



MANGOSTEEN MISSION. On September 26, 1944, these eight men boarded two Flying Fortresses at Maison Blanche Airfield in Algiers, North Africa, flew almost to Milano in Northern Italy, then parachuted 200 miles behind the front lines. In the back row, left to right, Major William V. Holohan, leader of Mangosteens Mission; Lt. Aldo Icardi; Sgt. Carl Lo Dolce; Gianni, an Italian partisan espionage agent; Lt. Victor Giannino, second in command of Mangosteens Mission. Front row: Captain Landi, an Italian partisan espionage agent; Sgt. Arthur Ciarmicola; "Red", an Italian radio operator. All the Americans—five in all—were members of Mangosteens Mission.

Some of the following photographs are poor. They were taken under war-time conditions. They were developed secretly behind the lines. But they are the only existing photographic record of Mangosteens Mission. Most of them have never before been published.



MAJOR HOLOHAN straps on his parachute in preparation for the long flight to northern Italy.

THIS IS ME, Aldo Icardi, climbing into my parachute. You will see slightly better pictures of me further on





THIS IS NOT ME, but note at right, how True Magazine labeled this picture; the people in the picture are Lt. Victor Giannino, left, Major Holohan, right; I held the camera which took the picture. Michael Stern and True Magazine never saw nor knew what Aldo Icardi looked like, but they called him the mastermind of a gruesome killing—then they released this photo for nation wide publication to the INS using the same caption.



Lieut. Icardi with Major Holohan.

1930.

The end of the last Italian team were in the villa late in the night. But the news made a mess of the living across.

The lake a great many of the portraits. The Ambler two room job.

The report shortly after of Bill's wife. Partisan & two parts. That one. All the 1940s. B.



GERMAN DIRECTION FINDER TEAM. These are the Germans who were captured unwittingly by a young partisan while on their way up the Mottarone to take a final fix on Augusta radio. Their equipment was ingenious. On the left, you see how it fit snugly against the body. A few knobs on top of the device controlled it. Under an overcoat, as in the photograph above, the direction finder was completely hidden and the men's appearances were above suspicion. They were captured by accident.





GUNS FOR THE PARTISANS was not one of our main objectives when we went behind the lines; but several times Major Holohan requested supply drops in order to maintain our security among the partisans. This picture was taken after the first drop arrived. Later on, when our mission was changed, this scene was reenacted many times. The guns we received were used by both Communist and anti-Communist partisans to harrass the enemy. On one occasion the guns were passed out to the partisans as fast as they were uncrated and used on the spot to fight off the German troops that were attacking. Ordinarily, supplies were distributed by the partisans themselves to all formations in proportion to their needs.

Cognome Scanavini
 Nome Ambrogio
 Padre Oreste
 Madre fu Orlandi Angela
 nato il 6 giugno 1909
 a Milano
 Stato civile celibe
 Nazionale italiano
 Profess. (dich.) impiegato
 Residenza Milano
 Via Fussabaldi 1
 CONNOTATI E CONTRASSEGNI SALIENTI
 Statura 1,73
 Corporatura regolare
 Capelli casto
 Occhi azzurri
 Contrassegni salienti



FIRMA DEL TITOLARI
Scanavini Ambrogio
 Milano, li 10/12/1944
 Impronta del dito indice sinistro
Ambrogio

Comando Tedesco
Genio Collegamenti 59 121

TESSERA DI RICONOSCIMENTO

valevole fino al: 28 Febbraio 1945
 XXIII

Si dichiara che:

Il Signor SCANAVINI AMBROGIO
 (COGNOME) (NOME)

dipendente della STIPEL Direzione Esercizio
 di: Milano

in qualità di impiegato tecnico
 presso l'ufficio telefonico di Milano

provvede per conto di
 questo Comando all'impianto, manutenzione e ri-
 parazione di circuiti delle Forze Armate Tedesche.
 Lo stesso è autorizzato ad ogni ora del gior-
 no e della notte, anche durante l'allarme aereo,
 a circolare a piedi o in bicicletta o viaggiare
 con qualsiasi mezzo in Piemonte e Lombardia
 come pure di usare di tutti i treni. La sua bi-
 cicletta non può essere requisita per nessuna
 ragione.

Questo documento è solo valido se esibito
 con la carta di identità provvista di fotografia

rilasciata da Comune Milano
 Nuova carta identità N° 280714

Comune Milano
 10/8/44

Il Direttore dell'Ufficio

Feldnachrichten
Kommandantur 59 121

Dienstausweis

gueltig bis: 28 Februar 1945
 XXIII

Es wird erkleert dass:

Herr SCANAVINI AMBROGIO
 (NAME) (VORNAME)

Angestellter der Fernsprechgesellschaft STIPEL
 Direktion: Mailand

verwendet als technischer

bei dem Fernsprechamt in Angestellter
Milano

im Auftrage dieser
 Dienststelle für die Unterhaltung und Einsteuerung
 von deutschen Wehrmachtsleitungen arbeitet.

Er ist ermächtigt, sich zu jeder Tages - und
 Nachtzeit auch während des Fliegeralarms zu
 Fuss oder mit Fahrrad oder sonstigen Verkehrs-
 mitteln innerhalb Piemonte und Lombardei zu
 reisen sowie saemliche Zuege zu benutzen.
 Sein Fahrrad kann nicht beschlagnahmt werden.

Dieser Ausweis ist nur gueltig in Verbindung
 mit dem mit Lichtbild versehenen amtlichen

Ausweis Nr. 280714 ausgestellt
 von Comune Milano

Personal Ausweis 280714

Mund

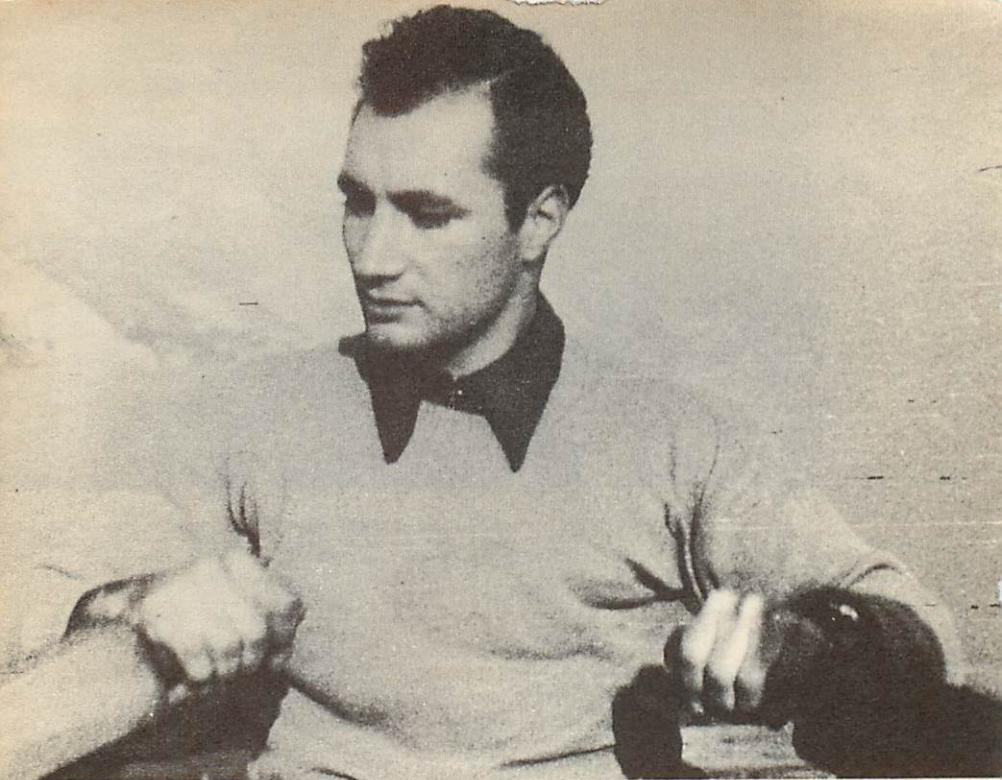


ICARDI AT WORK, punching out one of the many reports that we sent back to OSS Headquarters. One of these was a complete account of everything we knew and everything we had done to learn more about Major Holohan's disappearance.

TO MY FRIENDS I was Aldo Icardi. But to Germans and Fascists and any other people behind the lines that I couldn't trust completely, I was, as you see here, Ambrogio Scanavini, a telephone repairman from Milano. These cards were forged for me by Italian partisans who managed to duplicate enemy seals and stamps as fast as they were changed. If anything, our forged documents looked more authentic than the real identification cards. These forged items took me through road blocks and rigid inspections with ease.

ICARDI AND FRIENDS. This photo was taken in a shooting gallery in Biella where a photograph was taken when you hit the bullseye. It started out to be a prize photograph of me, flanked by two Nazi soldiers who were standing around watching. I pumped about 25 rounds at the target without hitting once! The soldiers got disgusted and walked away. But Aldo Icardi, American Master-Spy, was undaunted. I kept firing and fifteen shots later got this gem of me flanked by two anonymous street urchins. Very embarrassing, especially for an American Master-Spy.





SGT. CARL LO DOLCE—radio operator of Mangosteen Mission—during one of his few moments of relaxation behind the lines. His civilian attire made him subject to immediate execution if captured by the enemy.

GUALTIERO TOZZINI—our porter, guide, cook and general handyman—he and Giuseppe Manini were present December 6, 1944 when Major Holohan disappeared.



GIORGIO AMINTA MIGLIARI — our first partisan contact—leader of SIMNI, one of our intelligence cells — he had a big job, but not the ability to handle it.



TWO PARTISAN HEROES after the siege at Quarna. Rino Pachetti, left, and his friend Dulo were trapped for seventeen days in the attic of a house occupied by 41 Fascist soldiers. They were haggard, hungry, and completely exhausted when they finally made their escape by one of the most daring acts I have ever heard of. The house they were trapped in is shown below, riddled with bullets from the partisan forces that attacked this Fascist stronghold in an effort to rescue these two men.





PARTISAN AT WORK. Arms delivered at the request of Mangosteen Mission gave the partisans the strength to fight the Germans . . . gave them the wherewithal to overpower the enemy during the last few days of the war. When the partisan units all over northern Italy revolted they saved countless thousands of Allied casualties.

APRIL 26, 1945—the German might begins to crumble. Italian partisans supplied by Allied Missions like Mangosteen capture or neutralize German forces in Piedmont and Lombardy a full week before the U.S. 5th Army arrives.





COMMUNIST AND ANTI-COMMUNIST partisans were constantly at each others throats and made the task of Mangosteen Mission doubly difficult. But all partisans worked together when it came to fighting the Germans and Fascists. Here the Communist leader Moscatelli and the ardent Christian Democrat and anti-Communist, Luciano Vignati, confer on strategy.

TWO OF THE BEST FRIENDS a spy could have: on the left, Pierino Solbiati, who harbored me, advised me, and treated me like one of his own sons; on the right Luciano Vignati, who is telling me about a Communist formation that is breaking the truce agreements we had made with the Germans.





HATE, HANGINGS, HYSTERIA were rampant everywhere in northern Italy during the last days of the war. Brother fought brother, children disowned parents, and violence was the order of the day.

MASS was sung in the streets, in the midst of death and destruction.





THEY KILLED HER SON. She kicked, and beat, and spat at their cold, dead bodies. The only acceptable Fascist was a dead one, and they begrudged him even his death because it saved him from the torture he deserved.

A WHORE is shaved. She sold her body to the dirty Fascist pigs, and now she pays for her crime. The inhumanity, the mob violence, the uncontrolled passions that gripped the Italian populace must make any Italian cringe and be ashamed.



COMITATO DI LIBERAZIONE NAZIONALE
CORPO VOLONTARI DELLA LIBERTÀ

COMANDO RAGGRUPPAMENTO
DIVISIONI D'ASSALTO GARIBOLDI
DELLA VALSESIA - OSSOLA - CUSO - VERBAPO

Sede, li 31/12/44

N. di prot. OGGETTO: Campi di lancio.

SEGRETO

ALLA MISSIONE AMERICANA
e p.c. ALLA MISSIONE BRITANNICA

Dopo aver esaminato la carta topografica e fatti sopralluoghi sul terreno siamo venuti nella conclusione che nella zona compresa tra Grignasco Gozzano, Borgomanero, Romagnano dove intendevamo scegliere un campo di lancio, data la possibilità di farvi affluire forze notevoli per la difesa, non esiste un terreno che si presti allo scopo.

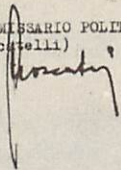
Siamo perciò venuti nella seguente determinazione che sottoponiamo alla vostra approvazione:
Campi per lanci notturni - usufruire di quello già usato sino ad ora nei pressi di Boletto. Qualora tale campo incontri ancora la vostra approvazione vi assicuriamo formalmente un servizio di protezione e di raccolta atto a garantire il ricupero e lo smistamento anche di quantità notevoli di materiali.

Le forze che presidiano la zona verrebbero aumentate e verrà esercitato da parte vostra e nostra il più assoluto controllo di tutto il materiale lanciato.

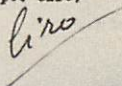
Campi per lanci diurni - Vi proporremo, se la missione ~~americana~~ britannica non ha nulla in contrario, di poter usufruire di quello di Sostegno che la nostra Brigata dislocata a Lozzolo potrebbe benissimo difendere.

Attendiamo una vostra conferma per poter prendere definitivi accordi.
Cordiali saluti.

IL COMMISSARIO POLITICO
(Moscatelli)



IL COMANDANTE MILITARE
(Capt. Ciro)



THIS LETTER FROM THE COMMUNISTS proves beyond a doubt that Vincenzo Moscatelli and Capt. Ciro were two different men. True Magazine, the Defense Department news release, and the Cole Congressional Report were wrong when they stated that Moscatelli was known as Ciro. This is just one of nineteen errors they made.

CITATION FOR LEGION OF MERIT

ALDO L. ICARDI, 0521212, First Lieutenant, Coast Artillery Corps, Company D, 2677th Regiment, Office of Strategic Services, for exceptionally meritorious conduct in the performance of outstanding services in Italy from 26 September 1944 to 8 May 1945. First Lieutenant Icardi parachuted into enemy territory in Northern Italy on the night of 26 September 1944, as a member of a special intelligence mission. On 6 December 1944 upon the capture and disappearance of the mission's chief, First Lieutenant Icardi became the leader of the mission, and in this capacity, directed its activities for five months. The mission operated in the zones of Novara, Torino, Vercelli, Milano, Pavia, Brescia, Verona, Mantova, Ossola Valley, and Alto Milanese. Under the direction of First Lieutenant Icardi, an intelligence network was organized to encompass these zones. The network gathered information on such matters as troop dispositions and identifications, rail and highway traffic, location of ammunition and gasoline dumps, military targets, counter-intelligence activities, and political and economic intelligence. The intelligence thus gathered was transmitted to the base Office of Strategic Services station through four radios. In addition to the independent intelligence work established by First Lieutenant Icardi, he kept in close contact with many of the Partisans groups in Northern Italy. Through these contacts, First Lieutenant Icardi was able to arrange supply drops to the Partisans, supplying them with approximately a hundred tons of material composed of food, clothing, arms, and ammunition. Due in large part to the successful results of First Lieutenant Icardi's mission, over thirteen thousand enemy troops were captured and the entire zone was entered by Allied troops without bloodshed. He later assisted in the negotiation of the unconditional surrender of the German troops in Northern Italy. Entered service from Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

FROM THE ITALIAN GOVERNMENT
I received the second highest military honor they bestow, for my activities behind the lines in World War II. From my own United States Government I received the Legion of Merit. Both governments felt that Mangosteen Mission did an excellent job.



