

Basic Detail Report

Plane-jacker Rahael Minichiello is led through clamouring press and passers-by outside court by one of his Italian lawyers, Edmondo Zappacosta

Date

1969-1979

Medium

gelatin silver print

Description

Minichiello had fought in Vietnam for the US Marines, but committed a theft of \$200 worth of items as he thought he had been slighted in his military salary, and was court-martialled but rather than face court he opted to hijack a plane bound for San Francisco and re-route it to Rome, on 31st October, 1969. He let the passengers off in Denver and carried on, making stops and to refuel at Bangor, Maine, and Shannon, Ireland. He escaped authorities in Rome but was arrested when tracked down in an Italian countryside church. The Italian government refused to extradite Minichiello to the United States, deciding instead to try him in Rome — though only for relatively minor offences such as weapons possession. Minichiello was convicted of a single charge and ended up serving just 18 months in jail.

Dimensions

Overall: 30.3 x 21.1 cm (11 7/8 x 8 3/8 in.)