

ACC

10000/120/3847

10000/20/3847

4/B/4/A

Crestos Erquvany

58/59

Mar. 1-16, 1946

Subject: Court of Enquiry.

Headquarters
4 B.L.U.
BOZZANO
Ref: 4/B/25-67
1 Mar 46

To: Capt A.W. Deayer ✓
S/Cdr Lyon W
Sgt Hewkins H

1. A Court of Enquiry, composed as under, will assemble at HQ 4 BLU in the Ordnance Office at 0900 hours 2 Mar 46 to investigate the circumstances in which Motor Cycle solo 500cc BSA WD No 31460633 on charge to 4 BLU, was lost.

<u>President.</u>	Capt A. W. Deayer	RACC
<u>Member</u>	S/Cdr Lyon W	RACC

2. The evidence will be taken on oath.
3. Sgt Hewkins H will have all necessary witnesses and evidence available.

L. M. Douglas

1st Lt
391
GS

Copy to: HQ 60 Sub Area

(4218) WLE085/2221. 330m. 5/44. C.A.S.L.P.&P.Co., Ltd. TSI-408.

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(n); also to paragraph 704, et seq., King's Regulations, 1940.

PROCEEDINGS of a Court of Enquiryassembled at H2 4 B.L.U. Bolzanoon the 2nd March 1946by order of Lt. Col. J.S.H. DouglasCommanding 4 British Liaison Unit

for the purpose of investigating the circumstances
in which Motor cycle solo 500 cc BSA WD N° C
1460633 on charge to 4 B.L.U. was lost.

PRESIDENT.

Capt. A.D. Denyer RAOC

MEMBERS.

S/Odr W. Lyon RAOC

IN ATTENDANCE.

590

The Court having assembled pursuant to order, proceed to
 take evidence on oath.

HQ. 4 B.L.U.
MIA
B o l z a n o
9. March 46.

HQ 60 Sub Area

Court of Inquiry Proceedings into the loss of M.C.
Solo 500 cc. BSA WD N° C 1460633 on charge to this
Unit are forwarded for necessary action please.

Lt. Col.

GS

389

LIST OF ~~ARMS, (a)~~ PERSONAL EQUIPMENT, (a) 4 B.L.U. CMF (Unit or Department) ~~CLOTHING, (a)~~ belonging to the above, reported lost, ~~damaged or destroyed~~ ~~STORES, (a)~~ Station BOLZ
 (a) Strike out headings inapplicable. A separate form to be used for each of above.

GAT- or ART No.	ARTICLES		RATE	New Value at Vocabulary rates or (b) actual cost of repair.			(c) Value at 75 % or actual value if greater or less.			REMARKS It must be certified that the chargeable, when it is less than Vocabulary rate, is the actual value of loss or damage beyond repair nature of the evidence on which the claim is based must be indicated.
	Designation. (Registered numbers to be quoted where such exist.)	No.		£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	
	<i>Motor Cycle</i>									
	<i>B.S.A. 500 cc Solo</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>£65 - -</i>							
	<i>W.D. N: C 1460633</i>									
	<i>Plus 5% Dep Expenses</i>			<i>3</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>-</i>				
	<i>Plus 10% Freight Charges</i>			<i>6</i>	<i>16</i>	<i>6</i>				
				<i>75</i>	<i>16</i>	<i>6</i>				
							<i>56</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>2</i>	

(b) Where the amount refers to cost of repair, it must be so stated. (c) In the case of articles damaged beyond repair the residue

J. H. G. on Jas. W. G. [Signature] Submitted _____
 Signature of the officer in whose charge the articles are held. Signature of C.O.O. or D.A.D.O.S. _____

MENT, (a) 4 B. L. U. CNE (Unit or Department).

Army Form G 998
(in pads of 100).

belonging to the above, reported lost, ~~damaged or destroyed~~.

Strike out headings inapplicable. A separate form to be used for each of above.

Station BOLZANO

Date 20 MARCH 1946

No.	RATE	New Value at Vocabulary rates or (b) actual cost of repair.			(c) Value at 75% or actual value if greater or less.			REMARKS It must be certified that the amount chargeable, when it is less than the Vocabulary rate, is the actual value at date of loss or damage beyond repair; the nature of the evidence on which the valuation is based must be indicated.	Decision of the Superior Authority.
		£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.		
10 CC	1	£65	-	-					
0633									
Expenses			3	5	-				
			£68	5	-				
Brought Forward			6	16	6				
			£75	1	6				
						£56	6	2	

to cost of repair, it must be so stated. (c) In the case of articles damaged beyond repair the residual value must be deducted.

Submitted

Signature of C.O.O. or D.A.D.O.S.

Signature of the Superior Authority.

The first witness Cpl. Acting Sergeant HEWKINS H 6144498 of 4 B.L.U. having been duly sworn states:

I am NCC 1/c MT of 4 B.L.U. On Thursday morning 21st Feb. 1945 I noticed that BSA Motor Cycle No C 1450633 was not in its usual place in the vehicle park but thought it might have been taken by Guardsmen Opie who sometimes does short duty runs on this machine. When I saw Guardsman Opie that evening I asked him if he had used the machine that day and he assured me that he had not.

On Friday morning I visited the various workshops in Bolzano in an effort to locate the motor cycle without result. I then reported the loss to L/Cpl. John of the CMP and to the Chief Clerk at HQ 4 B.L.U. I last saw the machine at about 12:30 hrs. Wednesday 20 th Feb. 45.

Questioned by the Court:

- 1 Q. What effort where made to safeguard the machine in the vehicle park?
- 1.A. It was parked in a yard behind the billet, where it was not visible from the road.
- 2.Q. Can you suggest how the machine was lost?
- 2.A. Personnel of the Unit know where the machine was parked so it could have been removed by anyone. I have been informed that it was, in fact, seen in the possession of 2 members of the It. increment to 4 B.L.U. after I last saw it.

sgd.: HEWKINS H. 6144498

The second witness L/Cpl. Johns J.S. 889482 of No 4 Section 6th British Armoured Division Provost Coy having been duly sworn states:

~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ It about 11, 15 hrs. on Friday 22nd Feb. 45. I was on duty in Detachment office when Sgt. Hewkins of 4 B.L.U. came to report the loss of a motor cycle. As he states that this machine had been seen by Sgt. Smith of 4 B.L.U. at 15,00 hrs. on Wednesday 20th Feb. 45 in possession of two Italians. I had these Italians brought to the Detachment office for interrogation. They admitted having used the machine on Wednesday afternoon, but states that they had returned it to the vehicle park after use.

I informed all patrols and posts of the particulars of the stolen machine but no report has yet been received.

sgd: 889482 J.S. Johns: L/Cpl.

The third witness Sgt. Smith A.J. 2333701 of 4 B.L.U. having been duly sworn states:

20th Feb. 45 I was driving a vehicle At approximately 15:00hrs on Wednesday

2.A. Personnel of the 4th B.L.U. have been removed by anyone. I have been informed that it was, in fact, seen in the possession of 2 members of the It. Increment to 4 B.L.U. after I last saw it.

sgd.: HEWKINS H. 6144498

The second witness L/Cpl. Johns J.S. 889482 of No 4 Section 6th British Armoured Division Provost Coy having been duly sworn states:

~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ At about 11, 15 hrs on Friday 22nd Feb. 45. I was on duty in Detachment office when Sgt. Hewkins of 4 B.L.U. came to report the loss of a motor cycle. As he states that this machine had been seen by Sgt. Smith of 4 B.L.U. at 15,00 hrs. on Wednesday 20th Feb. 45 in possession of two Italians. I had these Italians brought to the Detachment office for interrogation. They admitted having used the machine on Wednesday afternoon, but states that they had returned it to the vehicle park after use.

I informed all patrols and posts of the particulars of the stolen machine but no report has yet been received.

sgd.: 889482 J.S. Johns; L/Cpl.

The third witness Sgt. Smith A.J. 2333701 of 4 B.L.U. having been duly sworn states:

At approximately 15:00hrs on ^{day.} Wednesday 20th Feb. 45 I was driving a vehicle along Via Museo Bolzano when I saw B.S.A. Motor Cycle No C1460633, which I recognised to belong to 4 B.L.U. being driven by an Italian who I recognised to be Grossi of the It. Increment to 4 B.L.U. On the pillion was an Italian also of the It. Increment who I recognised to be the cook who we call Ferruchio.

sgd.: Sgt. Smith 2333701.

2.

The interpreter Major Valli of HQ 4 It. Terr. Command was duly sworn:
The fourth witness Soldato CANDELLI Ferruccio of It. Increment 4 B.L.U. having been duly sworn states:

At about 10,30 hrs. one day, I do not remember the day of date, I was told that all Italians of the Increment where required to report to Lt. Franchini at 20 Via Castello Roncolo at 15,00 hrs. that afternoon. Soon after 12,30 hrs. Soldato Grossi said to me: I am going to tell the others It. soldiers to come to see Lt. Franchini, would you like to come with me. I said "Yes." Grossi said, I will ask Sgt. HEWKINS if I may use a motor cycle." At about 14,00 hrs. Grossi said; "Let us go. We went to the BSA Motor cycle which stood in the vehicle park behind 20 Via Castell Roncolo. Grossi drove and I rode and the pillion. We went to Villa Margherita to tell the Italian's working there to go to 20 Via Castell Roncolo to report to Lt. Franchini.

I was found that all It. Personnel had already been told to report and had already left so we went into Bolzano, made a purchase at a shop and returned to 20 Via Castell Roncolo parking the motor cycle where it had been found.

At about 21,00 hrs. that evening I saw the motor cycle was still there.

Next morning at about 9:00 hrs. I saw that the motor cycle was no longer there.

Questioned by the Court:

1. Q. Did you hear Grossi ask for permission to use the motor cycle?
1. A. No.
2. Q. Did you think he had permission to use the motor cycle?
2. A. Yes, because I saw him going towards the Sgt.'s room.
3. Q. Why did you notice that the motor cycle was in the park at 21,00 hrs. in the evening.
3. A. I went out of the back door from the kitchen where I worked and just observed that the motor cycle was there.

sgd: Candelli Ferruccio.

I have translated and read the above statement to Soldato Candelli and he has agreed that it is correct.

sgd: Major Paulo Valli

First witness recalled for questioning: Cpl. A/Sgt. Hewkins.

1. Q. Did Soldato Grossi ask permission to use the motor cycle on 20th February 1945?

1. A. No.

Q. Q. Was Soldato Grossi authorised to use a motor cycle?

586

there.

Next morning at about 9:00 hrs. I saw that the motor cycle was no longer there.

Questioned by the Court:

1. Q. Did you hear Grossi ask for permission to use the motor cycle?

1. A. No.

2. Q. Did you think he had permission to use the motor cycle?

2. A. Yes, because I saw him going towards the Srgt.'s room.

3. Q. Why did you notice that the motor cycle was in the park at 21,00 hrs. in the evening.

3. A. I went out of the back door from the kitchen where I worked and just observed that the motor cycle was there.

sgd: Candelli Ferruccio.

I have translated and read the above statement to Soldato Candelli and he has agreed that it is correct.

sgd: Major Paulo Valli

First witness recalled for questioning: Cpl. A/Sgt. Hewkins.

1. Q. Did Soldato Grossi ask permission to use the motor cycle on 20th February 1946?

1. A. No.

2. Q. Was Soldato Grossi authorised to use a motor cycle?

2. A. No.

sgd: H. Hewkins 6144498

3.

The fifth witness Guardsman Opie A 2700900 of 4 B.L.U. having been duly sworn was questioned by the Court:

1. Q. Did you at any time on Thursday 21st February use B.S.A. Motor cycle No C 1450633.

1. A. No.

2. Q. When did you last see this motor cycle?

2. A. On Wednesday morning at 12,30 hrs. when I parked it behind 20 Via Castello Roncolo.

sgd.: A. Opie. GDSM. 2700900

The Court was adjourned at 01,15 hrs. until evidence can be given by Soldato Grossi-absent on duty.

President: A. Denyer Capt. RAOC
4 B.L.U.

Member: D. Lyon S/CDR RAOC
4 B.L.U.

The Court reassembled 12,00 hrs. 6 March 45. Capt. D.C. FAYLOR acting President, owing to the absence of Capt. Denyer on release.

The interpreter Major Valli P. of HQ 4 Italian Territorial Command was duly sworn.

The sixth witness Soldato GROSSI Fortunato of Italian Increment to 4 BLU having been duly sworn states:

One day, at about 14,30 hrs. I do not remember the day, I left 20 Via Castello Roncolo, to go to Villa Marguerita to tell the Italians working there, that Lt. Franchini wanted to see them at 20 Via Castello Roncolo. I received permission from Sgt. Hawkins to use motor cycle No C 1450633 for this purpose. I was accompanied by Soldato Candelli Ferruccio. I returned at approx 15:00 hrs. parking the motor cycle in the usual parking place behind the Villa. In the evening at approx 18,30 hrs. I noticed that the motor cycle was still there. I remained in the Villa that evening until 19,30 hrs.

Questioned by the Court:

1. Q. Are you sure you received permission to use the motor cycle that day?

1. A. Yes, I remember that Sgt. Hawkins told me that the motor cycle was at 4 Territorial Command with a British Soldier, and that I could have it when it returned.

2. Q. Could the day that you used the motor cycle have been Wednesday 20 th February 45?

2. A. I cannot be sure.

3. Q. Did you have a signed work ticket?

3. A. No, as it was only a very short journey, I did not think it necessary

The Court reassembled at 12,00 hrs. 5 March 45. Capt. D.C. HAYLER acting President, owing to the absence of Capt. Denyer on release. The interpreter Major Valli P. of HQ 4 Italian Territorial Command was duly sworn.

The sixth witness Soldato GROSSI Fortunato of Italian Increment to 4 BIU having been duly sworn states:

One day, at about 14,30 hrs. I do not remember the day, I left 20 Via Castello Roncolo, to go to Villa Marguerita to tell the Italians working there, that Lt. Franchini wanted to see them at 20 Via Castello Roncolo. I received permission from Sgt. Hewkins to use motor cycle No C 1450533 for this purpose. I was accompanied by Soldato Candelli Ferruccio. I returned at approx 15:00 hrs. parking the motor cycle in the usual parking place behind the Villa. In the evening at approx 18,30 hrs. I noticed that the motor cycle was still there. I remained in the Villa that evening until 19,30 hrs.

Questioned by the Court:

1. Q. Are you sure you received permission to use the motor cycle that day?
1. A. Yes. I remember that Sgt. Hewkins told me that the motor cycle was at 4 Territorial Command with a British Soldier, and that I could have it when it returned.
2. Q. Could the day that you used the motor cycle have been Wednesday 20 th February 45?
2. A. I cannot be sure.
3. Q. Did you have a signed Work ticket?
3. A. No, as it was only a very short journey, I did not think it necessary.
4. Q. Did you see anybody using the motor cycle after you?
4. A. No.

sgd.: Grossi Fortunato

I have translated and read the above statement to Soldato Grossi Fortunato and he has agreed that it is correct.

sgd.: Major Valli Paulo

President: D. Taylor, Capt.
Member: D. Lyon S/CDR RAOC.

Commanding Officers Opinion.

The evidence though taken on oath is so conflicting that is is impossible to ascertain what is a true statement. It is clear though, whether permission was granted or not, that Soldato Grossi was in possession of the M/C. at 15,00 hrs. on Wednesday 20 Feb. 46 and that he was the last person on the strength of this unit seen in possession of it. There is however no evidence to show how it became lost.

Bolzano 7 March 46.

sgd.: J.S.H. Douglas Lt. Col.
Commander 4 B.I.U.

0-2-72

Declassified E.O. 12065 Section 3-402/NWDC NO.

785020

384

Revised.SIGNALS SERVICE, BOLZANO1.
16 Mar. 46.To:- See Distribution List.

1. W.e.f. 2200hrs 19 March 46 the military exchange in Bolzano will close down.
2. Units remaining in Bolzano will receive service as follows:-
(a) Trunk calls will be obtained by dialling the civilian trunk exchange (01).
The following lines will be exclusively available for military calls from Bolzano:-
Milan Military.
Bologna Military.
Bosover Snow Post.
Q.O.C.'s Villa Merano.

Service to other exchanges will be over civilian lines. Apart from numerous local exchanges Verona, Venice, Bologna, Merano Trento and Cortina are connected to Bolzano civil trunk board. On all these lines military booked calls will be given priority over civilian booked calls. "Clear the line" facilities will be available for very urgent military calls and such calls will take priority over civilian "clear the line" calls. In this connection the Italian for "Clear the line" is "Liberate la linea", for "priority" "urgentissimo".

(b) Faults on automatic telephones will be reported to the Italian maintenance personnel by dialling 1111, 1112 or 1113. Requests for installation or recovery of military telephones will be made in the same way, written copy of request to H.Q. 1 L.of C.SignalsCMF.

It is emphasised that when a unit vacates a premises that certain telephones the civilian organisation must be notified so that the phone or phones can be removed.

C.M.F.DISTRIBUTION :-

Re.A.
68th Field. - Alborg. Alpini - Selvo.
15/17 Med.Bty. - 5 Mod. Regt.

Re.E.
British Cadre, German Snow Coy.
369 Works Section Stores.
Garrison Engineer.

Transportation.M.R.S

S & T.
69 D.I.D.
603 Car.G.T.Coy.
Petrol Point.

MEDIC L.

35 Reg. Station

Major R. Signals,
Commanding 1 Coy. 1 L.of C.Signals.

No. of Copies

1

1

1

1

2

1

1

1

1

civilian "clear the line" calls. In this connection the Italian "Clear the line" is "Liberate la linea", for "priority" "urgontissimo".

(b) Faults on automatic telephones will be reported to the Italian maintenance personnel by dialling 1111, 1112 or 1113. Requests for installation or recovery of military telephones will be made in the same way, written copy of request to H.Q. 1 L.of C.SignalsOMF.

It is emphasised that when a unit vacates a premises that certain telephones the civilian organisation must be notified so that the phone or phones can be removed.

C.M.F.

DISTRIBUTION :-

Rele
68th Field. - Alberg Alpini - Selva.
15/17 Med.Bty. - 5 Med. Regt.

R.E.
British Cadre, German Snow Coy.
369 Works Section Stores.
Garrison Engineer.

Transportation
M.A.S.

S & T.
69 D.I.D.
603 Cor.G.T.Coy.
Petrol Point.

MEDICAL

35 Rec.Station, Merano.
Detachment 35 Rec.Station, Bolzano.

ORDNANCE.

No.1 C.E.M. Gp (Drit.), Bolzano.
C.E.M. Office, Merano.
C.E.M. Dump Rasun di Sotto, Via Bressanone, Brunico.
D.A.D.O.S. Dump, Bolzano.
R.E.M.E.
676 Inf.Tps Rec.Unit.
644 Service Station.

LABOUR.

79 (UK) Coy, Pioneer Corps, Merano.
2919 C.L.U. No.4 Sub Office, Cortina.
2919 C.L.U. No.5 Sub Office, Bolzano.

INTELLIGENCE.

311 F.S.S. Merano.
C.I.C. 6ano.7, Bolzano.

W.D.
Major R. Signals,
Commanding 1 Company 1 L.of C.Signals.

No. of Copies

1

1

1

1

2

1

1

1

1

3

4

4

2

1

1

1

1

1

1

2

1

3

582

GI

GII

Capt Taylor

Blankin

File

<u>DISTRIBUTION (Contd)</u>		<u>No of Copies.</u>
<u>FIRE.</u>		
Fire Brigade.	Bolzano	1
" "	Bressanone.	1
" "	Brunico.	1
" "	Merano.	1
" "	Trento.	1
<u>TOWN MAJOR</u>	Bolzano.	3
<u>MISCELLANEOUS</u>	4 B.L.U.	5
<u>P.O.W.</u>		
7th SEP Admin. Sp. H.Q.		4
R.7. Stalado.	Bressanone.	1
<u>A.M.G.</u>		
Bolzano.		14
Civil Affairs Officer,	Merano.	2
<u>ITALIAN UNITS.</u>		
Military H.Q.	Bolzano Area.	2
<u>MISCELLANEOUS.</u>		
U.R.M.I.T.	Bolzano.	1
Italian Military Hospital		1
Detachment 279 C.M.P.		1
Civil Hospital		1
City Command,	Bolzano	1
" "	Merano	1
R.T.O.	Bolzano.	1
G.O.C. Private Residence,	Merano.	1
N.A.A.F.I.	Bolzano.	2
W.V.S.	Bolzano.	1
<u>SHOW POSTS.</u>		
Bressanone.		1
Vipiteno		1
Trerzer,	Bolzano. (Telephone No. Bolzano Military 30.)	2
"	Vipiteno. (Telephone No. 92.)	1
Silino.		1
<u>SEMPER.</u>		
C.S. 1 L. of C. Signals.		3
C.S. 1 Company 1 L. of C. Signal.		1
C.S. 2 Company, 1 L. of C. Signals.		1
File.		6
C. Branch, 60 Sub Area.		6.

0848