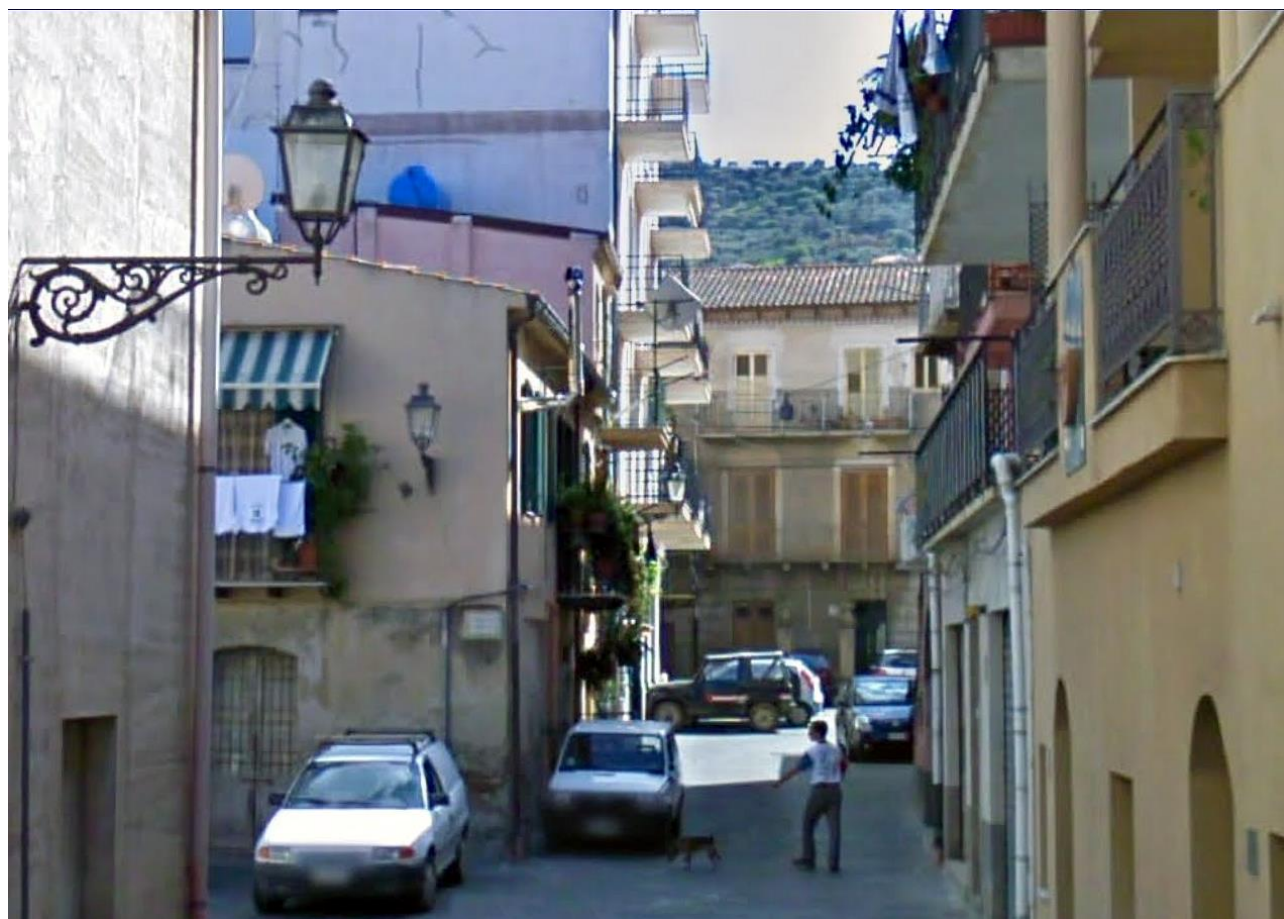




Napoli via Pietro Trinchera 5- abitazione partenopea di Maria Ciofalo



Roma via Tibullo 10- abitazione romana di Maria Ciofalo



Via Gaibaldi 82, S. Stefano di Camastra

Catalogue description

Maria CIOFALO - born 06.03.1913

Reference:	HS 9/317/5
Description:	Maria CIOFALO - born 06.03.1913
Date:	1939-1946
Held by:	The National Archives, Kew
Legal status:	Public Record(s)
Closure status:	Open Document, Open Description
Access conditions:	Closed For 67 years
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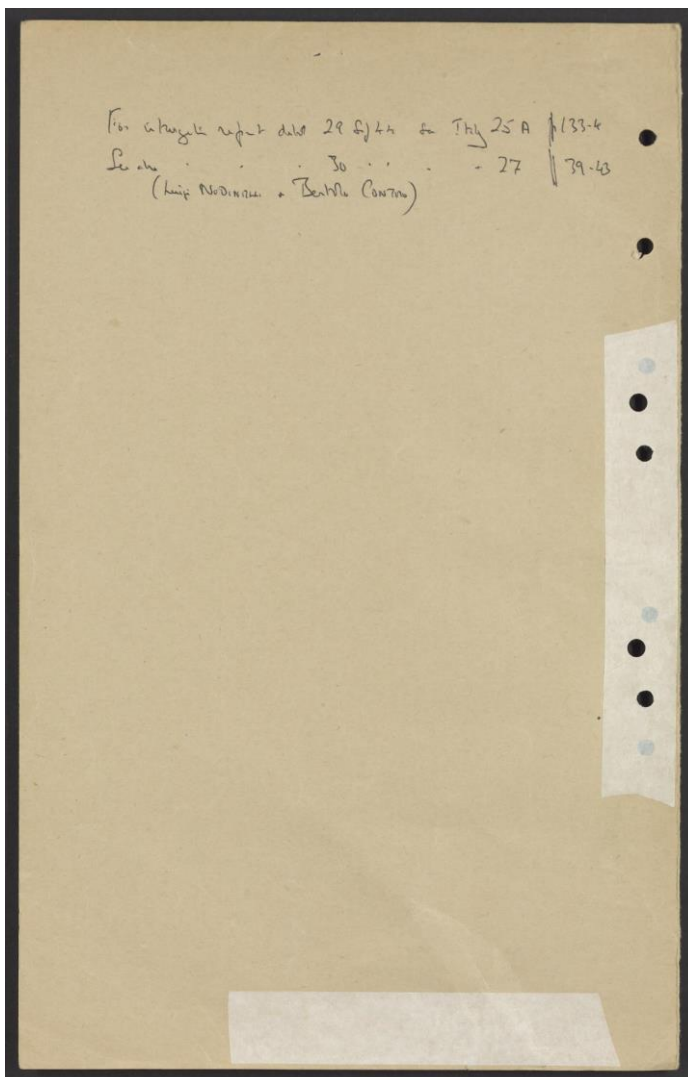
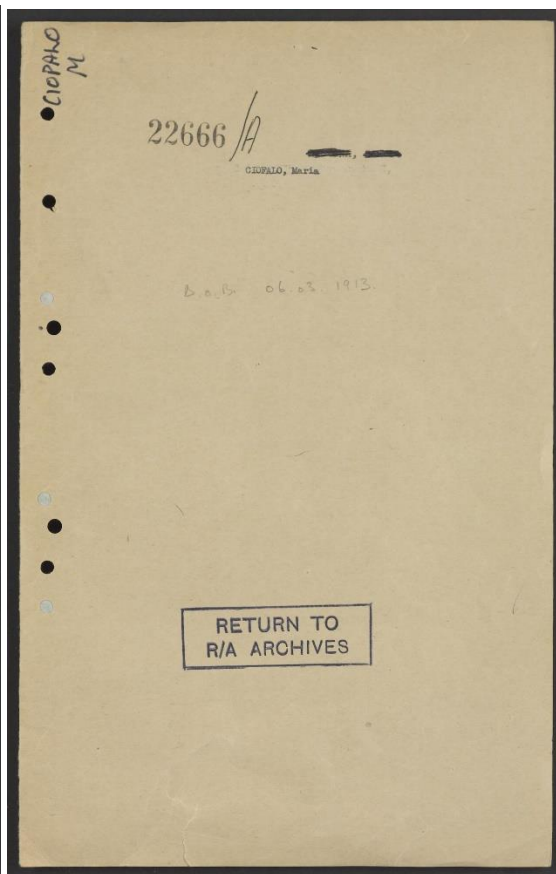
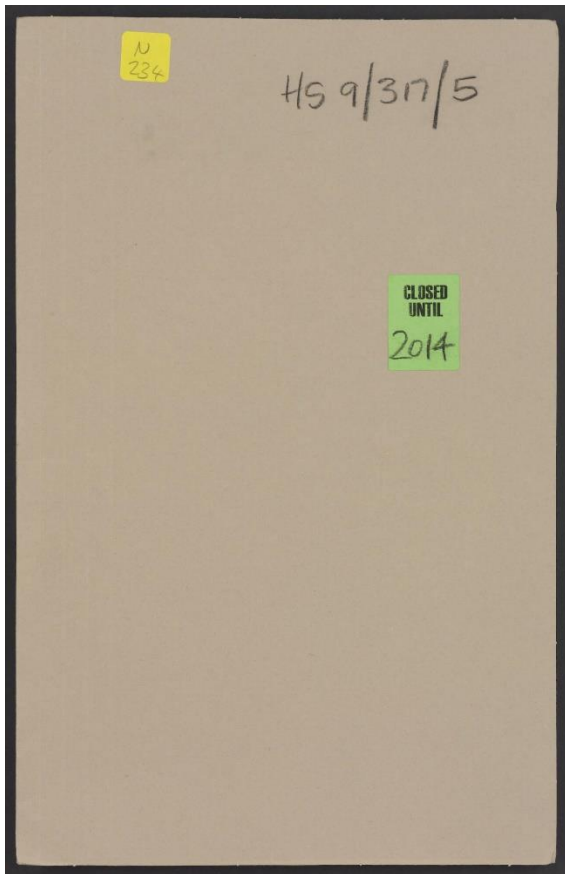
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CIOFALO, Maria

Alias: FIAMMETTA

OCCUPATION or FUNCTION: Courier infiltrated to BIPLANE
NATIONALITY: Italian mission by Op. WHITEHORSE on
DATE of BIRTH: 17 July 44. Returned Base on
23 Sep 44

21/370/13

FILE NOS.

22666/A

PR 7 W.P. LTD. E 1578

AGENTS' PARTICULARS

S.P. No. 1

- Country Sec. ITALIAN Personal File Ref. CL/J/26 Exact location where file is stored.....
1. Surname CIOFALO Christian Names MARIA
2. Alias or Nickname FIAMMETTA Symbol C. 21
3. Date and Place of Birth 6 Mar. 19 - ST. STEFANO di CAM Nationality AMERICAN
4. Permanent Home Address ~~None~~ VIA GARIBOLDI 82, S. STEFANO DI CAMASTRA (?)
(MESSINA)
and Telephone Number
5. Contact Address (e.g. Bankers) VIA TIBULLO 10, ROME
6. Wife: Name -
7. Date of Recruitment SEP. 1943 By whom MAJOR MUNTHE
8. Date of Cessation of Employment 13 JAN. 45 - RECALLED APL. 45 - DISCHD. 14.6.45
9. Reward Recommended CLOTHING AND RATIONS
10. Particulars and date of any Recompense ON PREVIOUS DISCHARGE - £100.-. 13 Jan 45
made on Discharge (viz., Money clothing and rations
Payment, Gift in Kind, Honour or
Decoration, Certificate of Service
or Service Rendered)

11. Was Discharge in Standard No

Form obtained or not?

12. Any other Relevant Infrm: Security clearance SI. 709.3 dated 4.6.45

Decisions made at 104 SOELIQ. (MED.)

Meeting on 3 JUNE 1945

1 Liability YES

5 Cert. of Service No

2 Contact YES

6 Award or L. of C. No

3 Amount NIL

7 Employment No

4 Priority PREF.

8 Victimisation No

9. Clothing & Rations YES

PSS/B/E727/5M/4-45

NAME CIOFALO Maria

30.10.45

Alias FIAMMETTA C.21

Nationality Italian Date and Place of Birth 6.3.19 S.STEFANO di CAMASTRA

Description

Address 7Via Garibaldi 82, S.Stefano di Camastra

Means of Contacting Via TIBULIO 10 ROME

Occupation Student Engineering

Political Leanings

Estimate of Potential Value Useful and reliable.

History Discharged on 16 Dec 44. Recalled for employment as a courier on 24 April but never used owing to war situation developing so rapidly.

P.T.O. 16.6.44. (M.I.5 and C.R. only)
N.T. 20.6.44.
Nationality Italian.
Born 6.3.1913. S. Stefano Di Camastra, Messina.
Occupation Student.

CROTALO, Maria

16.6.44. P.T.O. with a view to being employed as an Agent in the Field with Maryland Mission.
23.6.44. AMX advised: 23685 has been employed as an Agent in the Field with Maryland Mission.

→ ~~AM 2~~ to see
Registry to file

HQ SO(M) CMF.

Ref: ML/P/27/42

9 Jul 45.

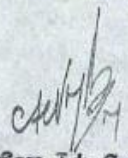
Claims Section

SUBJECT: Maria CIOFALO @ FIAMETA

Reference claim of the a/n agent in
respect of books lost by her.

Attached is a report by Capt. BOUTIGNY
of this Section who was sent down to NAPLES to investigate
this claim.

It is not thought that this matter can be
taken any further.


for Lt.Col. G.S. ML.

SECRET

3 Jul 45

SUBJECT: FIAMMETTA'S lost books

To: Maj. N. MAUGHAN-BROWN.

1. After being finally liquidated, FIAMMETTA put in a claim for compensation for some engineering books she had left in the care of Capt. BUTI, an Italian Officer employed by VIGILANT for recruiting and taking care of agents.
2. On 29th Jun 45, I visited the building which was used as holding house by VIGILANT in Autumn 43. I found it now being used as a Mess by an American unit.
3. The Mess Sgt assured me there were no Italian Engineering books in the house. He was very definite on the point, adding that had there been any books, he could not have failed finding them in the course of his duties.
4. The Sgt. also informed me that there had been at least two other American units in occupation of the house before his own unit took over, and suggested that they might have disposed of the books.
5. I then tried to find out the present whereabouts of Capt. BUTI, in whose care the books had been left, but the neighbours were unable to give me any information on the subject.
6. In the circumstances, I think that the books in question should be considered as irretrievably lost.

(Signed) H. BOUTIGNY Capt.

To be attached to Record Sheet.

File ref CL/J/26

Name CIOFALO, Maria

Sec Italian

At the 104th meeting of the SOELIQ (MED) Committee held on 3 June 1945
the following decisions were arrived at in answer to the standard questions:

1) Responsibility Yes

2) Contact Yes

3) Amount Nil

4) Priority deferred

5) Certificate No

6) Award SD/41

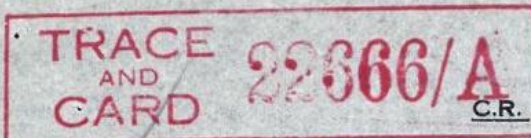
7) Employment No

8) Protection No

Date 3 June 1945

SOELIQ (MED)

H. K. Carruthers
for Secretary.



Date 16th June 1944.

5.

SURNAME.

CIOFALO.

(State name at birth if different or if known by any other names.)

S.O.2.

FULL CHRISTIAN NAMES.

MARIA.

DATE & PLACE OF BIRTH.

6.3.13. S.Stefano Di Camastra, Messina.

NATIONALITY.

Italian.

NATIONALITY AT BIRTH. (If different from above.)

PRIVATE ADDRESS.

Via Pietro Trinchera 5, Naples.

PERMANENT ADDRESS.

Via Geribaldi 82, San Stefano di Camastra.

NATIONAL REGISTRATION NUMBER.

BRIEF PARTICULARS OF PREVIOUS EMPLOYMENT.

Student of Architecture Naples University. Member of Directorate of local GUP.

FULL NAME, NATIONALITY AT BIRTH AND PLACE OF BIRTH OF FATHER, MOTHER, HUSBAND/WIFE.

(NOTE---If applicants or parents naturalised, state Number, Date and Name in which Certificate was granted.)

Father: CIOFALO, Giovanni (Italian).

Mother: SORTINO, Giovanna (Sicilian).

PARTICULARS OF RELATIVES NOW IN ENEMY OR ENEMY-OCCUPIED OR CONTROLLED COUNTRIES. (Husband, wife, father, mother, brothers, sisters, sons or daughters only.)

NAME

RELATIONSHIP

PRESENT ADDRESS

APPLICANT FOR EMPLOYMENT AS—

Agent in the Field.

26
22666/A
C. 496

31/5/45

M1/P/27/42.

FR

SECRET

HQ. Ref. No. CL/J/26

LIQ. Office Ref. No.

Date 28 May 45

Date

RECORD SHEET

- Notes: (i) Where practicable writing should be done in BLOCK LETTERS or typescript.
(ii) Where insufficient space is allotted the information should be given on a rider.

1. NAME CIOFALO
2. CHRISTIAN NAMES MARIA
3. ALIASES and SYMBOL FIAMMETTA ; FIAMMETTI : C.21
4. DATE and PLACE OF BIRTH 6/3/19 S. STEFANO di CAM^{ASTRA} (MESSINA)
5. NATIONALITY: (a) Original United States (b) Present United States
6. IF MARRIED: ? ITALIAN.
(a) WIFE: Name Date and Place of Birth
(b) CHILDREN: Names Date and Places of Birth
7. DEPENDANTS Nil (Father: Giovanni)
8. ADDRESS:
(a) Permanent None (? VIA GARIBALDI 82 ; S. STEFANO DI CAMASTRA)
(b) Contact Via TIBULIO 10 ROME
9. GROUP FOR WHICH AGENT WORKED No 1 Special Force
(a) By whom was he engaged Major MUNTHE
(b) Motive for undertaking work Anti-Fascist.
(c) Was he under written contract No
(If available copy should be attached)
10. AGENTS REMUNERATION:
(a) Amount paid whilst employed (regular or irregular payments) 7/6 per day
(b) By whom was he paid (ie., HQ., Sub group, BLO, Leader, etc.) H.Q.
11. DATE OF COMMENCEMENT OF SERVICE Sept 1943 - Discharged 13 Jan 45.
12. DATE OF TERMINATION OF SERVICE Recalled April 1945.
13. PEACETIME CIVILIAN EMPLOYMENT:
(a) Nature of Employment Student Engineering.
(b) Name and Addresses of Employers University of Naples

4
(du 007)

14. POSTWAR EMPLOYMENT

(a) Does he propose to continue with his civilian employment? Yes

(b) If not what does he propose to do?

(c) Is claimant's honesty and civilian occupation such that he could be employed after the war by BRITISH interest in trade or commerce, or similar capacity. If so, state nature of work suitable.

(NOTE: — In obtaining this information care is to be taken not to inform, or imply to, the claimant that BRITISH interest are able or willing to use his services after the war.) Employment not suitable.

15. Is it claimed that he has been prejudiced in his appointment or employable capacity by reason of his service with SOE? If so, give reason. No

16. What was the nature of the agent's employment? Give brief record of service with details of any special dangers incurred or any notable work performed. Discharged on 16 Dec 44. Recalled foremployment as as courier on 24 April but never used owing to war situation developing so rapidly.

17. Any disability received by agent whilst so employed, with details of the circumstances in which disability occurred None

18. If deceased, give circumstances in which death occurred

19. If it is claimed that the agent is likely to be victimised in any way (other than covered by para. 15) give the reason for such a claim and state by whom the victimisation is likely to be originated. No.

20. Degree of agent's responsibility (e.g., was he in command of a Mission, Group, etc.)
NA.

21. General and any relevant information not allowed for above.
Mrs. Templin is trying to obtain a post in P.W.B. for this agent on discharge from N.1. Special Force. Attached is a copy of previous discharge dated 13th Jan 1944.

22. RECOMMENDATIONS :

(a) By BLO or LEADER of Conducting Officer. (Mission/Organisation)
As this agent has already received an Ex-gratia payment in respect of her earlier services and has not been operationally employed since then there is no obligation to make any other payment or award other than that of normal clothing and rations to SD/41/1 scale.

Date 27th May 1945. Signed E. CHAVASSE, Lieut.

(b) By LIQUIDATION OFFICE:

Date Signed

This page to be completed at H.Q.

RECOMMENDATIONS (Continued)

(c) By COUNTRY SECTION: That she receive assistance in accordance

with SO(M) letter SO/41/1

Date

20th. May, 1945

Signed

R.T. Hewitt Lt. Col.

23. Give particulars of any recompense made on discharge, i.e., money payments, gifts in kind, certificate of service, honour, decoration, etc.

Clothing and Rations

24. Was the discharge on the standard form completed or not? No

25. Security Clearance - SI.709.3 dated 4 June 45

SPACE FOR PHOTOGRAPH

This page to be completed at H.Q.

RECOMMENDATIONS (Continued)

(c) By COUNTRY SECTION: That she receive assistance in
accordance with SO(M) letter SD/41/1

Date 28 May 45 Signed R.T. HEWITT, Lt-Col.

23. Give particulars of any recompense made on discharge, i.e., money payments, gifts in kind, certificate of service, honour, decoration, etc.

Clothing and Rations.

24. Was the discharge on the standard form completed or not? No

25. Security Clearance - SI.709.3 dated 4 June 45

SPACE FOR PHOTOGRAPH

M1/P/27/42

AGENTS' DISCHARGE FORM

To: M.1 / ~~XXXX~~ (2 copies)
FIN
G.I.(b)

Name . CIOFALO, Maria....

Alias . FIAMMETTA..... File Ref. CL/J/26.....

PART I

At the 104 Meeting of the SOELIQ.(MED.) Committee held on
3 June 1945... the following decisions were made regarding the
above-named Agent:

1. Pecuniary Award	£ nil
2. Clothing and Rations to SD/41/1 scale	Yes / XX
3. Patriot Certificate	XXXX / No
4.	
5.	
6.	

Authority is given for action to be taken in accordance
with the above.

Date 5 June 1945

for *H. K. Am. thm*
Secretary,
SOELIQ.(MED.).

PART II

M/P/27/42

To:

Name .CIOFALO, Maria.... Alias .FIAMMETTA.....

Action in accordance with SOELI³. (MED.) CI/ J/26 has been
fully implemented. The Agent was discharged on 14/6/45.....

Date 15/6/45.

[Handwritten signature]

...*S. Unsworth*...

<https://discovery.nationalarchives.gov.uk/details/r/C8995661>



In occasione delle celebrazioni per la festa della Liberazione del 25 aprile, come si legge nella lettera al Corriere della Sera, il Presidente del Consiglio Giorgia Meloni ha dedicato la giornata a Paola Del Din. La Premier l'ha definita "donna straordinaria, madre idealmente di tutti gli italiani che antepongono l'amore per la propria Patria a ogni contrapposizione ideologica". Paola Del Din, oggi quasi centenaria, che ha combattuto durante la Resistenza con il nome di battaglia "Renata", ha ricevuto la Medaglia d'oro al valor militare ed è considerata "la prima donna paracadutista militare italiana".

La verità è un'altra, non fu lei la prima donna paracadutista italiana, per i fatti e per la storia.

La prima donna paracadutista militare italiana fu la nostra Maria Ciofalo, nata a S.Stefano di Camastra il 4 marzo del 1913 figlia di Ciofalo Giovanni e Sortino Giovanna, coniugata con Caracciolo Angelo (il matrimonio si tenne il 10 dicembre del 1955 ad Acireale).

Maria Ciofalo in Caracciolo, alias "Fiammetta - Stella", studentessa di Ingegneria a Napoli dove prese parte alle 4 Giornate, dopo aver completato un ciclo di corsi di istruzione per agenti segreti presso il SOE di Monopoli (Ba) arrivò in Veneto. Il 17 luglio '44, a Montagnola di Grantorto (Pd), assieme ai sabotatori delle Missioni Alleate "EGI 3" e "EGI 4", fu paracadutata come agente del SOE (Special Operations Executive). Ciò è riportato in "I grandi rastrellamenti nazi-fascisti dell'estate-autunno del 1944 nel Vicentino. Le Operazioni "Belvedere" - "Timpano" - "Hannover" - "Piave", redatto nel 2019, in occasione del 75esimo anniversario della Liberazione, dal Centro Studi Storici "Giovanni Anapoli e Francesco Urbani Pat" Montecchio Precalcino (Vi) - www.studistorici.anapoli.it, Associato all'Istituto Storico della Resistenza e dell'Età Contemporanea della provincia di Vicenza "Ettore Gallo. Ed è ancora riportato nel libro "È cessata la pioggia". Guerra segreta nella provincia di Rovigo, nel Veneto meridionale 1943-1945, Edizioni "La Lucertola" - Badia Polesine, 2018. L'autore Claudio Vallarini cita Maria Ciofalo "prima donna paracadutista italiana".

Per quanto in premessa, i sottoscritti Consiglieri Comunali, già in contatto con la famiglia della Ciofalo e da tempo impegnati nella ricerca di fonti storico-militari, comunicano l'intenzione di pianificare, per la primavera del 2024 un evento per scoprire, conoscere e far conoscere Maria Ciofalo. Riteniamo giusto affidare il suo valore ed il suo ricordo alla memoria della nostra Comunità e restituire alla Nazione ed alla storia la verità di una donna coraggiosa, ribelle e prima paracadutista italiana.

Perché ciò si realizzi, si chiede, previa condivisione dell'iniziativa, la sinergia e la collaborazione dell'Amministrazione e del Consiglio Comunale, anche per convenire sulla eventuale disponibilità di risorse economiche da destinare all'organizzazione dell'evento suddetto.

Li, 11.05.2023

I Consiglieri Comunali del Gruppo
"Noi per S.Stefano"

Marila Re Giuseppe Lucifaro Giuseppe Pezzicara Gabriella Regalbuto