

MEMORANDUM

10 Jan 57.

CO.

Redress of Grievance  
Complainant [REDACTED]

- 1 This Redress of Grievance is submitted by the a/n airman stating the events which led to his release from the RCAF.
- 2 For two months I was never sure of the next time I would be called into the SMO's office. I was accused, questioned and intimidated during these interviews, some of which began as late as 2130 hrs. During all these interviews with the SMO, I was never allowed to see the statements accusing me, nor at any time were they read out to me.
- 3 It was approximately two weeks after the first interview that I learned who had made the statements accusing me. This information was given to me by F/L Vaness, the Air Division Welfare Officer.
- 4 After the first interview with the SMO, which took place at 2130 hrs, I attempted to contact the Unit Welfare Officer. During this attempt which took place the next morning I was advised that she would not be in that day, however later that same day I received a telephone call from the SMO advising me to see the Welfare Officer at 1530 hrs that afternoon.
- 5 The Welfare Officer had spoken to the SMO before my appointment, so the interview was actually nothing more than a round of accusations. At one point, even though I had only been talking with her approximately fifteen minutes I was told she considered me a homosexual, it was at this time that I began to wonder if I was already adjudged guilty and if the only thing that remained was for them to complete the formalities, one of these being that I was to see a psychiatrist on the following Monday at [REDACTED]
- 6 The Welfare Officer for 1 (F) Wing was away on TD at this time and I was escorted to [REDACTED] by F/L Vaness.
- 7 While waiting to see the psychiatrist at [REDACTED] I discussed the situation with F/L Vaness, he appeared quite surprised to learn I did not know who had made the accusations. F/L Vaness stated he would have to get permission to tell me who it was since I had not been advised by my parent unit.
- 8 The psychiatrist, upon completion of his examination, told his secretary in my presence that he could find nothing wrong with me. I thought this would clear up the situation satisfactorily as far as I was concerned, but was to find out later that I was mistaken.
- 9 Approximately one week after my return from [REDACTED] I had another interview with F/L Vaness at which time I was informed by him that the SMO was not satisfied with the results of the psychiatric examination and that the SMO was going to continue his investigation on his own.
- 10 Approximately the middle of Nov during my last interview with F/L Vaness he informed me that the Welfare section would no longer be concerned in the case, but that he was recommending to the SMO that everyone involved be paraded before the Commanding Officer or some other delegated officer and have the case cleared up that way or that the whole matter be dropped altogether.
- 11 Apparently neither of the recommendations, if they were made, were accepted by the SMO, and it was after this that the interviews with the SMO increased in number and length. It was also during this time that most of the arguments offered by the SMO seemed to tend toward the ridiculous, some being that he, the SMO, had suspicions I was a homosexual because I had clean fingernails and I appeared to have intelligence above

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the average airman and that I was usually neatly dressed, both in uniform and in civilian clothes. On another occasion I was told that my sexual relations with women were just cover up for my homosexual tendencies. It was also during one of these interviews that I asked him why he considered himself qualified to judge people on what I understood were mental problems, when he was a physician, to which he replied that he had read some books on the subject.

12 These interviews continued through the months of October and November and it seemed that since I was due for repatriation early in Dec, the intensity, length and general pressure was increased. While on clearances, the Air Force Police refused to sign them until an appointment with the Wing Security Officer was completed, this appointment was for 1300 hrs the following day.

13 When I arrived at the guard room for this interview there were four other airmen present, personnel who had been at the same party as I (statement of the party is attached). We were lined up and the American airman who also attended this party came in and identified one of us, at that time we were all unaware of the reason for the line up. Next day, however, I returned to my room and found my travel documents gone and a note that stated they were at the guard house and I was to report there in order to get them back. When I got to the guard room I was interviewed by FS Barlow and Cpl Stevens who told me that the American had picked me out of the line up as the individual who supposedly had bitten him on the neck during the party. This facet of the case came out approximately two months after the party.

14 I requested to be advised of the circumstances of this alleged biting, but was denied this request. I was asked to make a statement on the events of the party, which I did. I was asked whether or not it was possible that I could have bitten the American and replied yes, accidentally or unconsciously and that if such an incident took place it was definitely not intentional as I had no recollection of it whatsoever. I was then taken to see the SMO again, he read a few sentences from the Americans statement, which said I had walked up to him and bit him and then propositioned him. Upon finding out the alleged circumstances I emphatically denied biting him or propositioning him. Two other doctors were present at this interview and upon the few occasions the SMO consulted them he always preceded the statement with "In my opinion" and ended up by saying "Don't you agree". The other doctors gave me the impression of being "yes-men" because neither one of them asked me a question, but gazed steadfastly at the floor as if embarrassed by the whole situation. One of the accusers was also brought in for a few minutes, but about the only question the SMO asked him was whether he was willing to swear to his statement in court, as it may come to that. I was only able to ask my accuser one question, which he never did answer to my satisfaction because the SMO cut him short.

15 At approx 2200 hrs the evening of my last night at [REDACTED] I was called away from the farewell party which was being held for me to report to the hospital again, for the second time that day. The first interview being at 1620 or 1630 hrs. I had been drinking at the party and was quite annoyed at being called away. It turned out that the interview was not with S/L Blake-Knox, but with F/O Basmore, an intelligence officer from Air Division. He also, after only a few minutes conversation stated he thought I was a homosexual, again I began to wonder if it was any use saying anything since everyone seemed to have an opinion and verdict all arranged before even listening to what I had to say. He advised me that he had checked up on my background and apparently knew all about me, and that he wanted me to tell him everything, even to admitting that other people involved in the case had had sexual relations with me along with the names of all the other homosexuals on the station. Of course it was impossible for me to tell him anything, as I knew of no homosexuals and I knew definitely I had had no relationships with the other people concerned in the case. He then stated he didn't believe me and would allow me ten minutes to consider the situation and as he termed it, tell him the truth. During that ten minutes I searched my mind for any instances in my past that I could tell him that perhaps would help in clearing up the case, or something I had done in the past that I should tell him. I then remembered that at the age of nineteen I once allowed a man to "go down on me", mainly out of curiosity as I had heard otheA0051970\_2-004090

often talk about it. After this experience I was not emotionally gratified, but did obtain physical relief and a few months later in Paris, when one evening I had what is called the biological urge, and at the time was unable to afford the services of a prostitute that I was again propositioned by a homosexual, whom I allowed to repeat what happened in London, this time there was no satisfaction only disgust. From that time on I had forgotten the incidents until this episode. I told this to F/O Pasmore and also told him that I do not crave or look for this sort of sexual release and after those two experimental episodes I was and still am completely disgusted with the thought of it.

16 The next morning, after the interview stated in the foregoing paragraph I proceeded to Paris where I was to pick up my ship tickets the following morning. On reporting to the Movements Officer, I was told my reservations had been cancelled and I was then placed under close arrest by two Air Force Police from 1 (F) Wing and escorted back to [REDACTED] placed in a cell, further I was never advised under what grounds I was placed under arrest. By this time I was extremely tired physically and mentally. Physically because on the previous night I had not had any sleep as I had supposed it was to be my last night in Europe and had with a group of other Airforce personnel gone on an all night fling in Pigalle. Mentally, because I was beginning to realize that I would probably never be given any peace until the SMO had me released, and the thought of future interviews, of accusations and denials was not too heartening.

17 The night of my return to [REDACTED] at approximately 2100 hrs I was removed from my cell and taken to the SMO's office, where the SMO advised me I was going to be released or at the least remustered from my present trade. I told him I would never consent to a remuster as my present trade is the only trade in which I would care to make a career plus the fact that if I did it would be an admission of guilt when no guilt existed. The medical board was then completed for a non-medical release. I reasoned that by not taking a remuster I could continue my case without any compromise on innocence.

18 I have attempted by oral request to have the whole case reviewed by a completely impartial board but have not succeeded.

19 It would appear that for a couple of youthful satisfactions of curiosity and /or experiments I am condemned to pay, for my entire life, by the loss of my career in the RCAF. I had planned to make the RCAF my career until compulsory retirement. Further, not only am I losing a career, but must bear this stigma into civilian life, knowing that perhaps by a full and competent investigation the true facts and not opinions would have come to light.

20 Until this party, for which I went on charge for drinking in barracks, my records were completely clean. I have never had any trouble with the RCAF and believe I have always been competent in the performance of my duties, nor have I ever experienced any trouble with my co-workers. My weekends and leaves were usually spent in the company of other fellows of the station in the normal pursuits of normal young men - namely women. Had the trouble and time been taken to investigate my relationships with these people, I am sure that they would have testified that my reactions to sex were absolutely normal and could undoubtedly even give specific instances. It would seem that if I was homosexual, the tendencies would have made themselves apparent to these people, however the time and trouble was never taken to check on my character or the opinions of these people, some of whom have known me personally for years. I feel certain that if I had any homosexual tendencies they would have made themselves apparent to these people at one time or another.

21 If this case had been handled according to the Criminal Code of Canada and my rights as a human being granted me so that I could be accused by my accusers in the presence of a panel of impartial officers and each side permitted to challenge the statements of the other, I am sure that the results would have been much different. As the case is now I stand convicted on the opinions of one man, whose qualifications and methods of investigation in my opinion leave much to be desired.

Enclosed is a statement of events, as I remember them that took place at the party, which is believed to be a major factor in the case.

[REDACTED]  
LAC

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