

STONES who acted as the Examining Medical Officer. She recorded my weight at 69kgs and my blood pressure at 120/80. She also tested my hearing and sight and 24 other medical areas, which she recorded all as 'Normal'. These included my 'Emotional stability' and my 'Mental capacity'. I was also required to answer a Medical History Questionnaire and be interviewed by the CO of 5 Camp Hospital, Lieutenant-Colonel Stacey ROPE, as part of my discharge procedure. During my interview with Lieutenant-Colonel ROPE, I noticed that on one of the forms an interview with a psychologist was listed as part of my discharge procedure. When I brought this to Lieutenant-Colonel ROPE's attention and asked, "Don't I have to see a psychologist as part of my discharge?" ROPE laughed and replied, "Don't worry about it. You're not mad, are you?"

During Tuesday 7 July 1987, I received my final medical examination and treatment at the Royal Canberra Hospital and 5 Camp Hospital.

Another matter which had to be finalized as part of my discharge from RMC was the \$250 worth of Army-issue uniforms and equipment that had been stolen from my room in the Kokoda Company barracks while I was in hospital. Following the stabbing incident, all of my property in the barracks had been removed from my unlockable room and moved into a lockable room in the south wing of the Kokoda Company barracks. I submitted an Army Loss or Damage form that described the missing items and outlined the circumstances of their loss. Major VERCOE and Under Officer REED had investigated the matter in early June 1987, and their investigation had revealed nothing about the disappearance of the items, nor did it locate any of them. Sergeant JORGENSON assisted with the investigation but he was also unable to locate any of the missing items. As a result, Major VERCOE officially freed me from liability. I, of course, suspected that the senior cadets in Kokoda Company had stolen the items from my room. I believe that when my father and Major VERCOE attended my room in early June 1987, a senior cadet was in the process of stealing my Army-issue SLR rifle. As a payback for this theft, I stole a handful of Army-issue items, including a complete set of webbing and a Japara waterproof jacket and trousers set, when I collected my property from the barracks in early June 1987. I later discovered that the items belonged to Staff Cadet Dale BURNSIDE, one of the 2nd Class cadets who had harassed me over the previous months.

On Wednesday 8 July 1987, as part of my discharge from RMC procedure, I was interviewed by the RMC Student Counsellor, Lieutenant-Colonel HALL, in the Student Counsellor's office next to 5 Camp Hospital. This was the first and only occasion I met with the Student Counsellor. The interview was conducted in private and I was questioned about my 6 months at the college, my opinions about the officer training program, and any suggestions or complaints that I had. The interview only lasted about 10 minutes and I was very guarded about what I said. I did not believe that I would achieve much by detailing my complaints or recounting my experiences of bastardization. I just wanted to get my discharge procedure completed and return to Melbourne. I did, however, complain strongly about the joint 2nd Class/3rd Class field exercises saying that "it was a nightmare going on exercise with 2nd Class."

I finally completed my RMC discharge procedure on Friday 10 July 1987. I collected my regimental records, including my medical, dental and pay records, and handed in my completed RMC Clearance Certificate at the CSC HQ. As I had decided to return to Melbourne instead of settle in Canberra, my movement orders had been changed so that I would now be discharged from the ARA at the Discharge Cell at the District Support Unit (DSU), at Watsonia, and I would be placed on the Regimental Supernumerary List in the 3rd Military District [Victoria]. My final task was having my *Certificate by Unit Adjutant/Administrative Officer* completed and signed by an admin WO2 at the CSC HQ. With this completed, I left Duntroon for the last time.

While I was completing my discharge procedure at the college I was ignorant as to a lot of the administrative paperwork related to my discharge that had been circulating, and would continue to circulate, throughout the military bureaucracy. One Army Minute Paper sent to the Military Secretary (Officer Postings) (MS3) at Army Office was titled, *TRANSFER TO THE ACTIVE ARMY RESERVE AND POSTING 3204059 OCDT J. KNIGHT*. The first entry on the Minute Paper was completed by an MS4A, Captain D.B. SPEARS, on the 8 July 1987. It contained the message that if I attempted to re-enlist in the Army Reserve then the office of the Army's Military Secretary was to be notified 'A.S.A.P.' A second entry on the Minute Paper in response to the first was completed by an AMS3, Geoff E. ROACH, on 9 July 1987. ROACH's entry read:

1. Transfer to the Army Reserve of the above officer is not recommended in any capacity.
2. Based on the RMC submission I very much doubt that Knight is suitable for enlistment as an Other Rank. It would be as well to have DPE [Directorate of Personnel Employment] confirm this now so that Knight can be told and unnecessary administrative action avoided in future.

As a result of ROACH's suggestion, Captain SPEARS sent an Urgent Minute Paper to the Directorate of Personnel Employment (Army) on 13 July 1987, requesting comments on my resignation and my suitability for re-enlistment. The Minute Paper was returned to Captain SPEARS on 15 July 1987 by WO2 P.K. AMOS, a WO2 at the DPE-A, with the entry, 'OCDT KNIGHT would not be suitable for enlistment into the Army Reserve.'

On Saturday 11 July 1987, I drove out to Staff Cadet Chris WHITTING's house in Hughes to collect a few boxes of my property that I had stored there after my discharge from 5 Camp Hospital in early June 1987. Chris was the last Duntroon cadet that I saw in Canberra.

Later that morning, I drove into Civic to register my vote in the Australian Federal Election. After I parked my car and began walking to the Civic polling office, I met my old MHSCU 5 Platoon mate Dechlan ELLIS, who was also going to the polling office to vote. I told Dechlan that I was leaving the Regular Army and returning to Melbourne that afternoon. When he asked me what I intended to do after my discharge, I replied, "get a job and re-enlist in the Chocos." Dechlan later stated that his 'impression of Julian was that he was very likeable, caring of others, good humoured, happy-go-lucky. He had a problem coping with discipline' (Statement by Dechlan Robert Ellis to Private Investigator Peter Tieney, 28 January 1988, pages 2-3).

On Sunday 12 July 1987, I arrived back in Melbourne.

On Monday 13 July 1987, I completed the procedures for my discharge from the ARA at the Discharge Cell, DSU, Simpson Barracks, Watsonia. The Commandant of RMC, Major General Murray BLAKE, had approved me for Trainee Leave from

the 14-28 July 1987, although I would be formally discharged and have my service terminated on Friday the 24 July 1987.

On Wednesday 22 July 1987, Brigadier K.R. PHILLIPS, performing the duties of Chief of Personnel (Army), sent my tender of resignation to the Army's then Chief of the General Staff, Lieutenant General Lawrie O'DONNELL. Attached to the tender of resignation was a Minute Paper with Brigadier PHILLIPS's typed comments on it. The comments were as follows:

1. Attached is a tender of resignation by OCDT Knight who has requested release to take effect from the expiration of 24 July 1987. He has also asked to serve with the Active Army Reserve. This is not recommended as the member has a record of misconduct.
2. OCDT Knight is 19 years of age having commenced training at RMC in Jan 87 as a direct entry cadet.
3. OCDT Knight wishes to resign because he perceives that he is unable to cope with the requirements of Service life at the College.
4. OCDT Knight has been interviewed by COMDT RMC who advises the member's performance at RMC has been poor and he had recently been charged by the ACT Police in connection with an incident where another cadet was stabbed with a pocket knife. COMDT RMC recommends the resignation be accepted.
5. I recommend that the resignation of OCDT Knight be accepted to take effect from the expiration of 24 Jul 87 and that his request to serve with the Active Army Reserve not be approved.

My tender of resignation with Brigadier PHILLIP's attached Minute Paper was received by Lieutenant General O'DONNELL the next day. In response, Lieutenant General O'DONNELL signed the relevant resignation authorization document. It simply read;

INSTRUMENT ACCEPTING THE RESIGNATION OF AN OFFICER CADET

Pursuant to sub-section 17(3)(a) of the *Defence Act 1903*, I HEREBY ACCEPT the tender of resignation submitted by 3204059 [Officer Cadet

Julian Knight] to take effect from the expiration of 24 July 1987. Dated this 23rd day of July 1987.

On Friday 24 July 1987, I was discharged from the ARA *in absentia*. My final discharge administration was completed at the Defence Department in Canberra, at the Discharge Cell at Watsonia, and at the Central Army Records Office (CARO) in Melbourne.

On Tuesday 28 July 1987, I attempted to re-enlist in the Army Reserve at the 7th Transport Squadron in Broadmeadows, but I was prevented from doing so because of the charges pending in the ACT Magistrates Court.

On Wednesday 29 July 1987 and Wednesday 5 August 1987, I attempted to re-enlist in the Army Reserve at my old regiment, the 4th/19th Prince of Wales's Light Horse Regiment in Carlton, but I was prevented from doing so because of the charges pending in the ACT Magistrates Court.

Hoddle Street Shootings

On Sunday 9 August 1987, 16 days after my discharge, I committed the Hoddle Street shootings in Clifton Hill, Melbourne. As a result of my actions 7 people were killed and 19 were wounded.

It is my belief (based on what I was subsequently told by a number of individuals who were at RMC and in Canberra at the time), that following my commission of the Hoddle Street shootings the entire cadet body at RMC was subjected to a company-level "briefing" by the college authorities regarding my attendance at RMC. I believe that the gist of what the cadets were told was that they were not to speak to the media under any circumstances about my service at RMC and that, if anyone asked, they were to state that they did not know me and had not served with me. I further believe that the cadets were instructed that if they disobeyed these instructions, their appointment as staff cadets would be terminated.

It is also my belief that following my commission of the Hoddle Street shootings an internal investigation was undertaken into my service at RMC, with an

emphasis on any “bastardization” that I had been subjected to. In an interview with ABC TV for the “Hoddle Street” documentary (see below), the then Commandant of RMC, Major-General Murray BLAKE, conceded that I had been subjected to two acts of “bastardization” whilst at RMC.

R -v- Knight

As part of their investigation into my background, Victoria Police obtained statements from my ICT instructor, Sergeant Kim HOGAN, and from a 3rd Class cadet in my section, Staff Cadet Christopher WHITTING (CSC No 5336).

As part of the preparation of my defence, the Legal Aid Commission of Victoria used a private investigator to obtain statements about my time in Canberra from Meg RUMMERY, Liz GLOVER, Staff Cadet Christopher WHITTING and ADFA Officer Cadet Dechlan ELLIS.

On 6 June 1988, the Presentment against me was filed in the Supreme Court of Victoria at Melbourne (Case No T557 of 1988). I was formally charged with 7 counts of murder and 46 counts of attempted murder.

In early October 1988, following negotiations with the Office of Public Prosecutions, it was decided that I would plead guilty to all charges in the Presentment filed against me (7x counts of murder and 46x counts of attempted murder). It is my understanding that these negotiations involved input from the Army. Part of my plea agreement with the Crown and their main condition was that no evidence of the bastardization I had experienced at Duntroon would be led during my plea hearing. In return, the Crown undertook that it would not oppose the setting of a minimum term to the Life sentences I was certain to receive. It was made clear by the Crown that if we went back on this agreement, by raising the issue of bastardization at Duntroon, the Crown would renege on its promise not to oppose the setting of a minimum term and would treat the plea hearing as a contested proceeding.

On 28 and 31 October 1988, my plea hearing was held in the Supreme Court of Victoria at Melbourne before the Honourable Justice George HAMPEL. The Crown

was represented by Senior Crown Prosecutor John "Joe" DICKSON QC, with Julian LECKIE as junior counsel, instructed by Peter BUCKLEY, Solicitor to the Director of Public Prosecutions ("DPP"). My defence was conducted by Robert RICHTER QC, with Richard PIRRIE as junior counsel, instructed by Michael "Mick" O'BRIEN, the then Associate Director of the Criminal Law Division of the Legal Aid Commission of Victoria. My plea hearing was attended by the CO of the CSC, Lieutenant-Colonel David KIBBEY, and an Army legal officer. Both were dressed in civilian attire, sat with the Crown prosecutors and did not approach or speak to me. My time at Duntroon was addressed briefly during the first day of my plea hearing (Ref: *R -v- Knight*, Supreme Court of Victoria, *transcript*, Friday 28 October 1988, pages 20-23 – See Attachment 8), but no acts of bastardization were detailed. The bastardization I was subjected to at Duntroon was, however, detailed in the report of forensic psychiatrist Dr David SIME tendered to the Court. I have attached extracts from the conclusion section of Dr SIME's report (Attachment 7), and that from the report prepared by forensic psychologist Tim WATSON-MUNRO (Attachment 6).

On 10 November 1988, I was sentenced by the Honourable Justice HAMPEL in the Supreme Court of Victoria to life imprisonment with a minimum non-parole term of 27 years (Ref: *R -v- Knight* [1989] VR 705, www.lexis.com/research Ref: 1988 VIC LEXIS 530). In sentencing me His Honour said (at 706):

In 1986 you joined the Army Reserve and later that year were accepted at Duntroon Military College where you commenced as a Cadet in January 1987. Your adoptive father was a career army officer. Although your adoptive parents separated when you were about twelve and you felt rejected by your father, nevertheless you admired him and wanted to be like him. You have always wanted to be a soldier and getting into Duntroon was the ultimate achievement for you. In fact your time there turned out to be one of a series of events which, according to the evidence of the experts, contributed to your final inability to cope.

You did not do well at Duntroon and could not cope with the pressures of life and discipline at such an institution. Your

perception was that you were ill-treated and dealt with unjustly. You clashed with your superiors and ultimately, as a result of an incident in which you stabbed a sergeant with a pocket knife, you had to leave Duntroon and return to Melbourne in early July 1987.

My earliest eligibility date (EED) for release on parole is 8 May 2014.

Media Reports

I have attached photocopies of two press reports which contain accounts of my time at Duntroon: (1) "The Julian Knight Story: How rejection turned Knight into a murderer", by Keith Moor, *The Herald*, Friday 4 November 1988, page 1, and (2) "An obsession with firearms, a short course in rejection, a sniper stalks", by Paul Conroy, *The Age*, Friday 11 November 1988, page 21. I have also attached a report of public comments made by forensic psychologist Tim WATSON-MUNRO at a conference in Hobart during 12-13 November 1988 ("'Bastardisation' under fire", David McKnight, *The Sydney Morning Herald*, Monday 14 November 1988, page 10) (see Attachments 9-11).

On 14 December 1988, the ABC broadcast its TV documentary "Hoddle Street" (produced by David MORGAN and Mark RUSE, and narrated by Jonathan HOLMES). This documentary included excerpts from an interview with the Commandant of RMC, Major-General Murray BLAKE. It also included commentary on my time at Duntroon by Tim WATSON-MUNRO and Dr David SIME. As mentioned above, Major-General BLAKE conceded in his interview that I had been subjected to two acts of "bastardization" whilst at RMC. Both Mr WATSON-MUNRO and Dr SIME were critical of the Army's handling of my discharge in light of the circumstances surrounding my discharge. I have been informed that it is possible to purchase a copy of the "Hoddle Street" documentary from ABC Program Sales.

Since my sentencing in 1988, details of my service at Duntroon have appeared in Darren MOORE's history of Duntroon (Darren C. Moore, "*Duntroon: The Royal Military College of Australia 1911-2001*", RMC of A, Canberra, 2001, at pages 153-6), and on Wikipedia (www.en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Julian_Knight). I have attached

extracts from both of these sources (Attachments 12 & 13). Dr MOORE's book also contains a section on bastardization at Duntroon (pages 385-386) which accords almost exactly with the situation I found myself in at the college. The only difference from the description given by Dr MOORE is that the bastardization myself and other selected 3rd Class cadets were subjected to was inter- not intra-class.

Of the 128 staff cadets listed as being members of the I/87 Class at RMC, I was killed in a car accident on 16 August 1987 (Staff Cadet Doug BARTLE CSC No 5225), and 31 never graduated (a failure rate of 24%). A number of those cadets who resigned were serving soldiers or NCOs who returned to their units.

Conclusion

I do not consider my failure to graduate from RMC Duntroon as a case of "should have been" more so a case of "could have been".

One aspect of the training that became ingrained in me was the notion of "command responsibility". In line with this notion, I consider that the ultimate responsibility for my failure at Duntroon rests with me. I am not blind to my own character defects and other personal failings that contributed to my failure to succeed at the college.

After many years reflection, and attempting to be as objective as possible, I believe that I would have graduated with the rest of my Class in June 1988. I believe that had I survived a further 16 days (until the 1st Class had graduated and I progressed to 2nd Class), I would have settled into life at the college and improved both my morale and my performance. I think this is especially so given that I had made the decision in mid-May 1987 to make a concerted effort to change around what had been until then poor or average performance. It is stating the obvious to say that a prediction based on what "might have been" is speculative at best. My best guess is that I would have graduated towards the bottom third of the Class. Given my lack of ambition, I also expect that I would not have risen beyond the rank of major.

Reviewing my service history as far back as the Boy Scouts, it is apparent that my performance tended to fall at either end of the spectrum: I either performed at the top of the class or failed miserably (often combined with disciplinary action).

Neuropsychological testing and academic results since my imprisonment have tended to show that the Selection Board assessments of my intellectual and academic potential were underrated. It could be said that by "playing the fool" people tended to think I was one.

In February 1988, after neuropsychological testing with the Wechsler Adult Intelligence Scale - Revised (WAIS-R) in November 1987, I was assessed as having a full scale IQ of 132 (placing me in the top 2.2% of the population).

During 1988-1995, I studied a Bachelor of Arts degree course part-time and off-campus via Deakin University.

In May 1996, I was awarded a Bachelor of Arts degree with a major in Strategic and Defence Studies from Deakin University.

In 2009, I commenced a Bachelor of Liberal studies degree course part-time and off-campus via Curtin University of Technology.

In 2010, I transferred to the Bachelor of Criminology and Criminal Justice degree course part-time and off-campus via Griffith University.

In 2012, I was offered a Commonwealth Supported Place with respect to my Griffith University studies as a result of the high results I had obtained.

In March 1995, I contracted Crohn's disease, a chronic and incurable inflammation of the digestive tract. During 1995-2010, I suffered from various acute periods of the disease flaring up. My condition was not stabilized until March 2010. If I had been still serving in March 1995, I would probably have been relegated to the Reserve List of Officers or been transferred to the Active Army Reserve.

In spite of imprisonment and my medical condition, I have managed to otherwise maintain a high level of fitness.

In September 2005 (age 37), I attained a score of 13.4 on the 20m "Beep Test" (Multi-Stage Fitness Test - "Beep" Test - 20m Shuttle Run Test).

In March 2006 (age 38), I completed a 5km run in 24:08 minutes.

In August 2012 (age 44), I attained a score of 12.1 on the 20m "Beep Test", and I completed a 5km run in 23:15 minutes.

In February 2013 (age 44), my body weight was recorded as 69.4kg (compared to 69kg at the time of my discharge from RMC in July 1987), and my Body Fat Content was 7.5%.

Aside from my own situation, I have also feared for those other staff cadets, like Kim EXAUDI-LARSEN, who had their dreams of being an army officer shattered by what they were subjected to at Duntroon.

I understand that a person who intentionally makes a false statement in a statutory declaration is guilty of an offence under section 11 of the Statutory Declarations Act 1959 (Cwlth), and I believe that the statements in this declaration are true in every particular.

Declared at Port Phillip Prison in the State of Victoria on 26 November of 2013.

Signature of person making the declaration: _____ *[signed]*
JULIAN KNIGHT

Before me:

Gavin Hertz

Teacher

Kangan Institute

ATTACHMENTS:

- (1) Certificate of Service, Officer Cadet Julian KNIGHT, 3204059
- (2) Personnel List, RMC Duntroon, January-July 1987
- (3) “*Journal of the Royal Military College Duntroon*”, June 1987, pages 31-32
- (4) Photocopies of 2x photographs taken of Staff Cadet J. KNIGHT in March 1987
- (5) List of documents in Legal Aid Commission of Victoria Correspondence Files A & B (Re: *R -v- Knight* Supreme Court Case No T577 of 1988)
- (6) Report on Julian Knight by Mr Tim Watson-Munro dated 29th February 1988
- (7) Report on Julian Knight by Dr David Sime dated 26th October 1988
- (8) *R -v- Knight*, Supreme Court of Victoria, *transcript*, Friday 28 October 1988, pages 1 & 20-23.
- (9) “The Julian Knight Story: How rejection turned Knight into a murderer”, by Keith Moor, *The Herald*, Friday 4 November 1988, page 1
- (10) “An obsession with firearms, a short course in rejection, a sniper stalks”, by Paul Conroy, *The Age*, Friday 11 November 1988, page 21
- (11) “‘Bastardisation’ under fire”, David McKnight, *The Sydney Morning Herald*, Monday 14 November 1988, page 10
- (12) Extracts from Darren C. Moore, “*Duntroon: The Royal Military College of Australia 1911-2001*”, RMC of A, Canberra, 2001.
- (13) Original Wikipedia entry (www.en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Julian_Knight):