

BLACK HAND SECRETS REVEALED BY CHIEF OF SECRET SERVICE

ON THE TRAIL OF LUPO THE WOLF AND MORELLO



BOSSCARINI PURCHASED A SPECIAL DELIVERY AND A TWO-CENT STAMP

Synopsis of Previous Articles.

After telling how he solved the baffling mystery of the barrel murder, Chief Flynn describes the organization of the Ignatz Florio Association of Corleone, a dishonest real estate scheme originated by Lupo and Morello, who controlled the stock of the company. Pushed by creditors, Lupo and Morello decided to make counterfeit money and offer it to those to whom they were indebted at the rate of one dollar for every thirty-five cents they owed. The Secret Service men were certain that Lupo and Morello were at the head of the work, and they knew certain of those under them, but no arrests were made because the evidence was not sufficient to convict the whole band, and especially Lupo and Morello themselves.

By William J. Flynn,
Chief of the United States Secret Service.
IKE malignant spirits, Lupo and Morello lurked in the dark and directed the movements of the pawns under them in the great counterfeiting scheme which was to make them wealthy and get them out of the difficulties into which the Ignatz Florio Association had plunged them. They took no chances—at least they thought they took none—and certainly they were not in the danger to which they exposed their aids.

It was they who pulled the strings and their puppets responded. Many of these men who carried out the plans of the leaders did not even know for whom they were working. Their system was mysterious, baffling, almost perfect. But there were flaws in it and the Secret Service found these flaws.

Through my men I learned that an Italian from Corleone, Antonio Cecala by name, was the most trusted lieutenant of Lupo and Morello. He was the chief distributing agent of the counterfeit money. He made frequent trips to various cities, establishing agencies for the circulation of the bills. It was he who appointed an agent in each place who was personally responsible to him. These agents did not come in contact with Lupo and Morello; in fact, did not know that they were in any way connected with the scheme.

In order to facilitate his work Cecala appointed six deputies, who in turn appointed six others, and so on. It was necessary for these deputies to vouch for any person before Cecala would al-



GIUSEPPI BOSSCARINI "A PUSHER OF THE QUEER"

low them to have any of the bogus money. When the deputies had given their O. K. to a request for money, Cecala made a report to Lupo and Morello, and if they in turn approved the bills would be delivered at the rate of one dollar for thirty-five cents in good money. Thus the notes passed through at least three hands before they reached the purchaser, and sometimes the transaction was even more complicated.

The deputies were really "pushers of the queer" or distributors of counterfeit money, and it was they who did the bulk of the dangerous work and who ran the greatest chances of arrest. Many of these men were known to us, but have been apprehended since the counterfeit plant would have been closed and the leaders and their aids would escape. The arrest of a "pusher" would have in no way incriminated Lupo and Morello.

pointed by Cecala. I had a little talk with Locino. It ended by his telling me that Boscarini had made several trips to Pittston and had offered to sell him counterfeit money at the regular price charged by the Lupo-Morello gang.

The moment Locino mentioned Boscarini's name I knew immediately that he was talking of the man standing next to Cecala himself with the leaders. I believed that if I could trap this Boscarini I would be just so much closer to the leaders, and I believed that I could do it without frightening them off and without letting them know that I so much as suspected them.

Accordingly at my direction Locino wrote to Boscarini in the Sicilian dialect, asking for a sample of the counterfeit money and suggesting that if it was a good enough imitation he could pass some of it in Pittston.

I myself took the letter to the post office and registered it in the presence of the Mayor of the city and the Chief of Police. On the same train which carried the letter I went to New York.

One of my operatives was present when Boscarini received the letter and signed for it. From that hour he was shadowed. Next day he went to a sub-post office in the Bowery and purchased a special delivery and a two-cent stamp. So close did the Secret Service men stand to Boscarini in the post office that he saw him place the stamps on the envelope upside down and was able to read the return address he had written on the envelope as he dropped it in the chute. This return address, by the way, was a fictitious one.

Again I travelled on the same train with the letter, this time to Pittston, where I went with Locino to the post office, and he claimed the letter, which had been sent general delivery. He opened it in my presence and found inside a counterfeit two dollar and five dollar bill, of the kind manufactured by the Lupo-Morello band.

Locino showed fear when I wanted him to go to New York to meet Boscarini, but I persuaded him that it was best for him. I gave him \$25 to buy \$100 in counterfeit money from Boscarini. The genuine bills were marked, although Locino did not know it. This was to identify them if they were in the

possession of any of the men I contemplated arresting.

Always under the eyes of the Secret Service, Locino met Boscarini at the corner of Mulberry and Prince streets, and after a short conversation they agreed to meet again the same day. After leaving Locino, Boscarini went directly to the store of Lupo and Morello in East Ninety-seventh street. This store was the headquarters for the distribution of the spurious notes, as I well knew, though for the reasons I have often repeated I was not ready to raid the place or arrest the leaders of the band.

In the windows of the store there were piled many boxes of macaroni, and behind these Morello, Cecala and Lupo held many secret conferences. Sometimes other trusted members of the society were present, but the conferences, no matter how important, never lasted more than fifteen minutes, for too lengthy conversations might excite suspicion.

The small Italian grocers of the district were forced to buy their supplies at this store. If they did not their establishments were in danger of being wrecked by bombs or burned. Even worse, their children might be kidnapped or themselves slain. By intimidating the local grocers into trading at their wholesale store, Lupo and Morello accomplished a double purpose. They swelled their so-called legitimate profits and were able to get rid of some of the counterfeit money.

Boscarini again met Locino after the conference in Mulberry street and he received from the hands of Boscarini a roll of bills. Later they were found to be counterfeit of the same make as those sent to him in the letter. At intervals of a week Locino journeyed to New York and purchased more of the bogus money, always paying for it with bills which I had secretly marked.

When I considered I had evidence enough to convict Boscarini and others I proposed to Locino that he should go on the stand to testify against them.

The man was seized with a fit of trembling. He had been told what it meant to "sneak" and he remembered the latter-day body of Mariano Benedetto, which was found in the barrel with sawdust and clear sticks. I let Locino think it over,



ANTONIO CECALA, ONE OF MORELLO'S MOST TRUSTED LIEUTENANTS

however, and in the end he saw the light and declared that he would testify at the trial.

Boscarini and Cecala were arrested and two of the genuine bills which I had secretly marked were found in the possession of Cecala, thus proving to my own satisfaction that Lupo and Morello were the brains of the counterfeiting plot, for I knew that Cecala was their most trusted lieutenant. Still there was no evidence which would have held in court to connect them in any way with the manufacture or distribution of the bogus money. They remained serenely confident that the law could not reach them, and this was as I wished it to be. In their feeling of security lay my hope of rounding up the whole band.

Boscarini and Cecala were sentenced to fifteen years each in the Federal Prison in Atlanta as a result of Locino's testimony.

Not long after this sentence was pronounced Locino went to visit a friend in Pittston. He was obliged to walk across a vacant lot in which was a clump of bushes. As he drew near the bushes Locino thought he saw something move. Perhaps it was only a shadow, but Locino had heard of shadows taking life and hunting death to those who had incurred the wrath of the Black Hand. The man had nerve. He proved that when he testified against Boscarini, but he knew the methods of the Sicilians.

Very quickly he turned on his heel and started to walk back in the direction from which he had come. Out of the shadow of the bushes crawled a man.

"Crang! Crang! Two leaden slugs sped from the shadow, and Locino dropped with two ugly gashes in his head."

Men were close at hand and they ran to the aid of the Italian. Others searched for the would-be assassin, but he had escaped—disappeared as though the shadow had absorbed him again. Boscarini had been in part avenged, but Locino recovered and his reason to believe that he is well protected from the Black Hand for many years to come.

All this time the net was drawing closer to Morello and Lupo, the men whom, above all others, I wished to involve so that they could not escape, for I knew them to be the leaders of the counterfeiting band.

My men watched continually the houses where we knew Black Handers to live and the cafes and eating places where they were wont to congregate. In this way I learned that a letter, undelivered, had been returned to No. 8 Prince street, the address which was written on the back of the envelope. The name written with the return address was Giuseppe Conti, now, Lupo, and Morello had a store at No. 8 Prince street, and when the letter was returned there they declared that they knew no person by the name of Giuseppe Conti, and that he had never lived there. The letter could not possibly have been sent from that address, they said.

The postman had nothing to do but to take it away with him again, for no one in the Prince street place would accept it. It was addressed to Andrea Pollara, Portage La Prairie, Manitoba, Canada. In it was a counterfeit five dollar bill, which was evidently a sample asked for by the man who called himself Andrea Pollara. The writer of the letter advised Pollara to buy five cents' worth of griccia and rub the bill and his hands with it. Griccia is a Black Hand term for it. Griccia is a Black Hand term for it. Griccia is a Black Hand term for it.

With a great show of emotion he held the sign of the cross and swore that he could not read or write and that his statements were true. Fear of the Black Hand was strong within him. The man in the barrel was fresh in his mind.

It was not until Macarri felt the grip of the law was more terrible than the mailed fist of the Black Hand that he told the truth.

Then he confessed that he knew Lupo. He said that his father and Lupo's father had been the closest of friends, but he steadfastly denied that he had written the letter which was addressed to him as Pollara in Portage La Prairie and which had been returned to No. 8 Prince street. However, I had the expert opinion of a handwriting specialist as to that, and moreover, Macarri covered that the paper on which the letter was written bore the same watermark as did the billheads which Lupo used. The envelope which contained the letter was returned to Prince street, was of the same make as envelopes used in the cafe of Pietro Inzerillo.

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mailed. Inzerillo's cafe was a popular place with the Lupo-Morello crowd, and just around the corner from No. 8 Prince street, the address to which the letter had been returned and at which the two leaders conducted a cafe and restaurant.

It was, of course, merely a guess on my part that the letter had been written by Inzerillo, but I set about to make sure of it. The whole affair had been conducted in that neighborhood and there was no doubt in my mind that one of the men we were watching had written the letter. I managed to obtain a specimen of Inzerillo's handwriting, and my theory that he had penned the Pollara letter was exploded. The penmanship was entirely different.

There were at that time several of the Black Hand members in the Tomba prison. Many of their friends visited them, and at my request Marshal Henkel required all these visitors to sign the passes which he issued to them permitting them to see the prisoners. In this way I obtained numerous signatures of the counterfeiter, but none matched the writing in the Pollara letter. Hints which reached my ears finally led me to believe that Lupo himself had written a specimen of his handwriting. He did not visit any of the men in the Tomba. Now, I was aware that Lupo at that time was engaged in the importation of olive oil, which, of course, had to pass through the Custom House. John Hughes, brother of former Police Inspector Hughes, was in the customs service.

Through him I had a consignment of olive oil to Lupo held up by the customs authorities. Before they were released it was necessary for Lupo to write out a list of the goods, their value and sign the papers. This statement was taken to a handwriting expert, who after careful study declared that it was the work of the same person who wrote the Pollara letter.

At last I had evidence which would hold in court to establish the fact that Lupo himself was active in the distribution of the bogus money. But the trap was not yet to be sprung. There was much else I wanted cleared up. Before I spoiled everything I desired to be in a position to arrest and convict every man, if possible, who was in any way concerned in the counterfeiting.

Investigation showed me that Andrea Pollara was a laborer in a railroad camp at Portage La Prairie and I soon learned that he was the agent for the counterfeiter and had been sent there to investigate the camp as a field in which to get rid of some of the spurious money. When the letter to Pollara reached Portage La Prairie the camp had moved to another place and so the letter was returned to the address on the back. The fact that it was refused caused it to fall into my hands.

Further investigation showed me that the agent in Canada had only assumed the name Pollara and that he was really Salvatore Macarri, who lived with his wife in New York city.

Secret service men immediately went on the trail of Macarri. Meantime the barrel murder occurred and among others Lupo was arrested. While he was in custody his house was searched and there was found a letter postmarked Portage La Prairie, addressed to Pietro Inzerillo, No. 226 Elizabeth street. It was dated September 4, 1902. In the letter the writer asked to be remembered to Ignazio (referring to Lupo), and requested him to send five dollars. This was evidently the letter in response to which the Pollara letter was written and the specimen bill sent. Although the letter was signed Salvatore Macarri, another alias of Macarri, it asked that the money be addressed to Andrea Pollara.

On Lupo's person was found a new book in which was an entry, "S. Matelli, sent to Canada \$5.00, to his wife, \$5.00, ditto \$4.00."

This book was taken to the handwriting expert who examined the Pollara letter and the customs statement of Lupo and it was declared by him that the entries were written by the same hand—Lupo's. We were on the warm side of the wolf.

Agents of the secret service followed Macarri from Canada to New York without him so much as guess at what was his existence. When a man was ready he was arrested in his home, No. 70 1/2 James street, and in his apartment were found many letters written from Portage La Prairie and addressed to Andrea Pollara. These letters were all in what we call "riveting" evidence.

Macarri denied that he knew Lupo or Morello. He said that never had he seen any counterfeit money, to his knowledge, either in America or in Italy or Canada.

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Duffer

"D" Company Evening—Loc

D Coy's social was strong—numerically, strong in talent strong in soldier and strong in officer's table were strong. Dicks, Lieut. Bling, Lieut. D. Lieut. Cook, Lieut. E. Lieut. Dunlop, Staff Sergeant H. and Col. Ash.

The color-sergeant, named the "thank God" of the service, pronounced, the men were but a structure. Selections of the knife, fork enthusiasts. The Murphy rival however, confessed that chivalrous instrument, "M. man" gets a hearing, and he brogue liberally to maintain.

The opening remarks were by Capt. Hicks, who proposed toast "The King," honored in and carried with the "God bless of the Duffs. Lt.-Col. Ashton, ing to speak, said he was always to attend any of the battalions of old Regiment. Twenty years ago when one is young and patriotic and filled with the spirit to serve one's country, the battalion, its large population, only a battalion, it causes the thought, to be filled with dignity, no militarist, he wanted to, part to place Canada in a place self respect as a nation prepare stand for its rights of the future.

The day of the millennium is here; and the U. S. A. that talks of peace has been forced take a part in the grim game of How far realize it is a duty to shoot and a little drill—if the going to make Canada a nation must be able to help in holding the unity of the Empire. Too of the little Canadian say it is to be a nation—only one way.

that; and if today Britain's colonies, stand alone, how of them could. The nations of E are looking for room for their citizens, and having no colonies would without question, take, they desired. The militia is a training school, and you must all it can give, so that when you out you could come back if the ever went forth to stand by the ors. The success of D must be on the men, but in Capt. Hicks have some worth the adding thorough good officer and his terms the best type of men, and Sergt. Hart has played as well the officers know how much to him. Col. Ashton closed in a station at once powerful moving, deep with patriotic sentiment, story of the Swiss Patriotic Division one of the battlefields of liberty which that land gained her freedom.

"The Visitors" was read by Capt. Dunlop who read the poem of Col. Ashton, and said a compliment to Capt. Hicks, who did all the success that was done.

LUST

Renews the goods.

Removes who Helps in dust cheese

SCARFE

CAN BE OBTAINED

THOUSAND read "T are eagerly v pearance of o about the ap

THE RETURN

(By EDGAR F

It is as good, Apes." Don't chapters. STORY STAR IN THE DA