

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785015

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HQ AC, VEHICLES MISSING
NOV. 1943

399

1
 1A Vehicle Recovered in hands of M.P. in Algiers. 2675
 American Regt in checking to Mitchell account of his
 actions & will take any action necessary. unfavourable major
 G-1. 2 Nov 1943.

2

Col. Farrow

Please see file, 1 minute 1 above, I
 suggest no further action is required.

9 Nov 43

W. Matheson, Col.

G-1.

3.

This vehicle has NOT been recovered to court
 & being into its loss has been received by General.
 H.Q. British Ammin.
 27/11/43.

C.P.M. Ashworth.

Major D. P.E.
 G-4.

785015

HEADQUARTERS COMMANDANT, A.C.
(American Contingent)
Headquarters Company
APO 512

1A
LFA/adv

6 Nov 43.

SUBJECT: Report on Missing Vehicle (British) one quarter ton #5156615;
Driver: Pvt. Thomas Mitchell, AUS; ASN 35202011

TO : Joint Assistant Chief of Staff, A.C.

4814

1. Pvt. Mitchell's statement is as follows: Appointed substitute courier by A/Sgt. Rosano, with authority from Lt. Volstad, delivered the mail from Hollywood Message Center to MGS Message Center in Algiers. On October 31st, he left Hollywood Message Center at 1530 hrs, arriving at 1730 hrs at MGS Message Center at Algiers. He took some personal belongings to Major Charles Birt at the 29th Station Hospital. Being hungry and out of cigarettes he stopped back at the MGS, parked his vehicle in the regular motor pool lot and attempted to get food. At 1930 hrs., an hour after he parked the vehicle, he found the vehicle to be missing; reported the same to the MP on duty at the lot and also by phone to MP headquarters. The time was approximately 2100 hrs. He received no aid. He spent the night looking for the vehicle and at 0745 hrs. the next morning he phoned headquarters company in Central and spoke to Sgt. Chapus, who could give him no aid. At 1200 hours he began to hitch-hike back to Hollywood, arriving in a supply truck at 1600 hrs. He was placed under arrest in quarters by Sgt. Rosano and Lt. Arnold.

2. 2nd Lt. L.F. Arnold was requested by Capt. Gillette to investigate the case. To date he has interviewed the sergeant of the guards at Algiers who was on duty the night of October 31st, who stated he knew nothing of the case. The MP who had been on duty the same night could not be located. Major Birt at the 29th Station Hospital could not describe the messenger or his condition. Pvt. Watson, British, of MGS Message Center, who accompanied Pvt. Mitchell to the hospital, stated Pvt. Mitchell was not under the influence of drink. The driver of the supply truck which brought Pvt. Mitchell back has not been located, but every effort is being made to do so. Sworn statements are being obtained from all persons so far known to be connected with the case. These will be obtained Monday. There is no report of the missing vehicle in Algiers MP Headquarters, nor does the Provost Marshall have a record of it.

LEWIS F. ARNOLD,
2nd Lt, CMP,
Investigating Officer.

Lewis F. Arnold
A.C. Hq. Cmdt
Hq. Co.

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1 B
... POINT ON PRIVATE THOMAS MITCHELL, ASN 35202011

1. Mitchell has driven practically every type of vehicle in the army. He was called to be a substitute driver for Captain Gillette to take the mail to Algiers. He was assigned to this detail by Acting Sergeant Rosano for two days, Saturday, 30th of October, and Sunday, 31st, October. His instructions were to take the mail from Hollywood Message Center to Allied Headquarters Message Center in the Alexandria Hotel. Mitchell was likewise given written instructions and a chert by Captain Gillette. The driver reported on the 30th of October at 12:30 hrs. to ACHQ Company tent but found no jeep waiting. Mail was finally given him at 1400 hrs. by Hollywood Message Center. They looked for a jeep, but the motor pool would not issue one without a written order. He reported back to Message Center. The old courier returned with a jeep which Mitchell then used. He left at 1500 hrs. for Algiers. He arrived at the Alexandria Hotel at Algiers at 1800 hrs. and delivered the mail bags to the messengers on the top floor of the said hotel, obtaining a receipt for the mail. He began his return trip at 1400 hrs., arrived at Hollywood message center at 2100 hrs. and turned in both the mail bags and the receipt to Hollywood Message Center.

2. On 31st of October the driver reported to Hollywood Message Center at 1320 hrs. and waited until 1500 or 1530 hrs for the regular jeep. He arrived in Algiers at the identical place where he had been on the 30th at 1730 hrs. and left the mail bags, again obtaining a receipt. Since Hollywood message center had sent some personal belongings to a major in the 29th Station Hospital, the messengers in Algiers would not accept the same nor deliver them to the major; hence, Pvt. Mitchell decided to take them to the major himself. A British soldier from Algiers Message Center went with him to show him the way. Those articles were delivered to the major at 1900 hrs. After this Pvt. Mitchell took the British soldier back to Alexandria Message center and then proceeded on his way back to Tizi-Ouzou. Being hungry and out of cigarettes he stopped at the headquarters special command, parking his jeep in the regular motor pool lot. He was there an hour before he missed the jeep. The MP on duty at the motor pool lot stated it was his duty to see no vehicle left the lot without a proper trip ticket and could not remember Pvt. Mitchell's jeep leaving. Pvt. Mitchell had the key in his pocket but the trip ticket was in the compartment of the jeep. He looked for the missing vehicle both in the area and outside. He then used the MP post phone and called MP headquarters at approximately 2100 hrs. He was informed that the MP's would have to have the number and a complete description of the vehicle before they could help. Pvt. Mitchell did not know the number. They suggested he return to MGS motor pool and obtain the number and description and inform them. Pvt. Mitchell did not know how to call Hollywood or Tizi-Ouzou and did not believe the MP post to be a through phone. He spent all night looking for the jeep. The next morning at 0745 hrs. Pvt. Mitchell phoned headquarters company in Central and spoke to Sergeant Chapin. This call was made from the message center in the school at Algiers. Sgt. Chapin did not tell Pvt. Mitchell what to do. He checked the three letters from Algiers message center in at the headquarters special command post office and spent the time till noon looking for the jeep. At 1200 hrs. or thereabouts he obtained the mail again from the post office and started to hitch hike back. His last ride with a supply truck took

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