

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785020

10000/120/

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785020

10000/120/44

AQ/6/4 - Count of Enquiry
December 10, 1944 - March 17, 1945

Subject : Court of Inquiry - loss of Bianchi car.

Land Forces Sub Comm.A.C.
(M.M.I.A.)
R O M E
A/6/4

17 March 45.

Commanding General,
Rome Area Allied Command,
C.M.F.

Ref : your 5 A 125 ,dated 8th of March.

Army Form G 998, in quadruplicate, in respect of Bianchi car WD No.MI 750I is forwarded herewith for countersignature and return to this HQ as a supporting document for striking the vehicle off charge.

P Archer
S.P. ARCHER, Capt.
for Major General,
M.M.I.A.

5524

SPA/fo

Incl.

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785020

HQ ROME AREA ALLIED COMMAND
APO No 794 US ARMY.

Ref: 5A125.
8 Mar 45.

SUBJECT:- Court of Inquiry - Loss of BIANCHI Car.

Land Forces Sub-Commission,
Allied Commission (LMIA).

Reference your AQ/6/4 dated 23 Feb 45.

Please obtain and forward duplicate AFs G 998 as the originals would appear to have been mislaid.

DCW/EE.

A/6/4
9/3
R. V. Palmer
R. V. PALMER,
Staff Captain,
for Brigadier,
Commander British Troops ROME.

5523

Subject:- Counts of Inquiry
Loss of Bianchi Car.

Land Forces Sub Comm. A.C.
(M.M.I.A.)
R O M E
AQ/6/4

H.Q. Rome Area Allied Command
C.M.F.

23 Feb 45.

Ref this H.Q. A.Q./6/4 of 30 Jan/45

May this H.Q. please be informed whether the A.F.s G 998 in respect of the lost vehicle, (Bianchi WD N°17501) have now been completed, and if so may a copy please be forwarded to support write off action on Part X orders.

5522

S.P. Archer

S.P. ARCHER, Capt.
for Major General,
M.M.I.A.

SPA/ab

CONFIDENTIAL

Subject:- Court of Inquiry -
Loss of Bianchi Car.

Land Forces Sub Comm. A.C.
(M.M.I.A.)
R O M E
19/6/4

H.Q. Rome Area Allied Command.

30 Jan 45.

Ref your 5/125 of 9 Jan/45.

1. Capt. V.C. Tarupp has now paid the sum of L.20-0-0- to the Field Cashier for Credit of Army Funds in respect part cost of lost Bianchi car W.D. No M17501, the Cashier's receipt for this sum is attached to the enclosed A.F.C.998 which it is requested may be signed and a copy returned to this H.Q.

2. Also enclosed is a copy of the Proceedings of the Court Inquiry as requested in your above quoted letter.

5021

F.J. HOKES, Col.
for Major General,
M.M.I.A.

SPA/an

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785020

HQ ROME AREA ALLIED COMMAND
APO No 794 US ARMY.

Ref: 5A125.

30 Jan 45.

SUBJECT:- Court of Inquiry - Loss of Bianchi Car.

30 Jan 45.

Land Forces Sub-Commission AC (MMIA).

Reference this office letter of even number dated 9 Jan 45.

May your reply now be forwarded, please.

R.V. Palmer

R. V. PALMER,
Staff Captain,
for Brigadier,
Commander British Troops ROME.

GG.

*Replied
3/11
JPA*

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785020

Subject: Court of L. Jiry.

CONFIDENTIAL

Liaison Officer
Land Forces Sub Comm. AC
(MMIA)
c/o Rear HQ Eighth Army
CMF

23 Jan 45

To: Land Forces Sub Comm. AC (MMIA)

AQ/6/4
26/1

Ref your letter AQ/6/4 of 20 Jan 45.

Herewith receipt requested.

V.C.J. Thrupp

(V.C.J. THRUPP)
MMIA LO

5019

Confidential

Subject:- Court of Inquiry.

Land Forces Sub Comm. A.C.
(M.M.I.A.)
R O M E
AQ/6/4

20 Jan 45.

Capt. V.C. Thrupp.
M.M.I.A. L.O.
Rear H.Q. 8 Army
C.M.F.

Ref your G/5 of 14 Jan/45

1. Will you please arrange to pay in the local Field Cashier the sum of L.20 as agreed in your above quoted letter.
2. This can be done by filling in normal Advance of Pay slip (APW 3241) and instructing the Cashier to credit the amount to Army Funds in respect of payment towards loss of Bianchi car WD N°17501, and obtain receipt in duplicate for this "cheque." 5018
3. The Area Cashier here advised that this "cheque" can be endorsed "not to count against normal monthly drawings."
4. Please forward copy of Cashiers receipt for attachment to documents which will be forwarded for official application for write off of vehicle.

S.P. Archer Capt.

S.P. ARCHER, Capt.
DA & QMG
M.M.I.A.

SPA/ab

CONFIDENTIAL

Subject: Court of Inquiry.

LIATISON OFFICER
LAND FORCES SUB COMM
AC (MMIA)
NAPLES.

G/5

14 Jan 45

To: Land Forces Sub Commission AC (MMIA)

Ref your AQ/C/4 of 11 Jan 45.

1. I confirm that I am prepared to contribute
L. 20 towards the loss of Bianchi ~~car~~ car WD # 17501.

2. As soon as I am informed to whom payment
should be made, I shall make the necessary arrangements
with my bank or the Army Pay Office, Manchester.

V.C.J. Thrupp
(V.C.J. THRUPP)

5017

Subject:- Court of Inquiry -
Loss of Bianchi Car.

Land Forces Sub Comm. A.C.
(M.M.I.A.)

R O M E
AQ/6/4

11 Jan 45.

Capt. V.C. Thrupp.
M.M.I.A. L.O.
Naples.

1. The G.O.C. 3 District has upheld the opinion of G.O.C. 33 Military Mission, and directs that you be invited to contribute the sum of L.20 towards the loss of the Bianchi Car W.D. NoM 17501, or alternatively to submit your reasons in writing why, after investigation by the Army Council, you should not be called upon to make good the loss.
2. In the light of your letter G/5 of 23 Dec/44, will you please confirm that you agree to pay the sum of L.20 (twenty pounds) and advise this H.Q., for information of G.O.C. 3 District, what arrangements you make for the payment of this sum.

S.P. Archer Capt. 5-16
S.P. ARCHER, Capt.
for F.J. NOAKES, Col.
DA & QMG,
M.M.I.A.

SPA/ab

HQ ROME AREA ALLIED COMMAND
APO 794 US ARMY

716
AR
9 Jan

Ref: 5A125

9 Jan 45

Subject: Court of Inquiry - Loss of Bianchi Car

Land Forces Sub-Commission A.C. (MMIA) —

Ref your AQ/6/4 dated 27 Dec 44. Herewith one copy of proceedings.

1. GOC 3 District has directed that Capt Thrupp be invited to contribute the sum of £20 towards the loss or alternatively to submit his reasons in writing why after investigation by the Army Council he should not be called upon to make good the loss.

2. Please take action accordingly and advise this HQ when the direction has been put into effect returning the copy of Court of Inquiry Proceedings with your reply.

*Capt V.T.
told and asked
to make arrangements
to pay sum of £20 in m.i.f.
R.V.
11/1*

R.V. Palmer

R.V. PALMER
Staff Capt
for Brigadier
Commander British Troops Rome

5015

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785020

- COPY -

CONFIDENTIAL

Subject: Court of Inquiry.

Liaison Officer
Land Forces Sub Comm.A.C.
(MMIA)
NAPLES.

Ref G/5

23 Dec 44

To: Land Forces Sub Commission A.C.(M.M.I.A)

Ref your AQ/6/4 dated 16 Dec 44.

In the event of the decision of the Commander being that £.20 (twenty pounds) should be contributed by me towards the cost occasioned by the loss of the Bianchi car WD No.17501, I shall accept that decision.

(sgd) V.C.J.THRUPP Capt.

5514

Subject: Courts of Inquiry - Loss of Vehicle.

Land Forces Sub Comm.A.C.
(M.M.I.A.) R O M E .
AQ/6/4

27 Dec 44

H.Q.,R.A.A.C.

Ref this HQ letter AQ/6/4 of 10 Dec.

1. The proceedings of the Court of Inquiry referred to in the above quoted letter are forwarded herewith in original with two copies.

2. Attached to the proceedings is a statement from Capt. V.C.J. THRUPP(76056) S.Stafford R in which he agrees to accept the finding of the Court.

F.J. NOAKES
F.J. NOAKES Col.
D.A. & Q.M.G. for Maj.Gen.
Comdg. M.M.I.A.

SPA/hh

5513

Army Form A.2.

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(8); also to paragraph 764, et seq., King's Reg's, 1940

PROCEEDINGS of a Court of Enquiry
assembled at In the Field
on the 7th December 1944.
by order of Maj Genl L. BROWNING (MCBEMC)
G.O.C. Land Forces Sub Comm. A.C. (MIA)
for the purpose of Investigating the

circumstances whereby a M.D. Vehicle
Bianchi WD M17501 Reg No. 20311 was lost.

PRESIDENT

Maj W.S.L. CHEGSON, 8th R. Innis. D.C.

WITNESSES

Captain W.M.P. MAXWELL R.A.

IN ATTENDANCE

The Court having assembled pursuant to order,
proceed to Take Evidence.

1st WITNESS: 76053 Capt V.C.J. THURPP South Shaffordshire Regt
having been duly sworn states:-

5012

On the 18th October 1944 about 1600 hrs I collected the Car Bianchi WD M17501 from the Civil Labour Pool Workshops in POGGIO REALI, NAPLES, where it had been undergoing repairs.

I drove it back to MIA office at PROVINCIA BUILDING, NAPLES. On the closing of the office I visited CASTELLANARE. At 2300 hrs I left CASTELLANARE and drove the car back

Captain R.H.E. MAXWELL R.A.

IN ATTENDANCE

The Court having assembled pursuant to order,
proceed to Take Evidence.

1st WITNESS:

76053 Capt V.C.J. THURP South Staffordshire Regt
having been duly sworn states:-

5012

On the 19th October 1944 about 1600 hrs I collected the Car Bianchi WD M17501 from the Civil Labour Pool Workshops in POGGIO REALI, NAPLES, where it had been undergoing repairs.

I drove it back to MIA office at PROVINCIA BUILDING, NAPLES. On the closing of the office I visited CASTELLAMARE. At approximately 2300 hrs I left CASTELLAMARE and drove the car back to my billet at No. 65 Via SALVATORE DI GIACOMO, NAPLES, where I arrived at approximately 0130 hrs on 19th October 1944, and was alone when I parked the car. Whilst at CASTELLAMARE the car was in an official Car Park. I parked the car in the yard of the billet and went to bed.

On the morning of the 19th October 1944, at about 0715 hrs, Driver TIER came into the room I was shaving with Major MONICO and reported to him that the FIAT WD M1648774 had been found abandoned down the road about 20 yards from the gate of the billet. The chain used for locking the steering wheel had been cut and one tyre was flat. This car had been parked the previous night, next to the missing Bianchi. Major MONICO then asked driver TIER if the Bianchi was in the yard. He said that he was not aware that the Bianchi had returned from workshop and went downstairs to check. Shortly afterwards he came back and reported that the car was not there.

I dressed at once and went to the yard to see if I could discover what had happened to the car. I found some tracks at the yard gate, but a further search in the vicinity failed to reveal the missing car. I went to the office and reported the loss by telephone to A.P.M. 5b Area.

A little later Major LONG, U.S. Army, who works in the office with me, reported the loss to the American Military Police H.Q. NAPLES and Major H.S.P.F. THURPP, also in my office, reported the matter to the CC.RR HQ NAPLES.

During the search for the car near the billet a piece of paper was found bearing an address of a garage in Naples. The finding of this piece of paper was reported to CC.RR who sent an investigator to the office to inspect it and carry out the investigation of the loss. Up to date no trace of the car has been found.

I produce a document from the A.P.M.'s office NAPLES concerning the reporting of the loss (Marked A and attached to the proceedings), also a similar document from the office of the Provost Marshal P.S.S. (Marked B and attached to the proceedings).

QUESTION 1: Why is the date of the reporting of the loss given as 20th October 1944 by A.P.M.'s office?

ANSWER 1: I don't know. I raised the matter with the A.P.M.'s who replied that his office records showed that the loss had been reported to him on the 20th October and declined to change the date on the document.

I am absolutely positive that I reported the matter to the A.P.M.s office at approx 200 hrs on 19th October 1944.

QUESTION 2: On parking the car in the early morning of the 19th, what steps did you take to safeguard the car?

ANSWER 2: I am not certain what steps I took, but as far as I can remember, I took no steps to immobilise the car.

QUESTION 3: Had the yard where the car was parked any gates and if so were they locked at night?

5011

ANSWER 3: No, the yard gate was broken.

QUESTION 4: Was it the normal practice for cars to be left in this yard at night?

QUESTION 1: Why is the date of the reporting of the loss given as 20th October 1944 by A.P.M.'s office?

ANSWER 1: I don't know. I raised the matter with the A.P.M.'s who replied that his office records showed that the loss had been reported to him on the 20th October and declined to change the date on the document.

I am absolutely positive that I reported the matter to the A.P.M.'s office at approx 300 hrs on 19th October 1944.

QUESTION 2: On parking the car in the early morning of the 19th, what steps did you take to safeguard the car?

ANSWER 2: I am not certain what steps I took, but as far as I can remember, I took no steps to immobilise the car.

QUESTION 3: Had the yard where the car was parked any gates and if so were they locked at night?

ANSWER 3: No, the yard gate was broken.

QUESTION 4: Was it the normal practice for cars to be left in this yard at night?

ANSWER 4: Yes, as our main garage is about four miles away and the drivers also live at the billet.

QUESTION 5: On your journey to CASTELLAMARE and back, were you accompanied by a driver?

ANSWER 5: No, as I thought I should be returning late I did not take him with me.

QUESTION 6: Who was the official driver of the car?

ANSWER 6: Pte JOHNSTON, who looked after both the Bianchi and the Fiat previously referred to.

sgt V.C.J. THURUPP, Capt.
7 Dec. 44.

2nd WITNESS:
sworn states:-

219771 Capt J.M.CRAIG, R.A.S.C., having been duly

I am transport officer to Land Forces Sub Comm. A.C.
Car WD M17501 a requisitioned Bianchi is held on charge against the
W.E. of this HQ. It was allocated to the British Section of the MAPLES
Office.

I produce a certificate from O.C. Civil Labour Office
MEME C.M.F. estimating the value of the car at the time of loss
£ 50 - (fifty pounds) (Marked C and attached to the proceedings).

sgd J.M.CRAIG, R.A.S.C. Capt.
7 Dec. 44.

3rd WITNESS:
been duly sworn states:-

No. 14530283 Pte JOHNSTON T. Royal West Kents, having

Up to the 20th October 1944, I was a driver at the
MAPLES Section, and was employed in driving several of the Section
Cars including the lost vehicle.

At approx 0730 hrs on the morning of 19th October 1944,
Driver TYLER informed me that FIAT WD M5648774 had been discovered
some way down the road with a flat tyre and with the chain used for
locking the steering wheel, cut through. He also informed me that the
Bianchi WD 17501 had disappeared. I pumped up the tyre of the Fiat
and drove it back to the yard. I then assisted in the search for
the missing Bianchi but no trace of it was found.

The cars used by officers living in the billet were
usually parked in the yard at night. The yard gate was broken and
could not be locked. Normally, cars left in the yard at night were
immobilised.

sgd J. JOHNSTON
7 Dec. 44.

4th WITNESS:
states:-

No. 1946885 Driver TYLER R.E., having been duly sworn

On the morning of the 19th October 1944, I took some
but water up to Cent. in WELSON's room. I found

Driver TYLER informed me that FIAT WD H5648774 had been discovered some way down the road with a flat tyre and with the chain used for locking the steering wheel, cut through. He also informed me that the Bianchi WD 17501 had disappeared. I pumped up the tyre of the Fiat and drove it back to the yard. I then assisted in the search for the missing Bianchi but no trace of it was found.

The cars used by officers living in the billet were usually parked in the yard at night. The yard gate was broken and could not be locked. Normally, cars left in the yard at night were immobilised.

sgt I. JOHNSTON

7 Dec. 44.

5010

4th WITNESS:
states:-

No. 1946885 Driver TYLER R.E., having been duly sworn

On the morning of the 19th October 1944, I took some hot water up to Captain NELSON's room. I found him already up and looking out of the window. He asked me what the Fiat was doing down the road. I looked out of the window and saw the Fiat on the road some little distance from the yard gate. I went straight to the car and found that the chain used for locking the steering wheel, had been cut and the car had a flat tyre.

I asked Pte JOHNSTON to drive the car back to the yard and went upstairs to report the attempted theft to Major MONICO. He asked me if the Bianchi was in the yard. I replied that I hadn't seen it but thought it was still in workshops. He informed me that it had been parked in the yard and told me to make sure it was nowhere about. I went downstairs again but could find no trace of the missing car and this I reported to Major MONICO. Subsequently I joined in the search for the Bianchi but no trace of it was found. At the time of the loss I was driver - batman to Major H.E.P.F. THRUPP, who was living in the billet. His car was immobilised and locked up in the only garage attached to the billet.

sgt TYLER

7 Dec 44.

OPINION

The Court having carefully considered the foregoing evidence are of the opinion that:

(i) From the evidence it cannot be definitely stated whether any steps were taken to safeguard the vehicle or not, but it appears that Captain THURUP failed to take such steps. Under these circumstances the Court consider that Captain THURUP was responsible for the loss.

(ii) £ 50 (Fifty pounds) see "C" attached.

(iii) In view of para 1, it is considered that some part of the loss should be borne by Captain THURUP.

PRESIDENT: D.S.L. GREGSON, Major
5th R. Innis. D.C.

MEMBER: W.S.R. MAGILL R.A.

I have carefully considered this case. I agree with the findings of the Court and consider that, in view of all the circumstances, Captain V.C.J. THURUP should pay £20 (twenty pounds sterling) towards the loss and that the balance of £30 (thirty pounds sterling) should be written off.

L. Brown
Maj. Gen.
M.M.I.A.

16 Dec 44

509

PRESIDENT: D.S.L. GREGSON, Major
5th R. Imis. D.G.

MEMBER: W.S.R. MACQUELL, R.A.

I have carefully considered this case. I agree with the findings of the Court and consider that, in view of all the circumstances, Captain V.C.J. THURPP should pay £20 (twenty pounds sterling) towards the loss and that the balance of £30 (thirty pounds sterling) should be written off.

Maj. Gen.
M.M.I.A.

Dec 44

5009

CONFIDENTIAL

Subject: Court of Enquiry - Stolen Car.

Land Forces Sub Comm.A.C.
(M.M.I.A.) R O M E.
AQ/6/4

10 Dec 44

To: HQ R.A.A.C.

A Court of Enquiry was assembled on 7 Dec 44 to enquire into the circumstances of the loss of W.D.Requisitioned veh No.20911. As the findings of the Court appear to show neglect on the part of an officer concerned, the proceedings are being held until the return of Maj. Gen. L.Browning, Comd 33 Mil Mission, from U.K. on 23 Dec 44.

FJN
F.J.NOAKES Col.
for Major General.
M.M.I.A.

FJN/hh

5008

0 9 7 6