuns and priests who  
7 interviewed you collectively. I remember the minute  
8 I walked into the place. It was hell. We used to call  
9 it Nazi house. It was like a jail.

10 "There was a Mother Superior who was in charge of  
11 the nuns but I can't remember her name. There was  
12 a Sister MEJ [REDACTED], Sister LSW [REDACTED] and  
13 Sister LSV [REDACTED]. We used to call Sister LSW [REDACTED] 'the  
14 devil'. She was brutal thing I've ever seen. She was  
15 the worst of them all. She was horrible. She was Irish  
16 and a little thing. I think she had a chip on her  
17 shoulder because she was so small. We called  
18 Sister LSV [REDACTED].

19 "There was also Sister Aquinas and Sister Elizabeth.  
20 There was a room for a priest to stay in. This was in  
21 case an old person died. There were two handymen who  
22 lived in the house next door, they were called  
23 LSZ [REDACTED] and LTC [REDACTED]. I can't remember LTC [REDACTED]  
24 surname. He was an old, holier-than-thou sort of  
25 person. LSZ [REDACTED] was younger. He had a crush on my friend



1 who was very pretty. We thought he was having an affair  
2 with Sister LSW.

3 "If anything needed fixing those two men were called  
4 in. They were always there and often in a room with the  
5 nuns. I don't know what they were doing in there. They  
6 would come around when I was in the laundry or the  
7 kitchen but they weren't interested in me. I was too  
8 young.

9 "We slept in dormitories. I reckon there were  
10 a dozen of us in each one. We were split into our age  
11 groups. I didn't have much to do with my sister because  
12 she was older than me and therefore in a different  
13 dormitory. I was in the same dormitory the whole time  
14 I was in Nazareth House.

15 "The nuns took turns to wake us up at 7 o'clock for  
16 church. We had to kneel beside our beds and say our  
17 prayers. We went to Mass for an hour every morning.

18 "The priest would come and say Mass. After that we  
19 went for breakfast and so-called school.

20 "We were given porridge with lumps in it. I haven't  
21 eaten it since. If you didn't eat it, you got a belting  
22 or it was thrown over you or rubbed into your hair by  
23 one of the nuns. Sister LSV and Sister LSW  
24 would do it. The nuns were always there watching us.  
25 It was different nuns in charge on different days so you

1 never knew who you were going to get.

2 "The food was horrible. It wasn't edible. I still  
3 can't eat properly now. We were forced to eat muck and  
4 it put me off food because of the way it was thrown over  
5 you or rubbed in your hair. I dreaded the meals. If  
6 I didn't eat it, you were belted black and blue or  
7 punished in some other way, like being made to scrub  
8 floors in the dining room. They made such a big deal of  
9 it. There could be a dozen of us not eating it. You  
10 didn't get off with it. Nobody did. We were all  
11 punished.

12 "We were mainly taught religion and the catechism.  
13 We had to learn the Catholic prayer book off by heart.  
14 The nuns taught us but I don't think they were even  
15 teachers. We got adding up and English, but they didn't  
16 teach us history or geography. I hadn't heard of  
17 algebra or geometry. It was just the basics so you  
18 didn't learn much.

19 "I was good at school because I enjoyed it. The  
20 schooled in Nazareth House only went to a certain level  
21 so they had to send us somewhere to be educated.  
22 We were too old to stay there not doing anything.

23 "When I got older, they sent me to Melbourne Tech  
24 for a term to learn typing and shorthand. I stayed  
25 there for a term but they gave up on me.

1            "We had to do work after school. I just sort of the  
2 floated around and did what I was told, scrubbing and  
3 polishing floors. It was a huge place. It was like  
4 something out of Charles Dickens or Oliver Twist. They  
5 had huge lino corridors and we had to get on our hands  
6 and knees and scrub them. If they weren't done properly  
7 we had to go back and start them again. The cleaning  
8 took up hours of our day. After I had finished the  
9 floors, I would have to go to the kitchen and peel the  
10 potatoes for all the old people.

11           "My sister was up with the elderly folk most of the  
12 time. She never had a break. I never went to the old  
13 people's part so I didn't have any contact with them.

14           "Some of the older girls had to clean the windows.  
15 It was dangerous work. I never had to do that, I mainly  
16 did the scrubbing, the kitchen and the laundry. They  
17 didn't have cleaners, we did it all. We were slaves.

18           "After your work you would have your tea and go to  
19 bed. We sometimes got a little bit of television when  
20 we got one; I can't even remember what we were watching  
21 because we were so shocked to have a television. I can  
22 remember having one near the end of my time there.

23           "Bedtime was 6 or 7 pm. The lights went out and  
24 that was it. We weren't allowed to talk or do anything.  
25 The nuns had a little room to look into the dorm. They

1 used to rotate week by week and watch us from their  
2 room. You wouldn't be out of bed because you would get  
3 whacked. We were terrified because we knew if we said  
4 the wrong thing or stepped in the wrong spot, we would  
5 be punished with the stick or the strap.

6 "A lot of kids used to wet their beds through fear.  
7 In the mornings, they used to have to put the wet sheets  
8 over their heads and go out on to the veranda and stand  
9 with the sheets over their heads. It was horrible.

10 "I hated the showers. They were down on the ground  
11 floor. The showers were all lined up. We might have  
12 one or two a week. The younger ones would strip off and  
13 the older ones would have to help them get washed.  
14 There were some really young ones there, maybe 7 or  
15 8 years old. I was sort of in the middle of the groups.  
16 There were always nuns there watching us get washed.  
17 I just thought they were perverts.

18 "It was a hell of a time having your period. They'd  
19 throw the sanitary towel at you and call you filthy and  
20 disgusting. I used to think they were women and they  
21 had been through the same thing. I could never work  
22 that out. It was horrendous. You couldn't get a bra  
23 either. They would tell me that I didn't need one. You  
24 didn't have any modesty there. Personal hygiene was  
25 non-existent with them. It got to the stage you were

1 frightened to ask for anything like that because you got  
2 a mouthful or they would throw it at you.

3 "The flat roof had a tennis court. I never played  
4 because I was never picked. I was quiet and I wasn't  
5 pushy. My sister was picked because of her age. The  
6 older ones seemed to get a bit more freedom than the  
7 younger ones. There was only about 14 months between  
8 us. It was different for her because she was in  
9 a different age group. We used to go outside and do  
10 gym.

11 "We always did religious concerts for special  
12 Sundays or saints' days or for people who came in. We  
13 knew what day people were coming. It was usually on  
14 a Sunday. There was a lot of Catholics in the area.  
15 The orphanage was in a very Catholic neighbourhood.

16 "We didn't really have holidays, but we would be  
17 sent to stay with a family in the neighbourhood. We  
18 didn't have a choice. The nuns would tell us we were  
19 going.

20 "I used to go and stay with this family called the  
21 [REDACTED]. They had eight kids of their own and I was  
22 their little slave. They lived in [REDACTED] in  
23 Mount Albert, which was a very posh area. They had  
24 a huge house.

25 "I would wait in the front parlour for them to pick

1 me up. I had to clean up after them at mealtimes and  
2 wash the floors. They were nice people but they were  
3 using me.

4 "We usually broke up just before Christmas and  
5 I would stay with them for a good month. I used to look  
6 forward to going because they were nice. They were good  
7 Catholics. A couple of their kids were around my age so  
8 I played with them sometimes. They would take me to the  
9 beach with them. I was being used as well, so it suited  
10 them to take me.

11 "I can't remember getting any healthcare. I think  
12 they had nurses on standby. Some of the girls had  
13 polio. I can't remember ever being sick. We got  
14 a dental check-up once a year when the dentist would  
15 come to Nazzie.

16 "We always prayed on Sunday except for mealtimes.  
17 It was the Lord's day. We always prayed before meals  
18 and had to kneel beside our beds and say our prayers.  
19 They were a bunch of hypocrites.

20 "Christmas was rubbish in Nazareth House.  
21 I wouldn't even describe it as Christmas. It was all  
22 prayers. I can't even remember seeing a Christmas tree,  
23 but they would have had one in the front entrance for  
24 visitors. We weren't allowed in there. I can't  
25 remember getting any presents from the nuns other than

1 a smack on the mouth.

2 "I wouldn't know anything about my birthday. They  
3 didn't celebrate anything.

4 "We wore dresses and bloomers and we wore our Sunday  
5 best for church. We would only get new clothes if we  
6 were going somewhere. You might get a new dress or  
7 a skirt for going to stay with people.

8 "I didn't have any visits from anyone personally.  
9 None of the girls had any visitors through the year; we  
10 only saw nuns and priests. The priests knew what was  
11 going on. They didn't say or do anything to stop it.  
12 We didn't know anything about what was going on. We  
13 just knew we were there. We got three meals a day,  
14 a whack every now and again, and told how rotten we were  
15 for being orphans. It was like jail.

16 "I didn't have any possessions or anything of my  
17 own. They gave us clothes and toothbrushes, but we  
18 didn't have anything of our own, not even a toilet bag.

19 "Beatings were regular. You would think you were  
20 being singled out. It happened at least three or four  
21 times a week and it would be for different things.

22 "I mainly copped the belt. It could be different  
23 nuns hitting you. They had no patience. They were  
24 violent bullies.

25 "LSV and LSW were the nastiest. LSV was

1 mainly in the school. She would turn on her heels and  
2 whack you. If you talked in class she turned and  
3 whacked you. LSW seemed to be everywhere: in the  
4 dining room, the laundry or the kitchen. She had plenty  
5 of opportunity to whack. LSW was tiny but a real  
6 bitch. She was in her 40s. LSV was the fatter one,  
7 about 50.

8 "We were hit if we spoke when we should have been  
9 working or hadn't done something properly. They just  
10 loved whacking us. It was just the normal thing to do.

11 "I can't remember some things. I think it is  
12 because if you opened your mouth you got a belting, so  
13 things don't come easily to me now. I can still  
14 remember a lot of horrible things. They were not  
15 gentle. They were brutes.

16 "They always used something to hit us, either the  
17 belt or the stick. They used to wear a long white robe  
18 with a bit over the front. They had their hands under  
19 their all the time, so you knew when they brought them  
20 out they were going to hit you. They had belts hanging  
21 from their robes. You saw it coming. They brought them  
22 out from underneath and hit you wherever it landed.

23 "LSV would turn on her heels, bring her belt or  
24 stick down and whack you. The beatings got worse over  
25 time. I saw it happen to everyone. I seemed to have



1 got it an awful lot. I felt I had a hard time but some  
2 of the girls got even harder times. My friend had  
3 a very hard time because she was pretty. The nuns  
4 didn't like her.

5 "We were made to feel like we were nothing and told  
6 we were ungrateful. They just put us down. They never  
7 had a kind word for us. Sisters of Nazareth? Well,  
8 they showed us no compassion.

9 "I didn't mind Sister MEJ. She was never  
10 horrible to me and she was nice to a lot of the girls.  
11 At night she used to sneak the biscuit tin in for the  
12 girls and we would share them. She did whack you  
13 sometimes if you had done something wrong, but she  
14 wasn't a nasty person.

15 "On the way home from school, some of the other  
16 girls and I would walk through Highfield Park to get  
17 back to Camberwell. One day we met some boys from  
18 another college and were talking to them. We were  
19 caught by someone who reported us to the nuns. When we  
20 got back we were taken upstairs. We were taken into  
21 a room one by one and searched. I was given an internal  
22 examination by Dr LSY to check my virginity. There  
23 was a priest and a nun there. It was LSW or  
24 Elizabeth. They thought I'd had sex with one of the  
25 boys. I mean, it was the middle of the day.

1            "It was the most embarrassing thing that ever  
2 happened to me, being searched in front of a priest,  
3 a nun and a doctor. I have never recovered from that  
4 assault. I hadn't done anything wrong.

5            "I was belted for about a week afterwards. I was  
6 taken out of the school and for a while I had nothing to  
7 do except cleaning.

8            "They ended up getting me a job in the immigration  
9 centre. I don't think I even got paid because I never  
10 had any money of my own. It must have been given  
11 directly to the nuns.

12           "The name-calling from the nuns was degrading and  
13 at the time we couldn't do anything about it. There  
14 wasn't anybody who we could speak to about it. We  
15 couldn't tell anybody. We were made to feel like  
16 we were nothing and that they were doing us a favour.  
17 We were ungrateful bitches, horrible and nasty. They  
18 would say, 'No wonder your mothers didn't want you.'  
19 They threw things in our face the whole time. They  
20 never had a kind word for us.

21           "Looking back at the Sisters of Nazareth,  
22 compassion? They never showed us any compassion. There  
23 was nobody to speak to on our side.

24           "I spent 5 years believing I had nothing and no  
25 family. The nuns told us we were lucky to be there

1 because we were orphans. That was how we were brought  
2 up, believing we were orphans. They just kept telling  
3 us we were lucky we had them because they were feeding  
4 us as our parents were dead. We were only kids and they  
5 made us feel like rotten scoundrels.

6 "They were being paid by the government, so they  
7 loved it. The government didn't interfere. Nobody from  
8 the welfare department came to visit us or ask us how  
9 we were. Nobody worried about whether we were being  
10 treated well, nobody bothered to ask.

11 "They used to send girls to a place called  
12 Abbotsford Convent if you were really bad. It was  
13 a threat and a punishment. They'd send girls there to  
14 be punished and they would come back like zombies.  
15 I always prayed I was never sent there. They would come  
16 back destroyed, mentally and physically. You wouldn't  
17 even know them. I was terribly lucky I was never sent  
18 there.

19 "The nuns told me I was leaving, they just got rid  
20 of us. We had nothing and I was glad to be out of  
21 there. I went to stay with the Deibings family. I was  
22 15. The nuns would have organised it. I think they  
23 were quite happy to have me, but they were Catholic so  
24 they probably felt they couldn't say no.

25 "I was like a house cleaner while I boarded with

1           them. They were good to me and didn't throw insults at  
2           me. I was quite happy to do the work because I wasn't  
3           being verbally or physically abused and I was out of the  
4           jailhouse. The work wasn't as bad there either because  
5           Nazareth House was huge.

6           "I boarded with them for a while, maybe a year. We  
7           had some happy times. I still worked in the immigration  
8           centre in the city. There were rows and rows of us  
9           in the typing pool. The supervisor used to thump me for  
10          talking when she walked past. She was a bitch. It was  
11          a bit like being back in the convent. In those days  
12          people could do what they liked.

13          "My friend and I wanted to get a flat together.  
14          I just left the family and walked out. We got a flat in  
15          Elwood when I was 15 or 16. From then on we were just  
16          on our own and lived our own lives.

17          "As soon as I left I hit the bottle. I was drinking  
18          like a fish. I would go into work drunk or with  
19          a hangover. I didn't care about food. I just wanted  
20          cigarettes and booze. They were the only thing  
21          I wanted. Drinking was the only thing that kept me  
22          sane. I wanted to do the things that I wasn't allowed  
23          in the home.

24          "We had no say in what we wore or what we ate,  
25          anything. I could do my own thing and I knew I wouldn't

1 get a whack for it. I just took a liking to alcohol and  
2 thought I was going to have what I wanted. I was  
3 determined I was going to do my own thing.

4 "I left the immigration centre after 12 to 18 months  
5 and got a job as a typist in the railway. I would go in  
6 there with a hangover too. My friend and I moved to  
7 a boarding house because it was cheaper because we used  
8 to just drink our wages.

9 "I met my husband. After a while, I became  
10 pregnant. We moved in with my mother-in-law when I was  
11 pregnant. When she found out I'd grown up in  
12 Nazareth House she changed towards me. She was beside  
13 herself because her son had married someone from an  
14 orphanage. She treated me like a piece of shit. We got  
15 our own house when my son was born.

16 "I have three children. My son is 49 and my  
17 daughters are 46 and 42. I wasn't married for long. My  
18 ex-husband thought he was God's gift to women. I was  
19 drinking heavily too, so that didn't help. I brought  
20 the kids up myself. I have had different jobs such as  
21 working in a factory and doing night shifts so that  
22 I would be there for the kids in the morning.

23 "I worked until I became very ill with alcohol  
24 poisoning. After that, I had to stop drinking. I was  
25 54. My son was in his late 20s by then. The kids

1           forgave me for my drinking. They know all about me and  
2           have been so supportive. I see them all the time. I've  
3           had a couple of relationships since I separated from my  
4           ex-husband, but I'm not interested. I like being on my  
5           own.

6           "I have never reported anything to the police.  
7           I was too embarrassed for years and years. I wouldn't  
8           even talk about it. It was the worst thing that could  
9           have happened.

10          "I haven't had any treatment or counselling for  
11          being in an orphanage. A lot of my friends still don't  
12          even know. The only support I've had is from the Child  
13          Migrants Trust. I became involved with them a long time  
14          ago. We have special days here and it's packed with  
15          people. We just talk to each other about their lives.

16          "I have never seen my records. My sister and I went  
17          to the library in the city centre but couldn't find  
18          anything. I would like to see them one day.

19          "My sister got a phone call out of the blue telling  
20          her about our family in Scotland. We found out that  
21          we have four brothers and two sisters. I nearly dropped  
22          everything because I didn't know. I had a family of my  
23          own by then. It was a shock because all my life  
24          I thought I was an orphan. My sister won money and was  
25          able to go to Scotland to meet our mother. I couldn't

1 afford to go, so I never met her.

2 "I went over when one of my nephews died to attend  
3 his funeral. It was a sad occasion, but I wanted to  
4 meet the family. We all look alike. There's no  
5 mistaking us. I have met cousins, nieces and nephews.  
6 We have a huge family in [REDACTED].

7 "A couple of my brothers have been over to Australia  
8 with their wives. I don't think any of them will come  
9 over again. It has been difficult because the rest of  
10 the family are upset that we have delved into history.  
11 I think they were shocked to find out about us. They  
12 didn't even know who we were and I doubt if my mother  
13 ever spoke to them about us. They won't tell us  
14 anything about our mother. I think to them our mother  
15 was a saint. She couldn't do anything wrong.

16 "My sister looks very like our mother. I have one  
17 photo of her and she was the image of her. I don't know  
18 my father's name. When we were last there four years  
19 ago, we asked our brothers and sisters, but they said  
20 they didn't know. If they did know, they weren't going  
21 to tell us.

22 "I was naturalised years ago. I receive  
23 a Commonwealth pension. I have never had monetary  
24 compensation. I had a firm of solicitors who were going  
25 to work on our behalf but I haven't heard from them, so

1 I don't know what's going on. I've worked for  
2 everything I have, which isn't much, but I've always  
3 worked.

4 "I was really ill from not eating a couple of months  
5 ago. They put me in a mental hospital. I was locked in  
6 a room with other people who were screaming and yelling.  
7 I had gone to see the doctor and told her I was having  
8 problems with my stomach and not eating. She told me  
9 that a counsellor would speak to me. The counsellor  
10 spoke to me and said she would put me in a hospital for  
11 a couple of days. I ended up in there for two weeks so  
12 that I would eat. I had no idea that's where I was  
13 going. It was a mental facility. I was beside myself.  
14 They told me I have an eating disorder because I wasn't  
15 eating. I tried to tell them that I didn't belong in  
16 there.

17 "I tried to run away. I was stuck in a room with  
18 another woman who was throwing her food everywhere.  
19 I was shocked. I never saw a doctor apart from the  
20 first day. I kept trying to explain that I didn't need  
21 to be there and I wasn't mental. I had to do all these  
22 silly little puzzle games. I was furious. I told the  
23 kids not to come and see me. It wasn't any good.  
24 I didn't get any counselling.

25 "I don't trust people. I'm loud. I say what I want



1 and if it's not right, I don't give a shit because I put  
2 up with it for years. I was shut up for so long.  
3 I hate people telling me what to do, I can't stand it.  
4 I can get angry quickly. To me, it's just getting back  
5 at the world for how I was treated when I was young.  
6 That's why I love living on my own. I see my kids and  
7 that's all I care about in life.

8 "I was ashamed that I didn't have parents. I would  
9 be so embarrassed filling out forms and having to state  
10 Nazareth House on them. I would tell lies and say that  
11 I was in a boarding school because my parents died in  
12 a car accident.

13 "I used to work with a girl whose parents used to  
14 spoil her rotten. One day she came into work and  
15 started speaking badly about them. I had an argument  
16 with her and told her she should be so grateful she had  
17 parents. I said she didn't know how lucky she was.

18 "I don't think it would happen now. They don't have  
19 orphanages or nuns now. I don't think they take  
20 children off their parents and put them in an orphanage  
21 now. Things are different now.

22 "When the truth came out, I couldn't believe that  
23 the nuns got away with it for so long. I wondered how  
24 we survived.

25 "I have no objection to my witness statement being

1 published as part of the evidence to the inquiry.  
2 I believe the facts stated in this witness statement are  
3 true."

4 The statement was signed by Mary on 20 March 2019.

5 Mary has also provided the inquiry with a copy of  
6 a statement she provided with assistance from the Child  
7 Migrants Trust. That can be found at WIT.003.001.2686.

8 My Lady, that completes the evidence for today.

9 LADY SMITH: Thank you very much.

10 Before I rise for today, I would like to take this  
11 opportunity just to provide an update on the inquiry's  
12 investigations. I want to let everybody know that  
13 we have identified a further ten institutions, including  
14 four young offenders' institutions, that we're  
15 investigating as part of our ongoing work. These  
16 additional investigations include institutions that are  
17 in different parts of Scotland and run by a range of  
18 care providers.

19 So far as young offenders' institutions are  
20 concerned, we're looking into Glenochil, Polmont,  
21 Barlinnie, and Longriggend.

22 We're also looking into a group of local authority  
23 establishments. That's Wellington School in Midlothian.  
24 Thornley Park School in Renfrewshire. Bellfield Remand  
25 Home in West Dumbartonshire and Langlands Park Secure

1 Unit in Inverclyde. That's from 1985, so far as it was  
2 a local authority establishment. We're also looking  
3 into the period that the Church of Scotland were running  
4 Langlands park, so that's before 1985, as a Church of  
5 Scotland establishment.

6 Finally, we're looking into St Philip's School in  
7 Plains, Airdrie.

8 These establishments are in addition to the list of  
9 86 institutions that have previously been announced by  
10 the inquiry. The full list of institutions is on the  
11 website and that's at [www.childabuseinquiry.scot](http://www.childabuseinquiry.scot).

12 I would ask that anybody who has any relevant  
13 information about any of these institutions, please get  
14 in touch with the inquiry. We want to hear from anybody  
15 who has relevant evidence to offer regardless of whether  
16 they've already made a report to the police or indeed to  
17 anybody else. It doesn't matter whether or not they  
18 have already been involved in any other investigation,  
19 they can still talk to us.

20 Could I remind everybody, please, that I do know  
21 that it can be difficult and very emotional to talk  
22 about experiences in relation to residential care,  
23 whether as somebody who was themselves a child in care  
24 or as somebody who has evidence to give about children  
25 who were in care. However, we do have a highly

1 experienced Witness Support team and they will help and  
2 support all witnesses throughout the process. The  
3 inquiry team do all we can to help all witnesses feel  
4 safe and secure whenever they speak to us.

5 Otherwise, investigations into the provision of care  
6 from a range of institutions are ongoing, with evidence  
7 being taken from witnesses who can provide valuable  
8 information as well as the gathering of a very wide  
9 range of documentary evidence, and I would like to take  
10 this opportunity to confirm that a case study examining  
11 the abuse of children in Scotland in boarding schools  
12 here is expected to start in July this year.

13 As ever, anybody wishing to contact the inquiry can  
14 do so via one of three methods: either by telephone on  
15 the free phone number 0800 0929 300, or by email at  
16 talktous@childabuseinquiry.scot, or by post at PO Box  
17 24085, Edinburgh, EH7 9EA.

18 Thank you all. I think we proceed tomorrow morning  
19 as planned with one oral witness tomorrow, possibly with  
20 time for read-ins. We will perhaps play it by ear and  
21 see how we get on.

22 MS MACLEOD: That's right, my Lady. We plan to have  
23 a witness start at 10 o'clock and then have possible  
24 read-ins after that.

25 LADY SMITH: Thank you very much. I'll rise now until

1           10 o'clock tomorrow morning.

2           (3.28 pm)

3                       (The inquiry adjourned until 10.00 am

4                                       on Friday 6 March 2020)

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