

C O P Y



TORONTO

May 27, 1954.

By Appointment
Telephone WA 16185

PERSONAL

Wing Commander J.R. Jackson,
Box 29,
R.C.A.F. Station
St Hubert, Quebec.

Dear Wing Commander Jackson:-

You will recall that we discussed the problem of homosexuality amongst the female personnel serving in the R.C.A.F. in my office 22/4/54. I think you are aware of the fact that I have since had the opportunity of interviewing five known or suspected homosexuals.

Two of the girls that I interviewed had signed statements that they were practising homosexuals. I had previously seen these two girls at my office, and although I strongly suspected that they were homosexuals, I could not give such an opinion because of their denial of the fact. They informed me that if the situation had been discussed with them prior to their visit to me, they would have admitted the truth to me. Both of these girls had had heterosexual experiences, but much preferred their homosexual experiences to any heterosexual experiences that they had ever had. One of these girls was initiated into homosexuality by another girl she came in contact with in the R.C.A.F. and she in her turn initiated her present partner.

The third girl that I saw denied ever having had any homosexual contact with any girl, either in or out of the R.C.A.F. I did not believe this girl's denial, but did not have sufficient proof that would warrant my contradicting such a denial. I think it is probable that this girl only had homosexual contact with one other girl. Her partner had left the Air Force in order to get married and later deserted her husband in favour of her homosexual partner who remained in the Air Force.

The other two girls that I interviewed admitted that they had homosexual tendencies, and that they had had some homosexual play with other girls. In discussing the situation with them carefully, I came to the conclusion that their play had been largely experimental, and that they preferred heterosexual contacts. I felt that it would be justifiable to retain them in the Air Force because they could not be classified strictly as homosexuals.

My interviews with these different girls have served to strengthen the opinion that I previously had, that people are essentially bisexual and if segretated with members of their own sex they experience homosexual desires. A certain number of these people will indulge in experimental homosexual play, and a relatively small number will discover that they get greater satisfaction out of homosexual contact than from heterosexual contact. This last group will develop into true homosexuals and this tendency will persist.

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/homosexual

As long as there is segregation of the sexes in the R.C.A.F. I think it is probable that this problem of homosexuality will persist. I would suggest that every effort should be made to promote friendly relationships between the Airwomen and Airmen on the different stations, and that every effort should be made toward discouraging the formation of close knit groups, such as the girls' soft ball team at the R.C.A.F. Station, Edgar. I am in favour of the current policy of the R.C.A.F. which is to discharge all known homosexuals. When an individual has developed definite tendencies and prefers homosexual to heterosexual contacts, there is a very real risk that they will initiate others into homosexual play. This play, which may be experimental to start with, can develop into an established habit quite quickly.

I have given considerable thought to the matter as to whether a consultant could, or should, label an individual as homosexual despite the individual's denial of the fact. My considered opinion is that it would be justifiable for the consultant to do so if he had sufficient corroboratory evidence from other sources, and came to the conclusion that the airman or airwoman was not telling the truth in his or her denial. I have consulted a lawyer on this point and I am informed by him that providing the consultant uses due care and diligence in arriving at his opinion, then he cannot be sued in court because of the opinion he came to.

I would like to say that the reports from your medical officers and social workers have been of great assistance to me in my examination of the above-mentioned airwomen.

I will be most pleased to discuss this situation with you further at any time that it is mutually convenient.

With my kindest personal regards,

Yours very truly,

Signed: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED], M.D., D.P.M. (Lond.)

AGC:MQ.