

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

ACC

10000/100/861

13 Apr.

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

10000/100/861

COURTS OF INQUIRY  
SEPT., OCT. 1943

13 pp.



FOLIO	DATE	REF.	TO/FROM
1	16 Sept.		SCAO Trapani
2	19 "	375/HQ.	To: SCAO Trapani
3			From: " "
4	24 Sep.		" ASCAO "

5687

6  
SUBJECT:- Court of Inquiry - 395 Major G.J.A.  
BARTLETT, General List.

AMCOT/375/HQ.

AMCOT HQ. SICILY.

5 Oct 43.

5  
G. H. Q.  
2nd Echelon,  
B. N. A. F.

The attached A.F.B.117 in respect of injuries to the above mentioned officer, with proceedings of a Court of Inquiry and statements of evidence, are forwarded for record.

Wad

f Major-General,  
C.C.A.O.

3685

6/10/43



# CIVIL AFFAIRS OFFICE

PROVINCE OF TRAPANI

13 Via Regina Margherita

TRAPANI (Sicily)

Subject Court of Inquiry.

Chief Civil Affairs Officer,  
Amgot for Sicily.



Reference your AMGOT/375/HQ. dated 19 September, herewith  
Court of Inquiry proceedings and A.F.B.II7 in triplicate as  
instructed.

*Floyd E. Thomas*  
Lieut. Col. Inf.

Senior Civil Affairs Officer.

5685

*02E Maj GJA letter (299395) SC.  
The attached AF 5117 is report of inquiry  
and statements of proceedings of Court of Inquiry  
forwarded for record.*



30163. W1.18271/P276. 350,000. 8/42. K. & H., Ltd. G657/10. Forms A2/64.

Army Form A2.

\*N.B. — The Form being applicable to any Board, or Committee, or Court of Inquiry, this blank to be filled in accordingly.

The proceedings should be signed by the President and by each Member of the Board, etc.

Attention is particularly drawn to the Rules for Courts of Inquiry contained in Rules of Procedure 124-125A, and especially to Rule 125A(b); also to paragraph 764, et seq., King's Regulations, 1940.

PROCEEDING of a \* Court of Inquiry  
assembled at Civil Affairs Office, Trapani  
on the 27 September 1943  
by order of Lieut. Col. J. H. Langfitt, J.A.G.D.  
Acting Senior Civil Affairs Officer, Trapani  
for the purpose of enquiring into the accident to  
T/Major G. J. A. Bartlett, General List.

PRESIDENT.

Captain H. C. Read, R.A.

MEMBERS.

Ist. Lieut. A. H. Ferrari, Inf.

IN ATTENDANCE.

5684

The court having assembled pursuant to order, proceed to take evidence.

Major G. J. A. Bartlett, General List (279359), having been duly sworn states:-

On 25 September 1943 I was on duty as Senior Civil Affairs Police Officer searching for cattle thieves in company with an officer of the local Carabinieri. The vehicle in which I was a passenger was an American jeep driven by Pte. Mosca, No. 32539915, U.S. Army. At about 7 pm on that day we were proceeding



to the hills near Camporeale and when turning a sharp right hand turn both of the rear tyres punctured, the vehicle driver lost control and it turned into the ditch and overturned. I was thrown out and sustained injuries to the left side of my body. I received medical treatment at the I28 Evacuation Hospital. The vehicle was travelling at about 14 miles an hour and the speed was not excessive taking into consideration the bend in the road and its surface.

*G. Bartlett Major*

No. 32539915, Pte. Mosca, F. having been duly sworn states:-

At about 7 pm on 25 September 1943 I was driving a jeep with passengers including Major Bartlett. On a mountain road near Camporeale when taking a sharp right hand turn on the road both rear tyres punctured on the sharp flint surface causing the rear of the jeep to slide to the <sup>LEFT</sup> ~~right~~. I applied my brakes and tried to steer the jeep to the middle of the road, but, owing to the narrow road and the loose flint surface, I was unable to keep it there. The jeep went into the ditch and overturned.

*Pte. Mosca*

Major Leccis Giovanni (Carabinieri) having been duly sworn states:- I was with Major Bartlett and driver Pte. Mosca on the jeep which overturned on 25 September about 7pm. We were in search of 52 cattle which had been reported as stolen. I was on duty with the major and due to the poor condition of the road the rear tyres punctured and the driver was unable to steer the jeep and lost control. The jeep fell into the ditch and overturned throwing myself and the major out. I had a slight bruise on my knee. At the time of the accident the vehicle was going at about 20 kilometres an hour.

*Major Leccis Giovanni*

The Court having considered the evidence is of the opinion that Major G.J.A. Bartlett was on duty at the time of the accident. They are further of the opinion that the driver was not to blame for the accident.

*Robert J. Capt. R.A. President*  
*A. H. Ferrari 1st Lt. Inf. member*



Army Form B117.

**REPORT ON INJURIES**

(Other than wounds received in action)

To be rendered in accordance with instructions on the back of this form.

**1. STATEMENT TO BE SIGNED BY THE OFFICER OR SOLDIER.**

1249395 Major Gilbert James Alexander Bartlett General List hereby declare that

I sustained an injury on the 15<sup>th</sup> September 1943 in the following circumstances:— Whilst engaged in searching for cattle thieves near Camporeale, Trapani—Passenger in Jeep Car which overturned through both rear wheels puncturing when driven. The F. Musca, NO 32589915, USA Army was negotiating an acute bend on steep narrow hill side road.

Date 23<sup>rd</sup> September 1943 G. Bartlett Signature of Officer or Soldier.

2. Nature, site and severity of injury, stating whether it is likely to interfere with his future efficiency as an officer or soldier.

Contusion in region of 6<sup>th</sup> rib in left axillary line. Severe contusion but no evidence clinically or radiologically of fractured ribs. Injury is unlikely

to interfere with his future efficiency as an officer.

N.B.—Hospital to be notified at once if wound is believed to be self-inflicted.

Thornton Medical Officer. Capt. R. A. M. C.

3. Short statement of the circumstances by an officer who has knowledge of the case. The evidence of witnesses must be attached to this form—see NOTE 5 overleaf. (For injuries during sports or games see NOTE 7 overleaf.)

All statements attached and proceedings of Court of Inquiry. The facts of this accident were reported to me the same night by special messenger, J. E. Thomas, Lt. Col. Inf.

**4. Commanding Officer's opinion:**

- (a) Was the individual in the performance of military duty? ...

Yes

- (b) Was it due to his negligence? ...  
How far was this blameworthy? ...

No

- (c) Was it due to his misconduct? ...  
If so, in what way? ...

No

- (d) Was anyone else to blame? ...

No

- (e) Did the injury occur on military premises and if so in what part of such premises? ...

No

**(f) Court of Enquiry—**

- (i) Has any been held? ...

Yes

- (ii) Will any be held? ...

- (iii) Date and place ...

26 Sept. 1943 at Trapani, Sicily.

Date 29 Sept. 43

Commanding

Floyd E. Thomas,  
Lt. Col. Inf. (R.S.) [P.T.O.]  
SCAO - Trapani



# CIVIL AFFAIRS OFFICE

PROVINCE OF TRAPANI

13 Via Regina Margherita

TRAPANI (Sicily)

17 September 1943

Subject: Motor Vehicle Accident

To : Camp Commandant, AMGOT HQ. Palermo

While searching for cattle thieves on the mountain roads near Camporeale, on 15 September at about 7pm. I was driving the Jeep, No.34, serial No. 20228577 on a downward grade, and when turning a sharp right hand turn on the road, the both rear of the Jeep to slide to the left. I applied my brakes and tried to steer the jeep to the middle of the road, but owing to the narrow road and the loose flint surface, I was unable to keep the jeep on the road and prevent the front of the jeep from going in to the ditch, causing it to overturn.

*Pvt Frank Mosca*

FRANK MOSCA

AMGOT HQ.

5682

17 September 1943

Subject:- Motor Vehicle Accident

To :- Camp Commandant, AMGOT HQ. Palermo

At approximately 7pm. 15th September, 1943,, near Camporeale, Province of Trapani, whilst engaged in searching for cattle thieves in company with Carabinieri Police, the Jeep, No. 34, serial No. 20228577, (driver, Pvt. F.Mosca, ASN 32539915), in which I was a passenger, received minor damages in consequence of the vehicle overturning in a roadside ditch.

Contributory cause of accident, Due to both rear tires of Jeep puncturing on rough flint surface of road whilst driver was negotiating an acute bend on steep, narrow hill-side road.

Minor personal injuries received by Major Leccis, Carabinieri and myself. No evidence of negligent or careless driving on part of the driver.



Major

Senior Civil Affairs

Police Officer

Province of Trapani

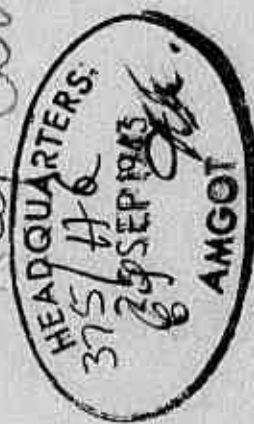
568:



24 September, 1943

Subject: Court of Inquiry

To : T/Major G.J.A. Bartlett  
Capt. H.R. Kennedy  
Capt. H.C. Read



A court of inquiry composed as under:

President

34522 Capt. H.R. Kennedy, Hampshire Reg't.

Member

46474 Capt. H.C. Read, Royal Artillery

This court will assemble on Monday, 27 Sept., 43 at 1000 hours in Capt. Read's office for the purpose of inquiring into the accident of T/Major G.J.A. Bartlett, Gen. List, which occurred 15 Sept., 43.

The court will take evidence on oath and express an opinion as to whether the injured officer was on duty. A.F.A. 2 will be completed in triplicate and forwarded to S.C.A.O. Trapani.

Attached to Capt. H.R. Kennedy 2 copies AFB 117 and 3 copies AFA 2.

T/Major G.J.A. Bartlett warns all witnesses to attend.

Witnesses to Attend:

279395 T/Major G.J.A. Bartlett, Gen. List (B)

32539915 Pvt. Frank Mosca, U.S. Army

Major of Carabinieri

3681

Nothing with  
Lt Col. GACD  
acting SCAO

Ref folio 2

Capt. H.R. Kennedy  
Capt. H.C. Read

AMGOT

A court of inquiry composed as under:

President

34522 Capt. H.R. Kennedy, Hampshire Reg't.

Member

46474 Capt. H.C. Read, Royal Artillery

This court will assemble on Monday, 27 Sept., 43 at 1000 hours in Capt. Read's office for the purpose of inquiring into the accident of T/Major G.J.A. Bartlett, Gen. List, which occurred 15 Sept., 43.

The court will take evidence on oath and express an opinion as to whether the injured officer was on duty. A.F.A. 2 will be completed in triplicate and forwarded to S.C.A.O. & Trapani.

Attached to Capt. H.R. Kennedy 2 copies AFB 117 and 3 copies

AFA 2.

T/Major G.J.A. Bartlett warns all witnesses to attend.

Witnesses to Attend:

279395 T/Major G.J.A. Bartlett, Gen. List (B)

32539915 Pvt. Frank Mosca, U.S. Army

Major of Carbinieri

0681

Withholding  
Lt Col. GARD  
acting SCAO

Cilia

DATA



*Repubblica Democratica di Salaparuta*

*Associazione Nazionale Fascista degli Alpini*

*Ref follow*

*P.H.*



CIVIL AFFAIRS OFFICE

PROVINCE OF TRAPANI

13 Via Regina Margherita

TRAPANI (Sicily)



Reference/ My previous letter  
of 16 September.

Subject / Accident to Major Bartlett (B)  
To : Chief Staff Officer, Hq. Amgot, Palermo.

The condition of Major G. Bartlett (B), SCAPO this province, is not so serious as was first reported. Owing to difficulties with electrical current a satisfactory X-ray could not be obtained until this morning, when it was ascertained that no rib was broken, or other bones. Apparently he sustained a severe muscle strain, but it is clearing up and his incapacity will be of short duration. No further report will be forwarded unless an unexpectedly adverse condition warrants same.

Floyd E. Thomas,  
Lt. Col. Inf.  
SCAO, Trapani Province.

5679

*[Handwritten initials]* P/A 22/9

SUBJECT:- Court of Inquiry. ○

AMGOT/375/HQ. 2/

AMGOT H.Q. SICILY.


19 Sept 43.

S.C.A.O.  
TRAPANI PROVINCE.

Ref. your unnumbered letter dated 16 Sept 43 regarding injuries sustained by Major G. Bartlett on 15 Sept 43. ①

Herewith three forms A.F.A.2 and A.F.B.117 as requested.

Please arrange to hold a Court of Inquiry and forward the proceedings in triplicate to this Headquarters. Parts 1 to 4 of A.F.B.117 should be completed and one copy attached to each copy of the proceedings.

  
Colonel,  
Chief Staff Officer.

5678

PA  
19/9



RECEIVED  
"Cante of Inquiry" 375

Copy for A branch

1013/AS

You will wish to handle the  
Court of Inquiry ~~angle~~ yourselves. *134*

*Duffy*

7/9

September 16, 1943

SUBJECT: Injury to Major G. Bartlett (B)

TO : Chief Civil Affairs Officer, Hq. ANGOT, Palermo.

1. By messenger last night I was informed that Major G. Bartlett (B), S.C.A.P.O. for Trapani Province, had been injured when his jeep blew a tire and left the road near Alcamo, about 7 P.M., 15 September 1943. He was rendered temporarily unconscious and sustained what is reported as a "badly broken rib." He is now at the quarters of Capt. Keldart, (B), C.A.O. at Alcamo. I will make personal investigation as to the extent of his injuries.

// 2. Request you forward several copies of Army Form B - 117, for British court of inquiry.

3. This accident leaves only Capt. Godbold (B) functioning as a C.A.P.O. in the Province.

Floyd E. Thomas,  
Lt. Col. Inf.,  
S.C.A.O. - Trapani.

[ĩ 0 2 9]