

HIA REF: SND 49

Witness Name: **SND 49**

## THE INQUIRY INTO HISTORICAL INSTITUTIONAL ABUSE 1922 TO 1995

WITNESS STATEMENT OF **SND 49**I, **SND 49** will say as follows:-

1. I was born on [REDACTED] in the [REDACTED] Derry. My earliest memory is as an infant in the nursery at Termonbacca in Bishop Street. I believe that in or around [REDACTED] I was moved to the boys home in Termonbacca. In or around [REDACTED] I attended the Sisters of Nazareth [REDACTED] School and in or around [REDACTED] I attended the Christian Brothers School. In or around [REDACTED] I attended [REDACTED] Boys School.
2. In all my time in Termonbacca, I was never a Supervisor and never worked [REDACTED]. In [REDACTED] when I reached the age of [REDACTED] years old, I left Termonbacca to work for [REDACTED] in [REDACTED] for approximately 1 year to 18 months. I was not paid while I was there and during one visit back to Termonbacca, I spoke to [REDACTED] SR 11 and informed her of this, she suggested I leave [REDACTED]. I then went to work for [REDACTED] for 6 months after which time I obtained a job in construction but was made redundant. I went back to Termonbacca for 6 weeks at which time I painted the outside of the Nursery building in return for accommodation. I was then offered a job in [REDACTED] and went there in [REDACTED] but left after 3 months for a job in construction on the [REDACTED] for 6 weeks. On 27 February [REDACTED], I [REDACTED] in [REDACTED].
3. I remained living in England and I married in or around [REDACTED] and divorced in [REDACTED] having [REDACTED] daughter to the marriage and [REDACTED]. I have lived my life without reference to Termonbacca and I do not wish to discuss my time there. I have no wish to remember the specifics of the incidents which I experienced and observed and have not discussed these with my representatives.
4. I absolutely deny sexually or physically abusing any boy in Termonbacca. There is specific reference to me holding an aluminium ladle in my right hand and striking [REDACTED] HIA 121. I am left handed and I deny striking [REDACTED] HIA 121. I do not even recall a boy called [REDACTED] HIA 121. In [REDACTED] HIA 121 statement to the Garda Siochana dated 10 December 1995 he says he was aged [REDACTED] when he was attacked by me using a ladle. In his statement to the Inquiry he says that he was aged [REDACTED] at the time of this attack in 1958. In [REDACTED] I was aged [REDACTED] and not in [REDACTED]. I also left Termonbacca in [REDACTED] and I never worked on [REDACTED]. I only returned to Termonbacca in [REDACTED] for 6 weeks to paint the outside of the nursery when [REDACTED] HIA 121 states that he was already in [REDACTED].

Dated this 4 day of FEB 2014

Signed

**SND 49**

severe distress as I was beaten. The nuns would see us being beaten and not once did they intervene to stop it. By the end of the day (which was around 6-8pm) I would be deeply traumatised. My knees and toes were scabbed and bleeding week after week. Years later I discovered that I had permanently damaged 'bandy' knees as a result. I am now sixty four years old and these painful memories still haunt me to this day. The nuns had absolutely no sympathy for us.

7. From when I was five years old we had to prepare for the Bishop's concert each Christmas. The Bishop was called Bishop Neil Farren. I dreaded the rehearsals because if we made a mistake we were left in no doubt that we would be beaten. On the day of the concert the Bishop arrived in all his fine robes. We would all have to kneel down and he would come in and bless us. The nuns would be falling over him with smiles and we were warned to smile at him. He would sit on the Bishop's throne. This was a big chair that was specifically for him and it was only used once a year.
8. At the end of the concert the Bishop would stand up and he would bless us and he would talk about praying for benefactors. We hadn't a clue what he was talking about. He would talk about praying for the conversion of Russia - the Red Scare of the 1950's dominated our lives and we were told that they were evil. This was indoctrination. Then the nuns would take the Bishop off for a sumptuous meal in the parlour and we went off to the dormitory wondering if we were going to be beaten.
9. [REDACTED] SND48 [REDACTED] SND49 and a man called [REDACTED] SND 195/196? worked at Termonbacca. They had been residents in Termonbacca. They were in their [REDACTED] when I was there. The three of them worked [REDACTED] and also supervised boys periodically during the day and at night. They were paedophiles and the most notorious was [REDACTED] SND48 [REDACTED] no words of mine can describe the sheer horror he inflicted. He sexually abused at will. During my years at Termonbacca the three of them made numerous attempts to sexually abuse me. I lived in constant fear of them. I always resisted and fought them off, resulting in beatings by them at every opportunity.

- [REDACTED]
14. Two particular incidents of sexual abuse that I witnessed will remain with me forever. The first involved [REDACTED] SND48 [REDACTED]. One day I walked into the junior section of the dormitory where I slept. As I walked in I could see a boy who was no older than eight years old on his knees performing oral sex on [REDACTED] SND48 [REDACTED]. I screamed and turned to run out of the dormitory. Just as I turned to run, [REDACTED] SR11 [REDACTED] (who is now deceased), was standing behind me. She saw what was going on. I started screaming. It made no difference - [REDACTED] SND48 [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] SND48 [REDACTED] continued to supervise the boys after this. I was terrified of him.
  15. The second incident I witnessed involved the monitor called [REDACTED] SND 195/196? [REDACTED]. When I was about seven years old I woke up one night. I heard a noise and crying. To my horror he was bugging a boy in the next bed to me. I started to cry and he screamed at me to cover my head. To this day I cannot sleep unless I put a blanket over my head. The cries of terror of the boy being bugged in the bed next to me have haunted me to this day.
  16. I spent my childhood in Termonbacca in fear of being sexually abused by these three paedophiles. I was determined they would not abuse me. Then one day [REDACTED] SND48 [REDACTED] grabbed me and tried to drag me into the dormitory to abuse me. I was ten years old. I kicked out at him and kicked him violently screaming and shouting - he eventually gave up and threw me down the steps of the furnace that heated the home. I fell on my face and broke part of my front tooth and I was bleeding heavily from injuries to my head. I was deeply traumatised and frightened. I was left there until almost midnight. From time to time a nun would open the door and look down at me with a smirk on her face and leave me there. Eventually I was bandaged up. [REDACTED] SR38 [REDACTED] kept me bandaged up for nearly a week.
  17. The following week [REDACTED] SND49 [REDACTED] who was the monitor in charge at the midday meal time approached me with a heavy aluminium ladle in his right hand. With all his force he struck me on the left hand side of my head knocking me

unconscious. I remember as he struck me I fell onto the dining table. I felt a gush of hot red blood gushing from my head and down my neck. As I fell unconscious, I could hear the other boys screaming "Sister, Sister". Sister SR11 was there and she witnessed this. Sometime later, perhaps the next day, I woke up in the infirmary which was in the baby section. I spent almost three months there. I was bandaged up and my dressings were changed daily. I shall never ever forget the smell of brown iodine. I recall one particular occasion of the many visits by the Doctor when he gave off to the Mother Superior Mother SR13 (who is now deceased). Years later I realised he was leaving her in no doubt how serious he viewed the injury that the assault by SND49 had left on my head. SR38 would often sit and read when she was on her own in the infirmary and she would hold my hand in sympathy. I was just like a zombie at that stage. To this day I still carry the imprint of that assault on my skull. I am happy to submit myself to a medical examination if required, to confirm the nature, extent and approximate age I was at the time of the injury. As a result of this injury, I was shattered and I never recovered the great potential that I had for learning. My powers of comprehension were greatly diminished because of that assault. My mind was never the same after the assault. I have tried hard at adult education over the years, but I couldn't manage it. Following this assault I became deeply introverted and withdrawn. My trust in friendship collapsed that day. I continued to wet the bed and as a punishment I had to stand outside the dining hall and was not allowed to have breakfast.

18. I have no doubt that this assault by SND49 was a direct result of my resisting the attempts by SND48 sexually abuse me the previous day. As far as I know, SND49 was not punished or reprimanded in any way because of this. He continued to work there and to supervise the boys.

1 [REDACTED]  
 2 [REDACTED]  
 3 [REDACTED]  
 4 [REDACTED]  
 5 [REDACTED]  
 6 [REDACTED]  
 7 [REDACTED]  
 8 [REDACTED]  
 9 [REDACTED]  
 10 [REDACTED]  
 11 [REDACTED]  
 12 [REDACTED]  
 13 [REDACTED]  
 14 [REDACTED]  
 15 [REDACTED]  
 16 [REDACTED]  
 17 [REDACTED]  
 18 [REDACTED]  
 19 [REDACTED]  
 20 [REDACTED]  
 21 [REDACTED]  
 22 [REDACTED]  
 23 [REDACTED]  
 24 [REDACTED]  
 25 [REDACTED]

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1 Then the next thing you remember is waking up in the  
 2 infirmary --  
 3 **A. Yes.**  
 4 Q. -- which is in the baby section. You spent you say  
 5 almost three months there --  
 6 **A. That's it.**  
 7 Q. -- recovering from this injury?  
 8 **A. That's it, yes.**  
 9 Q. You were bandaged up. Your dressings were changed daily  
 10 and you remember the smell of brown iodine. You recall  
 11 a particular occasion when the doctor came.  
 12 **A. Yes.**  
 13 Q. So the doctor did come to treat you for this injury?  
 14 **A. Oh, yes. Several times, yes, yes.**  
 15 Q. Several times. You say that he gave off to the Mother  
 16 Superior at the time.  
 17 **A. Yes, yes.**  
 18 Q. And you say in that statement you realised that he was  
 19 leaving her in no doubt as to how seriously he viewed  
 20 the injury you sustained?  
 21 **A. Yes, yes.**  
 22 Q. Is it correct that you recall -- you say you still have  
 23 a scar from that?  
 24 **A. Yes. If I may, what led directly to this assault was**  
 25 **the incident the day before in the dormitory, when I**

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1 [REDACTED]  
 2 [REDACTED]  
 3 [REDACTED]  
 4 [REDACTED]  
 5 [REDACTED]  
 6 [REDACTED]  
 7 MS SMITH: HIA121, if I can just take you -- you said that  
 8 you wanted to make a comment -- and I perhaps  
 9 interrupted you too precipitously -- you wanted to make  
 10 a comment about something about -- that happened in the  
 11 dormitory. Is that something I have already read out to  
 12 the Inquiry?  
 13 **A. I think you were coming to that.**  
 14 Q. Very well. You go on at paragraph 17 that the following  
 15 week a third person who you name as a paedophile, who  
 16 was the monitor in charge at the midday meal time,  
 17 approached you with a heavy aluminium ladle in his right  
 18 hand:  
 19 "... and with all his force he struck me on the  
 20 left-hand side of my head, knocking me unconscious.  
 21 I remember as he struck me I fell on to the dining  
 22 table. I felt a gush of hot red blood gulping from my  
 23 head and down my neck. As I fell unconscious I could  
 24 hear the other boys screaming 'Sister, sister'.  
 25 You name the nun who was there and who witnessed it.

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1 personally witnessed an 8-year-old boy perform as  
 2 outlined in the report oral sex on an adult. When I saw  
 3 that, I went ballistic. I turned around and the sister  
 4 who is named is standing there. I ran away from her.  
 5 I hadn't the words to describe what I'd witnessed, nor  
 6 to articulate my fears. There were no words for  
 7 a child. I doubt if even a child today could explicitly  
 8 outline it.  
 9 But the following day I was sitting in the  
 10 refectory, and I place my hand on this holy bible as  
 11 truth. I saw this number two paedophile walk towards me  
 12 with a large industrial aluminium ladle that one sees in  
 13 these Oliver whatever, and with all the force and might  
 14 came down on the left-hand side of my head. I fell to  
 15 my right with a gurgling sound, dark clouds. The blood  
 16 was pumping out of me, the red hot blood, and I word the  
 17 words as I fell unconscious of the other orphans,  
 18 "Sister, sister". That blow deprived me of my  
 19 intellect, the great potential I had at that time.  
 20 I have tried adult education since, but that blow  
 21 destroyed the potential, the great potential, I had, and  
 22 that is why under sworn evidence twelve months ago to  
 23 the very kind Commission in Belfast I invited the  
 24 Commission -- and I reiterate that offer today -- that  
 25 I am prepared to go in front of any medical board, any

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