

11 JUL 2013

HIA REF: 88

Witness Name HIA88

THE INQUIRY INTO HISTORICAL INSTITUTIONAL ABUSE 1922 TO 1995

WITNESS STATEMENT OF HIA88

HIA88

will say as follows:-

Personal Details

1. I was born on [REDACTED] I was the eldest of fourteen children. My sister [REDACTED] died at birth. Six of my sisters and two of my brothers were also placed in care.

St Joseph's Childrens Home, Termonbacca, Derry (30/3/1949 – 4/4/1957)

2. I went to Termonbacca in 1949 when I was five years old. I stayed there for eight years. I left when I was thirteen and a half years old. My six sisters were placed in Nazareth House, Bishop Street when I was placed in Termonbacca. My sisters were in care for various periods up to thirteen years. My parents were not educated and I think putting us in care was recommended by Reverend Father Carr of Killybegs in County Donegal. My parents always told us that they put us in care to protect us. I was born in Donegal and they put us in care with the Sisters of Nazareth as they felt the situation would not have been any better in the South of Ireland. Sending us away was very traumatic for them.
3. Three of my sisters [REDACTED] and [REDACTED], were in Nazareth House and I would have passed that home for years and I never knew that they were there. I had two brothers also in care at Termonbacca, [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]



S. A. S.

Tel. 016999/ 8338206

PRIVATE & CONFIDENTIAL

HIA88

15 Blessington Street

Dublin 7

Dear HIA88

Thank you for your prompt reply to my letter. I now enclose the information as in the records at Derry.

Nazareth House, Bishop Street

Surname	Christian Name	D.O.B.	D.O.A	D.O.D.
			2.03.58	10.01.69
			4.02.55	10.10.68
			27.01.59	
			22.03.61	10.03.69
			30.03.49	5.07.61
			4.02.55	2.07.61

Termonbacca

HIA46	HIA46		28.01.55	5.09.59
HIA46	HIA46		10.10.59	24.06.60
HIA121	HIA121		10.11.50	5.09.59
HIA121	HIA121		10.10.59	24.06.60
HIA88	HIA88		30.03.49	4.04.57

Clarification : D.O.B Date of Birth
D.O.A Date of Admission
D.O.D. Date of Departure

Trusting that this information will help you and with every good wish.

Diocese of Derry

CERTIFICATE OF CONFIRMATION

HIA88

son

of

~~daughter~~

an

of

St Joseph's Home, Lerronebacco, Derry.

was confirmed by Most Rev. Dr. Neil Fane. Bishop of Derry, in

St Eugene's Cathedral, Derry on the 12th day of June 1952.

Confirmation No.

Name of Sponsor

SND15

I, the undersigned, certify the above to be a true and authentic extract from the Register of
 Confirmations kept in St Eugene's Cathedral (Templemore)

Date 4th February 1999

John Fane

Parochus vel Vicarius

 Seal of
 Parish

+
J.M.J.

NAZARETH HOUSE BISHOP STREET DERRY;

HIA88

5.2.1999

Dear HIA88

Re your visit on 4.2.1999 in which you requested me to answer three questions for you.

1. Your Records on Headed Paper
2. Mother General's Address
3. The Schools you attended

1. HIA88

Born in Mountcharles on [REDACTED]
Baptised in St Patrick's Church, Donegal
Parents Names: [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]
Received into Nazareth House on 30th March 1949
Left Nazareth House 4th April 1957.

2. Reverend Mother Gneral
Nazareth House
HAMMERSMITH
London
W6 8DB
England

3. I have no record of the School you attended but as you mentioned you remembered going to school in Bridge Street and that school is now closed.

HIA88 I am enclosing a photocopy of all the information I have found relating to you from the Original Records. If you wish I will gladly type them for you but I thought you would like the Originals.

I hope all this is to your satisfaction and I regret if I have been long in forwarding it to you.
I wish you all the best and hope you enjoy good health. May God bless you and reward you for all the voluntary work you do.

I remain
Your sincerely
Sister Veronica
Sister Veronica
Superior

No. on Register	Name	Date of Discharge	Age on Discharge
557.	HIA88	30th march '49 th April '54.	13

*They must have American - I must join
to become a priest - on offer on this is your life*

NAZARETH HOUSE

Bishop Street
Derry
BT48 6UN
+
J.M.J.

048
Tel: 028 7126 2180

Fax: 028 7126 3254

5 July 2000

Dear HIA88

Thank you for your letter received.

HIA88 regret to say I am unable to answer your questions 1. and 3.

1. There is no record here of HOW you arrived at Nazareth House or WHO WITH.

3. I am unable to say if your parents had a letter of Introduction, as there is no record of same.

2. You were recommended by Rev Father Carr, Killybegs, Co. Donegal, Eire.

I am sorry this is all the information available to me. As you will appreciate Records in 1949 were not as detailed then as they would be today. However if you would like to contact

M/S Patricia McGrogan
Family Care Society
511 Ormeau Road
BELFAST
BT7 3GS

she may be able to help you as possibly she may have more information about families.

I hope you can accept this HIA88 as there is no reason why I should not let you have all the information available to me.

Trust you are keeping well HIA88 and may God continue to bless you and all those you love.

Yours faithfully

Veronica

Sister Veronica
Superior.

0 11 11 0 11 11
55 [REDACTED] HIA 88 [REDACTED]

Father very ill in hospital. Mother going to work. Recommended
by Mr. Carr. Killybegs Co. Donegal.

dangerous. We didn't even have an outdoor toilet. Things got worse for us and never improved.

Life after care

24. I wouldn't have known my parents when I went back. It was like going home to live with strangers so there were enormous consequences arising from that situation. I didn't get on with my parents and my father and I had a very difficult relationship. He frequently threatened me with violence although he never hit me. To be quite honest I don't think he wanted any of his family there at that stage. I don't think he was a bad man or heartless, I just think because he himself felt let down and he had just given up at that stage, that is the attitude I got from him. My mother had little to say as she was suffering from severe depression at the time. She was back and forward in and out of hospital at that stage.

25. I talked to my doctor in 1960, a few years after leaving the home. I had to go into hospital in Letterkenny to get a course of electric shock treatment. I had seven courses of this treatment in 1960. I still take medication for my illness and would be quite forgetful and that is why I now keep a diary to help me remember the various incidents throughout my life.

26. I decided to leave Ireland like so many other boys in my situation. I went to Scotland to pick potatoes and worked there for the summer. Then I went to Shepherds Bush in London in October 1961. I worked in bars but I didn't like to be kept inside all day so I then worked as a driver, driving trucks mainly with Irish contractors. They treated the driver a bit better than the other workers but it was rough work to be honest. I got my PSV licence which meant I could drive the construction bus to bring the workers in to lots of companies, you would just go where the work was available. I kept going for quite a while until 1972 when I came home and joined the Irish army. I passed out in April 1972 and won a plaque as best soldier. Five months later I was out of the army following a nervous breakdown.

My parents stopped visiting us because of the trauma of having to visit two orphanages in the 1950's. If they came to the orphanage they would get agitated, they were aware that we were not doing so well so they thought they would stay away. It would have been difficult for them to get there and their health had broken down and they never recovered.

4. My mother suffered from severe depression and was admitted to psychiatric care at various times throughout her life. My father had tuberculosis. Throughout his lifetime he must have had about six operations and had a lot of trouble with his health. They were living in poverty and were also homeless during certain periods of time but a lot of people were poor in the 1950's. Also, they lived in Killybegs so it was not convenient for them to visit using public transport at the time.
5. I recall all the children screaming in the home when I was left there in 1949 and the door banging after my mother left me there. I always felt like breaking down and screaming but I suppose that is normal. I am sure a lot of the nuns meant well but there were sixty boys there at the time and only a few nuns to supervise so it was a very difficult situation but it had an enormous impact on me. I seemed to break down often and I always thought that I was mentally ill for all the years I was there. I asked a doctor in England after I left care if this was possible and he said that it was quite possible that I was suffering depression even at such a young age. He said it was a miracle that I came out of it alive.
6. Children will always be pushed and have falls but I seemed to have a lot of accidents. My hands were injured a few times and on one occasion my right hand required a splint to be placed on it. When I was about eight years old I attended a female doctor at a hospital on the City cemetery side which I think is closed now, not Altnagelvin, and she was worried that my hand was not setting properly. She asked if anyone was beating me and she got two policemen to also ask me if anyone was beating me but I just said I fell. They were suspicious regarding the cause of my injury. My injury was in fact caused by older boys pushing me down on the ground and beating me. I

cannot recall their names but they were older boys who were left in charge of us by the nuns and they were bullies. They were always beating you on the back of the head, pulling you by the hair, pushing you, slapping you or leaving you with some sort of injury. I still have a scar on my chin from an encounter with one of these older boys. He pushed me in to one of those old fashioned radiators and I hit my chin on it as I fell. On another occasion an older boy pushed me into a stack of coal and slack and I hurt my left hand and there is still a scar remaining from that injury. I never reported any of these incidents as I was afraid to report it to the nuns as they wouldn't believe it and I didn't want to tell my parents as the Church was powerful and they were afraid of authority and afraid to complain. They had a responsibility to look after the younger boys but I always thought I would not survive in there as a child. The older boys were like a gang and I was always afraid of them and of meeting them every day, it was like torture to have to face another day.

7. The older boys always did these things when the nuns were not around. Perhaps there were not enough nuns on the staff for the number of boys in the home.
8. Things improved a little as I got older. When I was ten or eleven some of the nuns started giving me jobs to do for some unknown reason. They would send me to the Bishop's house and I would do messages for them. They must have seen something in me. **SR10** even confided in me. On one occasion she said "what a pity your parents couldn't take you home out of here" so some of them were good. I always got the impression from Sister **SR10** that she was horrified with the situation but she was a very young nun at the time. She said anywhere in the world would be better than this.
9. The routine in the home would be that you would get up fairly early in the morning, go to mass and then have breakfast. I never complained about the food in the home because at the time I considered myself lucky to get food.
10. The nuns had a farm and they grew potatoes and you did chores on the farm but they didn't force you to do this. As far as I remember there was no ill

treatment in that regard. I didn't mind if I had to do some work, it stood me in good stead for later life.

11. I was abused sexually by an older boy in the bathroom when I was eight years old. I cannot recall his name but he was a lot older than me and I thought at the time that he was about school leaving age. He put a towel on the floor and made me lie down on the towel. He had locked the door and he tried to have sex with me but I started screaming and made such a fuss that he knew not to take it any further. The second time it happened I ran out of there screaming and caused an alarm **SR11** came and asked what was happening and I said I was not going into that bathroom again. I didn't really know what was going on at the time but I knew it was wrong. I told Sister **SR11** and she grabbed me by the hair and shook me, hit me across the face and said "you're a bad boy, you're going to hell, nothing like that ever happened". That was the only occasion when a nun hit me. I did not see them beat any other boys. There was a coldness and heartlessness about the place however that always scared me.
12. Not long after this incident there was another encounter with two other older boys who locked me in the bathroom. I do not know their names or who they were but it had a terrible traumatic effect on me. When they locked the door I knew it was their intention to sexually abuse me so I broke down and screamed to get out and said that I was going to tell on them and they let me go. The sexual abuse only happened on these two occasions. It was mainly physical abuse that I suffered during my time at the home. I noticed after the second incident outlined above that the physical abuse by these older boys worsened and they would hit me on the back of the head and bully me when the nuns left them in charge.
13. Apart from that incident of sexual abuse in the bathroom there was another reason why I always dreaded the bathroom. You got bathed one after the other and the older boys would be there and they would put strong disinfectant in the water that stung my eyes and affected my skin for days afterwards. On one occasion I slipped in the bath and gulped some of the

19. I went to Bridge Street Primary School. While you were there no-one was really looking after your education at all. I didn't have a good level of primary education. I think they must have thought there was something wrong with me and they never pushed me on. I was always very poor at reading and writing. I recall **SND5** th **[REDACTED]** who just let me sit there. I was there until thirteen and a half, right up until I left the home in 1957.
20. When I got older I became very withdrawn into myself. My parents had stopped visiting me at the home and I became afraid, disturbed and I felt I wasn't normal for a boy of that age.
21. My siste **[REDACTED]** went in to care also in 1949. She qualified later in life as a nurse but she also suffered severe depression and had breakdowns throughout the course of her life. She died two years ago. My other sister **[REDACTED]** who was placed in care at the same time as me died many years ago.
22. A music teacher in Termonbacc **[REDACTED]** took me away from the home. He lived on Spencer Road. He had an arrangement made to take me to Stranrrolar to meet my father who would be there to pick me up. He was our music teacher in Derry and he taught me how to read music. I played the coronet and I was in the silver band. The home had a cupboard full of musical instruments and they provided them to the boys. I remember we went on days out and I sang in the Guildhall as a small boy.
23. I played up in the home at times. I think that due to my mental health problems I was becoming very difficult and wouldn't take instruction. I think I became too difficult for the staff of the home to handle. I was not prepared for leaving care. I remembe **[REDACTED]** telling my father that I needed medical help as I was very disturbed but my father said "well he's coming home". The house we went back to in **[REDACTED]** was really very bad by any standards, it was rat infested and we had to get our water from a well which we were told was



The Liberties
Primary Care Team

Dr. Joseph Martin
Dr. Pauline King
Dr. Michael O'Tighearnaigh

The Liberties Primary Care Team
Meath Community Unit, Heytesbury Street, Dublin 8

Ph: 01 708 5702
Fax: 01 708 5732

Re: HIA 88

18/02/1944

17/06/2013

Dear Sir or Madam,

HIA 88 has been a patient of ours for thirty years, and had been treated for severe depression, but it was not until the mid 1990's that he disclosed the existence, and the extent, of the childhood abuse that he had been subjected to when he was taken from his family, and placed into an Institution in Co Derry when he was 5 years old, and until he left age 13. This traumatic period had triggered the depression, and he had needed 7 courses of ECT treatment in 1960. He had "buried" these memories, but had not dealt with them, so it was only when he told me of what had happened that we were able to start appropriate treatment and therapy. He has made a very good recovery, but he is very aware of the deep scars this has left on him, and of the effect it had on his childhood, and also on his siblings [which still has effects to this very day]. I still continue to monitor his mental, emotional and physical health on an ongoing basis following these traumatic episodes in his early formative years, as their effects have never left him.

Yours Sincerely,

Dr Joseph Martin MB, MICGP, FRCGP.
MCRN 06903

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graded a 26-year-old Rasharkin man during the 48 hours following his arrest was made at a special Court in Armagh yesterday.

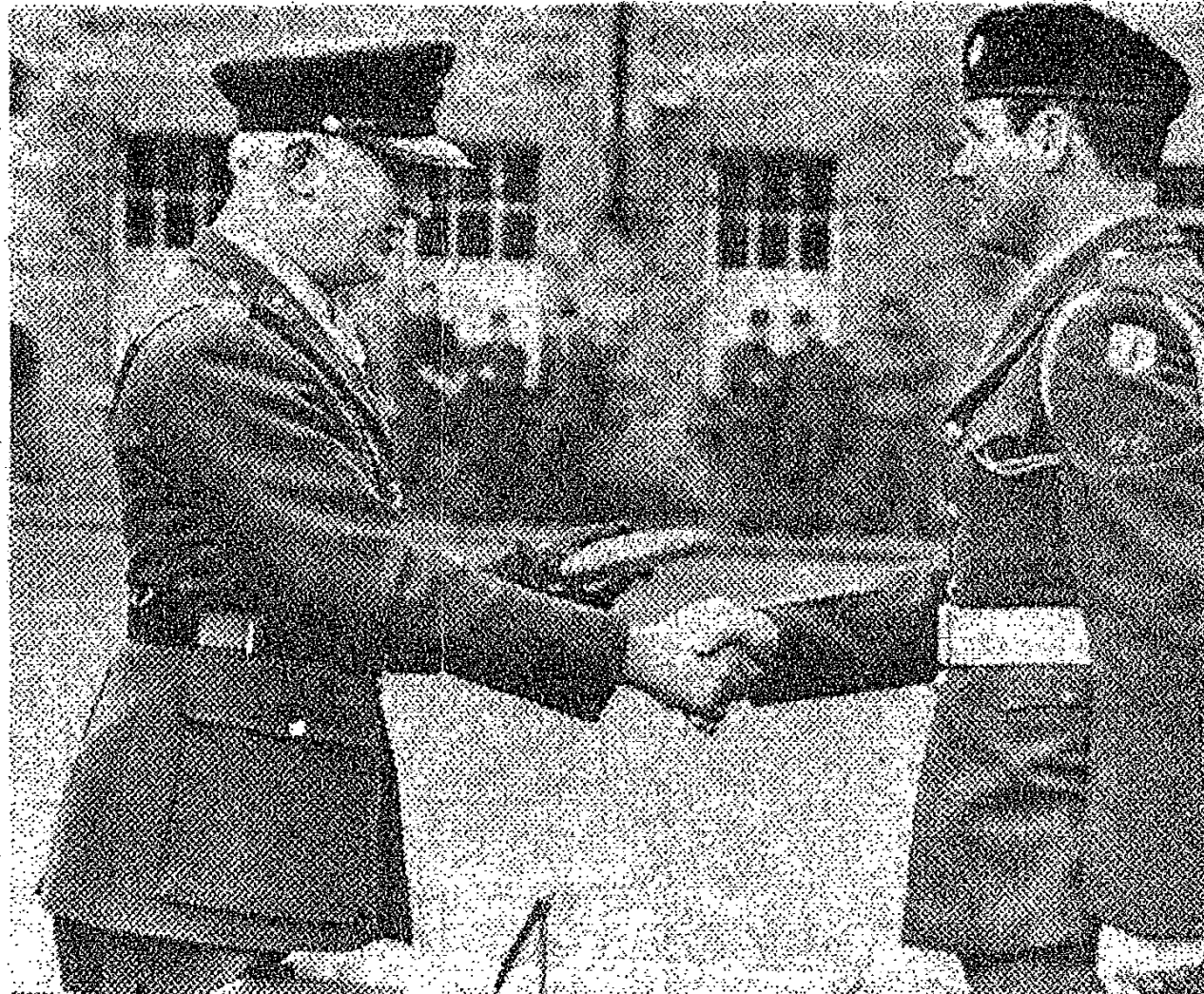
Before the Court was Francis McBride, a lorry driver, of Wallace Park, Rasharkin, who is accused of the murder of 65-year-old Mrs. Elizabeth McAuley who died in a fire following a car bomb blast in Ballymoney.

The allegation was made by McBride's solicitor, Mr. James Doris, who said his client had been viciously beaten, and that his condition when admitted to Armagh prison was so bad, that it had given rise to serious concern on the part of the prison doctor.

McBride, who was remanded in custody until May 12, was granted legal aid. There was no application for bail.

Detective Chief Inspector G. Allister told the Court that when charged McBride replied: "I was made to drive the motor, that is all."

Col. J. H. Byrne, O.C., Eastern Command (left), presenting a plaque to Pte. Thomas O'Sullivan, Finglas West, best shot, at the passing-out parade of No. 26 platoon at Cathal Brugha Barracks.



Col. J. H. Byrne, O.C. Eastern Command (left), presenting a plaque to [redacted] best soldier, at the passing-out parade of [redacted] at Cathal Brugha Barracks.

Irish Independent

Rainfall—10.00 to 17.00

World weath

THE following were the temperatures and conditions yesterday at these centres:

Rome: 15 C. (59 F.), rain.
Paris: 11 (51), cloudy.
London: 14 (57), cloudy.
Belfast: 11 (51.8), fair.
Berlin: 6 (42), rain.
Amsterdam: 7 (45), cloudy.
Brussels: 10 (50), clear.
Madrid: 17 (63), sunny.
Dublin: 9 (48.2), rain.
Moscow: 6 (42), overcast.
Stockholm: 8 (46), clear.
New York: 13 (56), clear.
San Francisco: 23 (73), fair.
Shannon: 11 (51.8), fair.
Los Angeles: 32 (89), clear.
Chicago: 19 (66), cloudy.
Miami: 24 (76), clear.
Tokyo: 23 (73), clear.
Hong Kong: 26 (79), clear.
Cork: 9 (48.2), cloudy.
Buenos Aires: 21 (69), clear.
Montreal: 9 (48), cloudy.
Honolulu: 29 (84), cloudy.
Toronto: 11 (51), clear.
Rio de Janeiro: 34 (93),

Dixon Hempenstall, 111. Gra
Dublin 2 — Barometers

DIAL 1199 any time two
hours a day for the latest
forecast for the Dublin area

70