



**Private Patrick Joseph Moran (or
Anthony Thomas Pollock)
05-B-08**

Patrick Joseph Morgan was born on April 10, 1926 in Philadelphia USA. He was the son of Patrick and Kathryn (nee Campbell) Moran and

brother of Rosemary and Catherine Moran, both wards of the Children's Aid Society in Toronto, Ont. On 13 December 1938, Patrick Joseph Moran was also known under the alias of Private J.P. Pollock and Anthony T. Pollock. Patrick Joseph Moran finished school at Grade 8 and worked as a photo engraver at Simpson's Ltd Store in Toronto. He enlisted on April 5, 1943 in Toronto. He went overseas on November 25, 1943 and fought with the 48th Highlanders Regiment in Italy from February 19, 1944. He was wounded by HE shrapnel; minor pen wound of the right cheek and transferred to the Lanark and Renfrew Scottish Regiment on October 17, 1944. Was wounded again but remained on duty until December 15, 1944. On March 16 1945 he was transferred to the Irish Regiment.

The day of death was May 5, 1945 under the circumstances that he was shot in his left chest and arm by a Dutch civilian, while preparing his bed.

After his death the next letter was found on him, dated September 1, 1944, reads as follow:

Dear Sirs,

Please forgive me if this sounds foolish or misbelieving but it is the absolute truth. First of all my name is not Anthony T. Pollock. My name is Patrick J. Moran and my statistical background is as such which I think is as much will be needed, that in the event of my death which I don't think probable but quite possible; but I have maintained Patrick J. Moran, born in Philadelphia USA in the year 1926. My father Mr. Patrick Moran is deceased in 1934, my mother is deceased in the year 1935. My nearest of kinds being one aunt Mrs. F. Wright, 292 Sackville, Toronto Ontario, and another being miss Mary McGriggan, 1812 E. Tusculum, St. Philadelphia Penn. USA. But in the event of my death I wish my estate willed to my two

sisters Misses Rose Mary Morgan, Katherine Moran who are in the care of Children's Aid Society, 73 St. Clair St. E. Toronto, Ontario.

I don't think I need to explain in detail how or why I got into this army because I think you should understand because there have been many other young men like me who have looked for travel and excitement to break the monotony. Now Sir, I think I will finish, thanks for listening.

The Chief Registrar for Canada, National Registration, Department of Labour, states that Anthony Thomas Pollock, as a civilian, was issued with a duplicate registration card early in 1943 and it was this duplicate registration card which was used on the enlistment of the m/n soldier. It is in the intention of the Department of Labour to have the RCMP apprehend Anthony Thomas Pollock and prosecute him for his action.

Inquiry into his death:

Witness one: I am L/Cpl Raymond B.A. of "B" Coy The Irish Regiment of Canada. I am in command of #9 Section of which Pte Pollock A.T. was a member. At 1835 hrs on 4 May 1945 I was looking out of the window of the house in which I was billeted. Pte Pollock and Pte Mitchell had started to make their bed. I heard a shot; I turned around and saw Pte Pollock lying on the floor. Pte Mitchell and I went over to him and I saw that he was bleeding at the mouth, so I went and told the Platoon Officer and I came up to Coy HQ and reported the accident to Capt. Wood, 2i/c "B" Coy.

Q.: In this time did you see the weapon that fired the shot?

A.: Yes, when I turned around I saw a Dutch civilian, Henk van Loon, whom I had seen about the house previously. He had the rifle in his hand.

Q.: Had any orders been given to the section to unload their weapons?

A.: No.

Q.: Did you have any indication what the Dutch civilian was doing with the weapon?

A.: No, both Pollock and I had chased him out of our room several times before because he had been fooling around with our rifles.

Witness two: I am Pte Mitchell R.A. "B" Coy The Irish Regiment of Canada. Pte Pollock and I were just starting to make up our bed. We saw the Dutch civilian come into the room but did not pay any attention to him. I noticed him fooling around with the rifle and almost immediately the rifle went off wounding Pte Pollock. I removed the clothing around the wound right away and applied a shell dressing.

Q.: What did the Dutch civilian do when the shot was fired?

A.: I told the Dutch civilian to get out and he went into the kitchen.

Q.: Did he say anything to you?

A.: Not to me but I heard him saying in broken English that he did not know the rifle was loaded.

Findings of the Inquiry:

1. The Court declares Pte Pollock A.T. while in billets in the field on May 4th 1945, was shot accidentally by a rifle in the hands of a Dutch civilian Henk van Loon.
2. The court do further declare that the accident resulted from allowing civilians into army billets.
3. It is the opinion of this court that there is no evidence of negligence or misconduct by Pte Pollock, within the meaning of Overseas RO 5168.

