

Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry

Witness Statement of

MLN

Support person present: No

1. My name is [REDACTED] MLN but use MLN. My date of birth is [REDACTED] 1948. My contact details are known to the Inquiry.

Life before going to Carlekemp Priory School

2. Prior to going to boarding school I was brought up by my mother [REDACTED] and father [REDACTED]. I had a brother [REDACTED] who is two years younger than myself, but he died several years ago. My mother and father were based in Aden from around 1946.
3. My mother was involved in nursing and she was anxious about being pregnant with me in Aden. As a result she came back to Scotland where I was born. Shortly after my birth we returned to Aden. Things improved there and my brother was born two years later.
4. My father was in the Air Force and when he was due to leave that life a friend offered him a job in Aden. He became a merchant involved in importing skins and coffee and selling them to markets in Europe and America. The skins were sold to tanning factories for shoe manufacturing. The company my father worked for began selling watches for Rolex. Aden at that time had a huge number of ships and therefore many passengers and they would go to shops like my fathers to purchase goods at duty free prices. He did so well for Rolex that he was able to leave the company and opened a local branch for them. He managed that shop right up until he left Aden.
5. We stayed in Aden until the troubles there in 1967. From around 1948 until 1956 there were many problems in Aden due to what was happening with the Suez Canal. That

dispute caused many issues for people like my mother and father who were involved in trading. As a result of those problems they decided that I should be placed into boarding school.

6. Before I went to boarding school I attended an elementary school in Aden run by nuns. My time there was really good and the staff were very kind. I was expecting the same sort of atmosphere when I went to Carlekemp, but that proved not to be the case.

Carlekemp Priory School, North Berwick

7. My mother and grandparents in Scotland looked around for boarding schools and found me a placement at Carlekemp in North Berwick. I was taken there at the start of the new term year on my birthday on [REDACTED] 1955, when I was seven years old. My parents were pleased at that time as Carlekemp and subsequently Fort Augustus enjoyed a prestigious reputation. Carlekemp was the junior/prep school and Fort Augustus was the senior school.
8. My mother and father took me to the school for the first day of term. I was introduced to [REDACTED] SNR [REDACTED] Father [REDACTED] MEX [REDACTED]. I think he was about fifty years of age at the time of my arrival. My parents were quite impressed with him and felt that I would be safe there. My brother did not go to school with me at that time because he was too young and he went to stay with my grandmother in Alloa. He came to the school about two years later.

Routine at Carlekemp School, North Berwick

First day

9. I met some of the other teachers in the school. Father [REDACTED] MEW [REDACTED] he had a brother in a Franciscan Order who my parents knew well, from his work in Aden. [REDACTED] MEW [REDACTED] was the [REDACTED] but was a brute of a man. Father [REDACTED] MEZ [REDACTED] MEZ [REDACTED] was the [REDACTED] master, who would use the side of a ruler to hit you with. Aiden

10. Duggan was another of the masters who was the Latin and religious education teacher. He had two sides to him, one where he was so friendly then he would be the opposite, like Jekyll and Hyde where you would be beaten by him with his cane. Unlike MEW or MEZ he never used his hands to hit us. MFB was a civilian member of staff there. We met all the masters on the first day as did the other parents and pupils.
11. Parents were not allowed to stay for long. As soon as we had been handed our books the parents were encouraged to leave the school. The attitude was your child is with us now and it is time for you to leave.
12. When I went to the school I was quite young, being only seven years old. Most of my classmates arriving at that time were a year older, a special exception had been made for me to attend the school, but I am not sure of the reasons.
13. I was taken to my dormitory and all my belongings were unpacked. There were some allowances made for me by Father MEX, particularly with the uniform. I arrived from an extremely hot climate in Aden to the usual cold weather of Scotland. I was allowed to have roll necked woollen sweaters and at that time I had not been shown how to tie shoes laces and was allowed to wear slip on shoes.
14. We were shown around the school. I was used to the Franciscan methods back home but this was completely different. This place was so austere. The jollity of the staff while parents were present all disappeared.
15. I was allocated to Barlow dormitory and there were six or seven of us boys there. The dormitories were all named after Catholic martyrs from Tudor times. The other names were Rose, Pickering, Gervaise and Powell. You were moved from one dormitory to the next as you grew older. In Barlow we did not have any of the brothers supervising us, it was matron who looked after the youngest residents. I think her name was Miss O'Donnell. The other dormitories were supervised by some of the brothers but were called masters.

16. There was one sheet and two blankets for each bed but as I always felt the cold so much I was given another dispensation and my grandparents were allowed to send me an eiderdown and a woollen blanket.

Mornings and bedtime

17. We were woken about quarter to seven in the morning and it was straight to the wash room and dressed. When I was in Aden I always had assistance in getting dressed and had to watch some of the other boys putting clothes on, for me to be able to copy them. This was how I learned to tie my laces and my school tie. I noticed that for speed the other boys removed all their upper clothes in one go lay it on the chair for ease in the morning and I also copied that.
18. After washing it was down for mass about 7:30 am. The whole school of about seventy boys went together for the service. This was the same for each day except Sunday when there was another mass later which again we all attended. After mass it was down to the refectory for breakfast.

Mealtimes/Food

19. For our meals we all sat together. Breakfast was porridge and bread. Staff ate the same food as us. Each table in the refectory had a master supervising and there was a top table with the headmaster and two of the senior staff. The only real difference was sometimes at suppertime the top table may have cheese which we did not have.
20. Many of the boys did not like the porridge but I did not have a problem with it. Sometimes it was very lumpy and this put some of them off. The boys who did not eat the food were told to eat it or they would have to do without. There was one boy who had an issue with the porridge and was sick into his bowl. The master, I can't remember which one it was but it was possibly MEW, made him re-eat the sick and the porridge until he was retching so bad they had to take it away. The cook tried to take it away and clean it up but the master stopped her until the retching relented. They should have treated him more sympathetically with this issue.

21. There was still a lot of rationing in the country at that time. The attitude therefore was if you were given food you had to eat it as there was not a lot of other options. I recall that the quantities we were given were sufficient. There was always meat and potatoes except Fridays when there was fish. The quality was not the best though.
22. After sport it was tea about 4:00 pm or 4:30 pm. Tea at that time was a slice of bread and butter with a cup of tea. After tea there was prep which comprised of doing your homework. After prep it was supper time and we had about a half hour of free time before bed. During the half hour there was one television available which we would watch before going to the dormitory. This was the same for all the classes and dormitories but as you moved up with age you might be given a little more time for leisure. In Barlow dormitory matron would come in and read us a story.

Washing/bathing

23. Apart from sport days we had baths one day a week. The whole school did not have the bath at the same time it was usually a dormitory at the time. The baths and showers were monitored by the masters. I did not see anything untoward by anyone while bathing. When we were in Barlow dormitory matron would come in with the shampoo to make sure there were no issues with nits. Although the bath and showers were open plan, our toilets were all fitted with doors.

Trips and holidays

24. There was only one day trip out of the school. It was once a year and we went to Nunraw Abbey a Cistencian monastery near Haddington. It was a monastic order that does not teach but carries out work. They owned farm land and we saw monks working for their community. We had one long days walk with a picnic.

School

25. When I started school at Carlekemp I was in the lowest class and the teacher was Mrs Gilhooley. She was a tough but very pleasant lady. She was never violent unlike some of the subsequent teachers I had. I heard from a third party, whom I spoke with only about a year ago, that the reason she left after my first year there, was she could not put up with the way some of the other teachers were treating the boys. She had obviously witnessed some of the issues and could not stand by while this took place. She had a wooden ruler which she used to tap her hand with and make you learn your subject by rote.
26. I had some issues with my learning and it affected most of my subjects, but particularly with maths. To start with I was having problems with the currency. In Aden we had shillings and cents, but in Scotland it was pounds shillings, pence, halfpenny, farthings threepence and sixpence.
27. I would be in school until lunchtime and then into the refectory for lunch. After lunch we had a half hour break before onto the playing fields for sport. In winter we played rugby, Easter time it was hockey and summer time it was cricket. I remember the first set of rugby practice because I was so cold. MFB came up to ask what was wrong with me. When I told him I was so cold he gave me a whack across the face and sent me off to run around the field. Other than that sport was one of the highlight of my days.
28. I can remember during the rugby season there were times when the National rugby teams came to play at Murrayfield. The teams would stay at Carlekemp and train there. We always got excited when we saw the coaches driving up and the stars from that time would get off the bus to train at our school. We even got our pictures taken with some of them.
29. We played sport until about 3:30 pm, then it was into the showers. Being able to have a shower each day after sport meant we were able to keep relatively clean. We used

the showers one team at a time. There were maybe ten showers available which were all open plan.

30. I was probably into my second year when [REDACTED] MEX [REDACTED] died. He was a portly gentleman when I knew him. Before he died he lost so much weight and this had to have been a result of the illness that took him. He was replaced by [REDACTED] MFD [REDACTED] who stayed at the school until it closed in the 1970's.
31. I never really liked [REDACTED] SNR [REDACTED] but he did try to help me with some of my studies, particularly with my [REDACTED]. A young man was recruited and he tried to help me. He did not last long and he returned to university.
32. A new brother arrived, [REDACTED] MFC [REDACTED] and he said he would take me on for extra tuition in [REDACTED]. I think he was only in his early twenties and was fairly newly ordained. A lot of the boys took to him because he was younger and there was a connection to this young man. The other priests were all a bit older.
33. As we got to know [REDACTED] MFC [REDACTED] we found he was a fan of the author PG Woodhouse. We all called each other by our surnames, [REDACTED] MLN [REDACTED] etc. but [REDACTED] MFC [REDACTED] said he did not want to call me by my surname or [REDACTED] MLN [REDACTED]. He said I looked like an [REDACTED] and that was what he called me from then on.

Healthcare

34. There was a time when we were given free milk at the school. We had to drink this as there was a big problem with calcium deficiencies. Matron was a qualified nurse and she looked after all the minor ailments while we were there. I did fall really ill while I was at Carlekemp but they never found out what was wrong. A doctor came in to see me and initially they suspected it was malaria as I had been in Aden. He eliminated this and put it down to a glandular fever, but possibly a similar strain to mumps.

Birthdays and Christmas

35. At Christmas we would go back home and I went to my grandmothers at Alloa for the break. This was the same at Easter. My birthday was usually the time of year that school term started and had celebrated it at home with my parents or grandmothers. I would be able to take any presents I was given back to the school.

Visits/Inspections/Review of Detention

36. There was no visits from my parents at the school, but there were visits from my aunt and uncle who stayed in Alloa, sometimes my grandmother, and other times a mix of the them all. My parents had only so much leave each year and we would travel by ship back to Aden for the summer holidays. At least a month was taken up for the trip home and a month on the return trip to Scotland. Sometimes it was just my mother that collected us as my father would tell her he was too busy with his work.
37. There was a visit once a year from the school inspectorate. I think this was organised through the government. They would arrive spontaneously at the school. They would come into the classes when they arrived. When they wanted to come into the classes it would cause some concern for the teachers.

Sibling

38. My brother came to the school when he was about seven or eight and I was a couple of years older. I did get to see him during free time at school and sometimes during the day, but we were in different dormitories, classes and sport activities because of our age difference.
39. He was doing well at school academically and through his sporting activities. One of the things he excelled in was music. As a present my grandparents bought him a brand new [REDACTED] But something in his nature completely changed and he was not the same at Carlekemp. I cannot say for sure because he never said a thing, even until the time he died, about anything that may have happened at both Carlekemp and later Fort

Augustus. His nature changed so much that he never played that [REDACTED] and after many years the family sold it.

Discipline

40. The main discipline, separate from any abuse, was limited to being given thirty lines, or losing some privileges such as time watching television.

Bed Wetting

41. There were a number of boys who had problems with home sickness and this led to some bed wetting. As we all woke in the morning we had to fold back the blankets for checks to be made to see if there was anyone who wet their bed. There was one boy who wet the bed regularly. The staff issued him with a rubber sheet to protect the mattress. His family were also contacted to supply him with extra sheets as they were having to be changed almost every day. There was no punishment for boys having this problem. There was one boy had a persistent problem with bed wetting and also an issue with wetting himself at school. He was given a room by himself and monitored by [REDACTED] MFB the civilian staff member. His mattress was connected to a light and a bell to notify him if he wet the bed. He got himself up and then changed the sheets.
42. I remember there was one boy who was a sleepwalker. He would get up during the night and when he went for his sleep walk he would go to the classroom and take his books from his desk. The problem was in the morning he could not find his books when he went to class. Eventually the staff realised what was happening and whoever was on night duty would follow him to make sure he was alright, until he was back in the dormitory. There were times this boy would go back to the dormitory and get in the wrong bed, occupied by another boy, and sometimes he may wet that bed. There was nothing bad about him going into the other bed, just him sleepwalking.
43. In Carlekemp we were in our own houses but we still mixed with each other and had sporting days against each other. When we went to Fort Augustus it was different. The

houses, Lovatt and Vaughan had their own discipline separate from each other. Although we were in our own dormitories both houses ate in the same refectory, sat in the same classes and all took part in the sporting activities.

Abuse at Carlekemp

44. When the brother [REDACTED] MFC arrived at Carlekemp he took over the extra tuition I was receiving. The first difference was the location of the tuition. The former assistance had been given within the classroom but with [REDACTED] MFC it was beside the teachers' apartments. There were two accesses to the apartments. One was from the first floor and along a long corridor, the second was from a rear access door to the building and up a rear set of stairs.
45. He sat on a chair on a small landing area outside their apartments, there was no chair for me. He tucked his full length habits tight between his legs and then invited me to sit on his knee. If I was not sitting on his knees he would have me stand between his legs and pull me tight against his legs. He would then put his arm around my waist and hold the book in his hand while he read from the book. At the end of the lesson he would tell me that was it for the evening. He would tell me I was to kiss him. I wasn't happy but I would lean in and kiss him on the forehead. He would tell me that was not what he wanted and I was to kiss him on the lips. I was only about eight or nine when that happened and it lasted for about a year. This was not anything I experienced as a child at home. I usually shook my father's hand or received a hug from my grandad. Even at that age I found it repellent. The lessons were to take place three or four times a week. It started to get really heated with [REDACTED] MFC. He would tell me in a breathless manner and in a quiet gentle voice that he was not a very good priest. [REDACTED] MFC stopped after the year but I don't remember there being anything that made him stop, unless he moved onto someone else.
46. Father [REDACTED] MEW the [REDACTED] Master should have been a boxer with the size of his hands. He used his bare hands to hit you. While you were at prep doing your work [REDACTED] MEW would come up behind you and then hit you over the back of the head. He

would be shouting about the type of handwriting I had or something similar, but still so minor it did not justify being hit like that.

47. There were issues with Aiden Duggan. I know that reports suggest there was a lot of abuse by him on the boys some physical and some sexual, but I never suffered any sexual abuse from him. Duggan used a bamboo cane about a metre in length. He started bringing it into the class. He was the religious knowledge teacher. He would go from a soft spoken teacher and then say he was about to ask questions. He would then pull the cane from his cassock and lay it on his desk. We were really frightened by this. He asked me to repeat a phrase in Latin. I was so scared to repeat the phrase which I knew really well. I was then struck across the back of the bare legs with the cane.
48. This became a regular thing with him and then [MFC], who began using a cane. I would see both sides of the personality of [MFC]. In the mornings I and others would be on the receiving end of the cane and at night I would be having to kiss the man as he was supposed to be helping me with the extra tuition.
49. The use of the cane by both Duggan and [MFC] was completely random, just whenever they felt like using it on us boys. They would just come up to our desks and use the cane. Duggan would hold you at the desk and hit you there with his cane.
50. Later in life I did talk to some other boys about the things that were happening to us, but I would rather not name them at this time. A couple of years ago I spoke to one of the boys that appeared on "Sins of the Father" the BBC Documentary. I knew him from the time I was at Carlekemp. We talked a couple of years ago about Aiden Duggan and I told him about him beating me. He explained to me that it was far more serious than that. He told me that Duggan had sexually abused him. I had no idea that he had been raping boys at the school. It was not that I disbelieved him, but I was flabbergasted by the extent of what he endured from Duggan.
51. Most of my experiences of Duggan, [MFC] and the other masters was limited to violence. The only sexual abuse was from [MFC] and his kissing and holding me

in the manner he did. Although I did not understand the sexual aspect of what was happening at that age, I certainly did as I got older, probably around the age of fourteen or fifteen.

52. As a youngster, although I did not wet the bed, I did have a weak bladder and would often have to be excused at class times to use the bathroom. This was also a problem at night and I would get out of bed to use the toilet. One night when I got up I heard noises outside the dormitory with the sound of heavy footsteps, similar to someone wearing boots walking in the corridor. I used to tell my grandchildren about this ghost like sounds and treated it humorously with them. Later in life I talked with my friend from the school and he told me that this was not funny. He told me that this was in fact MFC prowling the corridors waiting on young boys going to the bathroom. If he did find any young boys he would take the boys into his study. Apparently there were lots of serious incidents while I was at the school, but I did not see it myself.
53. There was a time when MFC even managed to ingratiate himself and con my parents to allow him to stay with my family at Dollar. While he was there he tried to get me to spend time in his bedroom. I refused and told him that my mother had already called us down for breakfast and we should be heading down. He was still in his bed and was trying to get me to go in the bed. I avoided him as much as possible. Even my mother noticed that things were not working out well with him staying and I said I could not wait for him to get on the train back to Edinburgh. I think I would have been about ten or eleven when this took place.
54. One of the problems I had with being at Carlekemp was when I went home for holidays. I was obviously back in a hot climate in Aden but I was covered in stripes from my buttocks right down my legs. These stripes were the result of the teachers using the cane on us. There were many other boys who had the same issue when they went home for holidays. My mother was livid, but with her being so far away I am not sure she took it up with the school authorities. She asked what happened and I told her about the abuse.

Leaving Carlekemp, East Lothian

55. When I was leaving Carlekemp and going to Fort Augustus I was dreading it. It was nothing to do with home sickness but fear of it being the same as Carlekemp. My grandfather took me to Fort Augustus the first time, from North Berwick.

Fort Augustus Abbey School, near Inverness

56. I repeated some classes at Carlekemp a couple of times and think it was around 1961 or 1962 when I moved to Fort Augustus. I would have been about thirteen when I arrived there. Although Carlekemp was the junior school, Fort Augustus also had some classes for younger boys, possibly two years younger than me. Some masters looked after the juniors there and separate masters looked after us in the senior school.
57. At Fort Augustus there were two definitive houses there. They were Vaughan House and Lovatt House. Each had their own common rooms. There was one huge dormitory for all the boys except for prefects, who had their own study bedrooms in a separate part of the building.
58. The dormitory was in the attic area of the building. The attic covered the two parts of the building but had a wooden partition separating them. You could not go from one area to the other without having to go downstairs to access the other side. The bed areas were like horse boxes with bunk beds.
59. Each of the houses had their own sport teams which competed against each other. I had father [REDACTED] MFG as my house master and the other house had Father [REDACTED] MFE. I never had any sexual approaches from any of the house masters at Fort Augustus. I never saw anyone being approached by the staff there.

60. There was plenty of corporal punishment from the masters, MFE and MFG. There were rules which detailed what punishments were issued. Depending on your offence depended on how many lashes you were to receive. It was legal at that time, but unlike at Carlekemp where no reasons were given for caning, Fort Augustus was only when you did wrong. One of the rules I was regularly punished for was for being caught with my hands in pockets, but that would be classed as a minor offence and I received perhaps thirty lines. The lines were not just 'I must be a good boy' thirty times, it would be three or four pages of the Latin primer and it would take you around an hour or hour and a half to copy this out. You even had to buy the paper from the master out of your pocket money. You would also do the writing while the film was being played for others on a Saturday night and meant missing the cinema.
61. Another punishment was where you would be given the strap over the hand, which was very painful. The more serious offences involved the swish or birch. This was given over the backside, over your clothing, but you were checked to make sure nothing else was being worn to stop the effect. There were different levels of this punishment, like smoking. The first time would be four strokes on the hand but if you were caught again it would be six. We knew the rules and so long as you did not break them there were no issues.
62. I was bullied in the first year I was there by some of the prefects. I think that was due to me being so small in stature. As soon as I bulked up a bit and grew a bit more the bullying stopped.
63. There were sexual approaches from older boys. Some of this was friendly and some not. There were a few gay boys there whom I would rather not name, one of whom was very persistent wanting to get into bed with me. I was always refusing and luckily I usually slept in the top bunk, which helped avoid his approaches. I threatened to report him and told him he would get twenty years. It frightened him enough to back off.
64. The daily routine at Fort Augustus was very similar to that at Carlekemp, from the getting out of bed, breakfast and classes. One difference was the breakfasts at Fort

Augustus were fantastic. The porridge was really good and there were really nice thick slices of fresh bread and a variety of jams and marmalade. That was throughout most of the week and only changed on a Sunday when there was bacon and eggs available. The meals were of a better quality.

65. One of the issues for parents of limited means was that the uniforms we had to buy were to come from Forsyth's in Edinburgh for both Carlekemp and Fort Augustus. The later difference at Fort Augustus was that we were also allowed to wear other clothing like a sports jacket and slacks. The slacks did not even have to be in school colours. My parents got really frustrated with me as I was asking for this over and above the usual uniform.
66. The schooling offered better facilities, with science labs and libraries. My marks were sometimes bad at the school. [REDACTED] SNR [REDACTED] MFF would have me in his office and ask what my parents would be thinking. He would also thrash me on the backside with his cane for not making any improvements.
67. There are two masters at Fort Augustus who were [REDACTED] MEV [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] MRQ [REDACTED] SNR [REDACTED] who took over from [REDACTED] MFF [REDACTED] was [REDACTED] MKT [REDACTED] and like [REDACTED] MFF [REDACTED] he would berate me about my results at the school. [REDACTED] MKT [REDACTED] was a very effeminate person and walked in a distinctive manner. [REDACTED] MEZ [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] MFC [REDACTED] moved from Carlekemp to Fort Augustus, but [REDACTED] MFC [REDACTED] not until after I left the school.
68. [REDACTED] MEV [REDACTED] is in Australia and was part of the BBC programme, 'Sins of our Fathers'. I did not have him as one of my masters. He took classes with the junior boys while I was there. When I knew him at the school he was a very young, thin and frail person. We could talk to him as he was such a young teacher and he could relate to us. I was really surprised when I heard the allegations were made against him. There was nothing towards me. He left the school before I left, around autumn 1965. We were told he was taken ill and admitted to hospital. I later learned this may not have been the case.

Life after boarding school

69. I quickly found a job in London as an export representative. The problem I found in London was trying to find accommodation. The rent was incredibly high and took up a large portion of my wages. Staying in London was just too expensive for me and I eventually returned to Scotland.

Impact

70. My time at Carlekemp and Fort Augustus impacted on my personality. While at the school I developed a bit of aggression. If ever someone slapped me on the head I would lose my temper quite badly. Since my school days I have not had a positive outlook about myself. I did manage to have a reasonably successful career. I managed to earn enough to bring up the children and lived a reasonably comfortable life.
71. One of the things that did help me from my life at Carlekemp was that through most of my life I have enjoyed good health and I put a lot of that down to the sporting activities we took part in at the school.

Reporting of Abuse

72. Around 2013 maybe 2014 I was contacted by Constable Docherty of Police Scotland and was asked to provide some information about my time at boarding school at Carlekemp and Fort Augustus. I prepared a report and gave as much detail as I could about my experiences at both schools along with the staff and sent that to the police. I received an edited copy back with all the repetitions removed. I have since received a letter from the Procurator Fiscal's Office in Inverness that they are dealing with the

case. I understand that this office is where they are dealing with the extradition of [REDACTED] MFC from Canada and [REDACTED] MEV from Australia.

Records

73. I have not thought about obtaining any of my school records and I listened to some of the evidence heard by Lady Smith and believe the records may be with a solicitor's office in Edinburgh. It may be something I might be interested in later but don't want to dig up old records which may show things I would not like to read about.

Lessons to be Learned

74. I have a fundamental opinion that all the religious scholastic establishments should be dissolved, especially with the Catholic faith. Many of the Catholic tutors going into those places did so because of their homosexuality. I believe that this enabled them to approach children there. I feel that the Catholic Church is helping to protect and provide funding for [REDACTED] MEV in Australia and [REDACTED] MFC in Canada in their life and accommodation at this time.

75. If the Inquiry can lay down a more strict foundation to control those institutions to stop those problems occurring again then that would be great step forward.

76. I have no objection to my witness statement being published as part of the evidence to the Inquiry. I believe the facts stated in this witness statement are true.

[REDACTED] MLN

Signed.....

Dated..... 16th April, 2019