



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:	<u>The National Archives, Kew</u>
Legal status:	Public Record(s)
Closure status:	Open Document, Open Description
Access conditions:	Closed For 67 years
Record opening date:	01 January 2014

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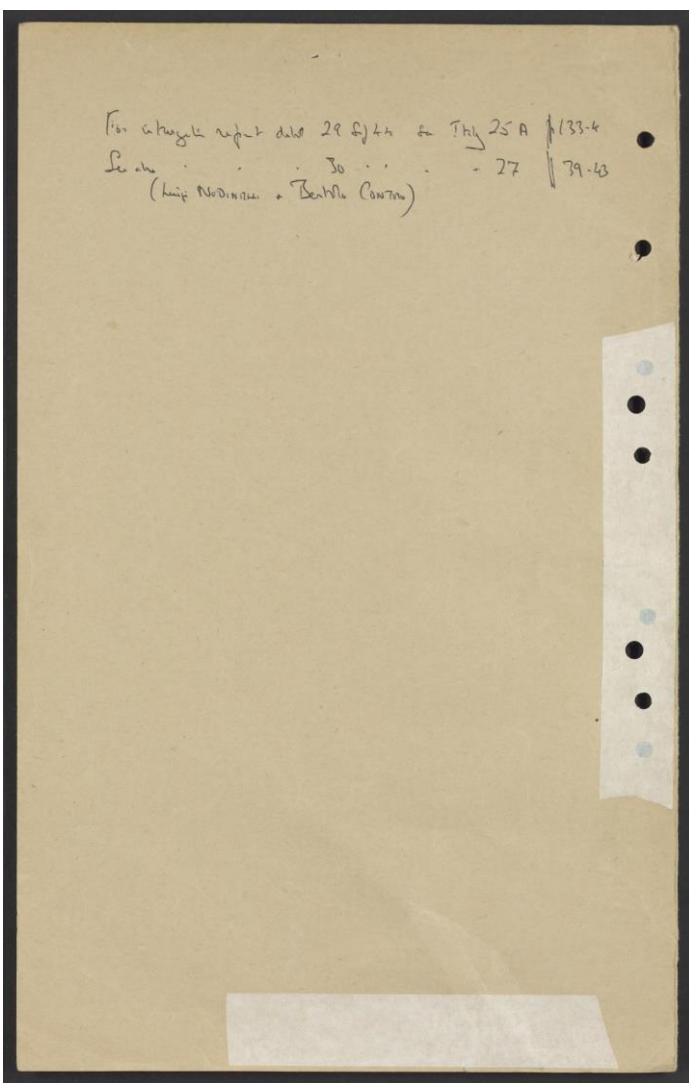
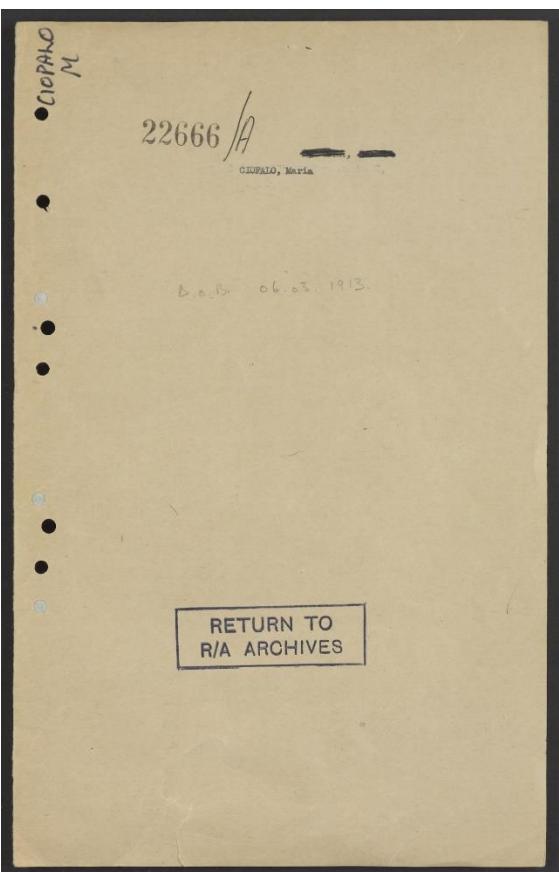
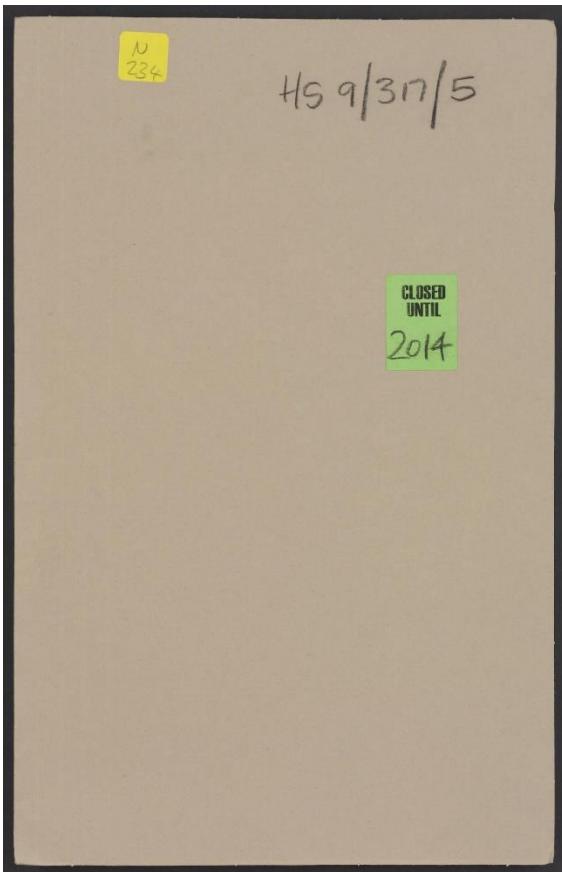
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CIOFALO, Maria

Alias: FIAMMETTA

OCCUPATION or FUNCTION:

NATIONALITY: Italian

DATE of BIRTH:

21/370/13

FILE NOS.

22666

PR 7 W.P.LTD. E1579

Courier infiltrated to BIPLANE
mission by Op. WHITEHORSE on
17 July 44. Returned Base on
23 Sep 44

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	NOTE VIA GARIBOLDI 82, S. STEFANO DI CAMASTRA (?) 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 APR. 45 - DISCHD. 14.6.45	
9. Reward Recommended	CLOTHING AND RATIONS	
10. Particulars and date of any Recompense made on Discharge (viz., Money	ON PREVIOUS DISCHARGE - £100. - - clothing and rations	13 Jan 45
● 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 SOELIO (MED.)

1 Liability YES

2 Contact YES

3 Amount NIL

4 Priority PREF.

Meeting on 3 JUNE 1945

5 Cert. of Service No

6 Award or L. of C. No

7 Employment No

8 Victimisation No

9. Clothing & Rations YES

PSS|B|E707|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 ?Via Garibaldi 82, S. Stefano di Camastrà

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.

D/CE AMX

23685

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.

CIOTALO, 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
Register to file

HQ SO(M) CMF.

Ref: MI/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.

CSW/HB
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 Informed

5) Certificate No

6) Award SD/41

7) Employment No

8) Protection No

Date 3 June 1945

SOELIQ (MED)

HK
for Secretary.

TRACE
AND
CARD

22666/A

C.R.

Date.....16th June 1944.

5.

S.O.2.

SURNAME.

CIOFALO.

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

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 Garibaldi 82, San Stefano di Camastra.

NATIONAL REGISTRATION NUMBER.

BRIEF PARTICULARS OF PREVIOUS EMPLOYMENT.

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

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

(NOTE--If applicant 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.

2666/A
C. 496
N/L
31/5/45

M/10/27/42.

FR

SECRET

HQ. Ref. No. CL/J/26
Date 28 May 45

LIQ. Office Ref. No.
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 CAMASTRA (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: None (? VIA GARIBOLDI 82 ; S. STEFANO DI CAMASTRA)

(a) Permanent

(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 be 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 (JUN 45)

13. PEACETIME CIVILIAN EMPLOYMENT:

(a) Nature of Employment Student Engineering.

(b) Name and Addresses of Employers University of Naples

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.

.....
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.....
.....
.....

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.I. 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

(next page) you will find 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/41/4

R.P.S.

Date 28th May, 1945 Signed R. T. Hewitt Lt. Col. G.A.

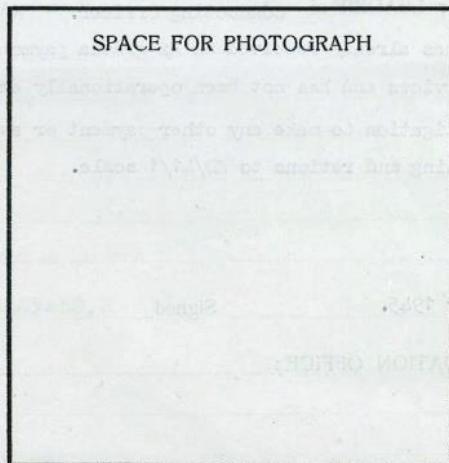
23. Give particulars of any recompence made on discharge, i.e., money payments, gifts in kind, certificate of service, honour, decoration, etc.

Clothing and Rations

.....
.....
.....
.....
.....

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

25. Security Clearance - S1.709.3 dated 4 June 45



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

MI/P/27/42

AGENTS' DISCHARGE FORM

To: M.I. / 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

H.C. Canther
for Secretary,
SOELIQ.(MED.).

PART II

M1/P/27/42

To:

Name CIOFALO, Maria Alias FIAMMETTA

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

Date 15/6/45.

J. W.

S. M.

<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.studistoricianapoli.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.

Lì, 11.05.2023

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

Marila Re Giuseppe Lucifaro Giuseppe Pezzicara Gabriella Regalbuto