

The Trans World Airlines Flight 85 from Baltimore to San Francisco hijacked by US Marine Raphael Minichiello finally grounded at Rome airport

Date

1969-1979

Medium

gelatin silver print

Description

The Trans World Airlines Flight 85 from Baltimore to San Francisco hijacked by US Marine Raphael Minichiello finally grounded at Rome airport. Raphael Minichiello had fought in Vietnam for the US Marines, but committed a theft and was court-martialled but rather than face court he opted to hijack a plane bound for San Francisco and reroute 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 offenses such as weapons possession. Minichiello was convicted of a single charge and ended up serving just 18 months in jail.

Dimensions

Overall: 21.3 x 30.3 cm (8 3/8 x 11 7/8 in.)