

Arnold's report of the incident:

Arnold says that he did not deny failing to stop but claimed the front escort vehicle was something like half a mile ahead of the convoy which was not even in sight when the front escort vehicle passed him. Both Arnold and his passenger took it to be a routine police action with the police vehicle heading fast for an accident or such as it was pouring with rain at the time and it kept on motoring. Half a mile on, coming round a bend, he encountered the cavalcade, he recognised what it was and pulled over. He says that he was at a standstill when the tail-end vehicle passed by. He thought nothing much of it until a summons appeared, by which time his passenger had left the country.

According to Arnold both police drivers gave evidence to the effect that he was moving all of the time and they both swore that the weather was fine and clear but Arnold submitted meteorological evidence of heavy rainfall on that day. His passenger supported him and provided an affidavit from overseas.

However, the magistrate found him guilty, as on his own admission he was moving when the front car of the cavalcade passed by, therefore he had failed to pull over and stop as required. He was fined £3.00.

A few weeks later, when in Cape Town, he hired a car and noted this "conviction" on the hire form. The hire firm manager's comment was, "That's not a conviction, it's a commendation", and gave him a discount on the standard hire cost!

24th May 2016