

Attachment (31):

Statement dated 11 December 2014 by Julian KNIGHT to Australian Federal Police.

Statement in the matter of: Assault of Julian Knight at Duntroon

Name Julian Knight
Occupation Unemployed
Employer Not Applicable (N/A)
Home Address Known to Police (KTP)
Work Address KTP
Home Phone KTP
Work Phone KTP
Date 11 December 2014

STATES:

This statement made by me accurately sets out the evidence that I would be prepared, if necessary, to give in court as a witness. The statement is true to the best of my knowledge and belief and I make it knowing that, if it is tendered in evidence, I will be liable to prosecution if I have wilfully stated in it anything that I know to be false or do not believe to be true.

1. My full name is Julian Knight and I am 46 years old. I am a prisoner serving a life sentence in Port Phillip Prison, Victoria.
2. On 12 January 1987, at age 18, I was enlisted in the Australian Regular Army (ARA) as an officer cadet at Simpson Barracks, Watsonia. During January-July 1987, I was a junior staff cadet in Kokoda Company at the Royal Military College (RMC), Duntroon, Australian Capital Territory (ACT).
3. On Tuesday 13 January 1987, I arrived at Royal Military College (RMC), Duntroon, as a 3rd Class (junior) staff cadet and was placed in 45 Section, 15 Platoon of Kokoda Company.

4. In January 1987, there were approximately 450 cadets at RMC Duntroon, divided into five companies (Alamein, Kapyong, Long Tan, Gallipoli and Kokoda).
5. From mid-February 1987, I was subjected to almost constant "bastardization" by various 1st and 2nd Class (senior) staff cadets in Kokoda Company.
6. On Tuesday 17 March 1987, I was assaulted by five senior cadets from Kapyong Company outside the Kokoda Company barracks. As a result of this assault, I received severe ligament damage to my left wrist.
7. On Saturday 23 May 1987, I and two other Duntroon staff cadets were involved in a brawl with six midshipmen from the Australian Defence Force Academy (ADFA) in a laneway near the Private Bin nightclub in Civic. As a result of this fight, I received a broken nose and two chipped front teeth.
8. On Friday 29 May 1987, I purchased a black-handled, stainless steel, imitation switchblade knife with a four inch blade from an army disposal store in the Belconnen Mall. I considered the fights I had recently been in and the increasing confrontations I was having with senior cadets, and I decided that it was wise to start carrying a knife for my own protection.
9. Later that night I was involved in a verbal confrontation with two senior cadets from Kokoda Company at the Private Bin nightclub. The two staff cadets were Staff Cadet Nicholas William Everingham and Lance-Corporal Craig Collis Thorp. The reason for this confrontation was my disobedience of Staff Cadet Everingham's instruction that I return to Duntroon and change because I was wearing denim jeans contrary to RMC Dress Regulations.
10. On Saturday 30 May 1987, I was involved in a further confrontation with Lance-Corporal Thorp near the college's main parade ground. During this confrontation I was poked in the chest with a bayonet by Thorp. Following this incident I was involved in an altercation with a number of senior staff cadets in the Kokoda

Company barracks during which I was pushed up against a hallway wall. As a result of this altercation, I was confined to barracks for the weekend by the cadet Company Sergeant Major of Kokoda Company, Under Officer Philip John Reed.

11. In addition to being confined to barracks, I was rostered as the Company Orderly for Kokoda Company. I was supposed to take up this duty at 6:00am and continue in this role until 6:00am the following day.
12. Soon after the incident in the barracks I was told by my cadet Platoon Sergeant that I was going to be thrown out of the college and that I should instead resign before this happened. I told him that I would submit my resignation the following Monday.
13. One of my close civilian friends, Deanne Metcalfe, was celebrating her 18th birthday at the Ainslie Hotel that evening. I decided that considering I was about to resign from the Army and that I would soon be back in Melbourne, I would disregard my Company Orderly duties and attend Deanne's birthday celebrations instead.
14. I was adamant that I was not going to miss her birthday celebrations and that I was not going to spend my last weekend in Canberra confined to barracks. I realised that when I did not report for duty I would be charged with 'Absence from Duty'. Even so, I felt assured that these charges would be withdrawn the moment I submitted my resignation.
15. About 7:00pm that night, I got changed into civilian attire in my room in the barracks: jeans, a shirt and a black cotton jacket. I put the knife I had purchased the previous evening into the front right pocket of my jeans. I then took a taxi to the Ainslie Hotel and arrived there about 8:00pm.
16. Among the group celebrating Deanne's birthday were Deanne, my girlfriend Alice Meghan "Meg" Rummery, and a number of our mutual civilian and military friends. Amongst our civilian friends was Elizabeth Jane "Liz" Glover, Liz's older sister Ann

Simpson and Anne's husband, Robert Henry Simpson. I met Anne and Robert for the first time that night.

17. Among the 3rd Class cadets who attended the celebrations were Craig Smith (CSC No 5318), Simon Macks (CSC No 5276), Matt Carrodus (CSC No 5233), Sean Rapley (CSC No 5340), and Peter Buckley (CSC No 5231).
18. We all left Ainslie Hotel about 10:30pm and most of us decided to continue celebrations at the Private Bin nightclub in Civic. I knew that I was bound to run into senior cadets on local leave at the Bin, but I intended to ignore them, even if they harassed me. Due to the fact I had decided to resign on the coming Monday, I intended to enjoy my last weekend in Canberra with my friends.
19. When we arrived at the Bin, we congregated around the chest high benches near the ground floor entrance, directly opposite the end of the main bar. By this time, the core of the group consisted of me and Meg, Deanne, Paula, Liz, Anne and Robert.
20. A few minutes after we arrived I noticed that CSM Philip "Mongo" Reed and Lance-Corporal Craig Thorp were among a large group of Duntroon senior cadets gathered in front of the main bar. Reed was the captain of the RMC Rugby team and the nickname "Mongo" derived from the character of the same name in the movie "Blazing Saddles". In order to avoid a confrontation with Reed, Thorp and the other senior cadets, I sat at a table in a dark corner around the end of the main bar.
21. About 10 minutes after arriving at the Bin, I noticed Reed standing next to me. He was silent but scowling at me. Reed seemed very drunk and repeatedly ordered me to return to the college.
22. I replied: "I'm celebrating a friend's birthday and I'm not leaving."
23. Reed returned to his friends but at frequent intervals, he returned to me and angrily ordered me to return to the barracks. I simply kept calmly refusing to leave.

24. At one point, Reed, who was becoming increasingly drunk, strode up to me and grabbed me by the front of my jumper. As Reed began pushing me backwards he yelled at me.
25. Reed said: "You disobeyed me and I fucking hate that!"
26. I just grinned back at him.
27. A few moments later one of the club's bouncers walked over and sternly told Reed to let go of me. Reed kept glaring at me but released his grip on my shoulder. Liz's sister interjected at this point and asked Reed to leave me alone. Reed responded by slowly turning and glaring at her.
28. Deanne moved behind Reed and began to set fire to the seat of Reed's trousers with a cigarette lighter. Reed eventually felt the heat of the lighter's flame and slowly turned around before walking back to the other senior cadets.
29. I thought that Reed would give up on attempting to force me to leave the club and return to the barracks.
30. About 1:30am on Sunday 31 May 1987, I was quietly drinking at the end of the main bar with Meg when Reed strode up to my right side and once again ordered me to leave.
31. I said: "I'm not going anywhere."
32. Reed repeated his order: "You're leaving right now!"
33. I became irritated, and turned to face Reed and shouted.
34. I said: "I'm resigning, alright! So why don't you fuck off and leave me alone!"
35. Reed looked stunned and slowly turned and walked back to the other senior cadets. I thought Reed would finally leave me alone after that.

36. When I leaned back on the bar a civilian standing next to me asked me why Reed was hassling me. I did not know the man, who was heavily built and about 6'1" tall with brown shoulder-length hair and a brown moustache. I told him that I was a cadet at Duntroon and that Reed was a senior cadet who wanted me to return to the barracks. The man nodded in reply then went back to drinking with his back to the bar next to me.
37. A few minutes later, Reed, who was a similar size to the civilian standing next to me, returned and shouted at me.
38. Reed said: "You disobeyed me. I fuckin' hate that! You're leaving right now!"
39. The civilian standing next to me calmly told Reed to leave me alone. Reed stepped towards the man.
40. Reed said: "Mind your own business."
41. Reed grabbed the man by the front of his shirt. A scuffle broke out and Thorp, who had been sitting on a bar stool near the entrance a few metres away, ran over with his right hand raised and clenched in a fist. He appeared to be aiming for the civilian who had stuck up for me.
42. I spotted Thorp and thought that the least I could do for the civilian who had stuck up for me was to protect him. I stepped forward and pushed Thorp back towards the door. Thorp retaliated by punching me in the face.
43. As I wrestled with Thorp, I noticed that my nose had started to bleed. At this point, I was jumped from behind by another 1st Class cadet, who pinned my arms to my side in a bear hug.
44. I was swung around by the cadet who had hold of me. My arms were still pinned to my sides so I used my back to push myself and the cadet holding onto me backwards into the crowd at the end of the bar.

45. I finally managed to break loose from the cadet's hold. As I did so I saw Thorp raise his right fist so I quickly threw a punch at Thorp's face. Our punches connected simultaneously. Before I could throw another punch, I was again grabbed from behind.
46. I leaned forward and was just about to break loose from the cadet's grip when I was hit squarely in the centre of the face. I did not see who threw the punch but it had come from my right side where Reed had been standing.
47. The force of the blow split the bridge of my nose. I put my hands to my face and when I took them away, I was that they were covered in blood. I was bleeding heavily from both nostrils and from where the break in the bridge of my nose had split the skin.
48. Blood covered the lower half of my face and flowed onto the front of my jacket. A bouncer grabbed me and the cadet who had been holding onto me by the back of our collars, then walked us down the short flight of stairs and pushed us out the front door onto the sidewalk.
49. The other cadet hesitated while the bouncer went back upstairs then re-entered the club. I remained outside on the sidewalk wiping the blood off my face.
50. I was bleeding profusely from my nose, which was broken, and I angrily flicked the blood off my hands onto the pavement.
51. Meg, Liz's sister and her husband came out of the club moments later to see how I was. As they gathered around me, two junior staff cadets from Kokoda Company, Craig James Smith and Simon Richard Macks arrived on the scene from another nightclub. I was enraged and as I pulled my switchblade knife from my jeans pocket I yelled at them.
52. I said: "I'll be ready for the bastards next time!"

53. I saw Smith look down at my right hand and yell.

54. Smith said: "He's got a knife!"

55. In an attempt to calm me down, Anne persuaded me to cross the street onto Northbourne Avenue's dividing nature strip and walkway.

56. At no time did I give anyone permission to assault me.

57. This incident preceded another incident later that morning in which I stabbed Reed in the head with my knife. I was charged by Police in relation to that incident but the charges were later dropped due to my subsequent incarceration in Victoria.

58. About 12:30pm on Thursday 12 December 2014, I was visited by Senior Constable (S/C) Tim Saunders and he took this statement.

59. I read this statement and verify it is an accurate account of what I told S/C Saunders.

I read this statement before I signed it.



Julian Knight
11 December 2014

Statement signature witnessed by me, (name and position) *Lynette Graeve Teleconference Officer*
1444 hrs about (time)
on (date) *23/02/2015* 2015 at Port Phillip Prison in Victoria.

Lynette Graeve

Name: *Lynette Graeve*

Position: *Teleconference Officer*

Date: *23/02/2015*

Date: **Time:** *1444 hrs.*

Statement taken by me on 12 December 2014 at Port Phillip Prison, Victoria. Statement sent electronically to Mr Knight.

Timothy Saunders
Senior Constable 18055
Tuggeranong Police Station