



June 26, 1959:

Elio Sparano's commentary on the footage of the plane crash aired by RAI (Italian TV broadcast network)

We are interrupting all transmission because we are able to broadcast the first images of the plane crash of Olgiate Olona shoot by our operators. All the families of the victims have already been informed. I have just returned from the site of the accident, one of the most serious disasters occurred in Italy after World War II. Firemen, Carabinieri, Policemen and the militants of Red Cross are still operating on site. Unfortunately, there is no hope to extract any survivor of the seventy-one people on board [mistake, A/N] from the wreckage of the airplane. The flight originated in Athens, the aircraft had stopped in Rome and had just taken off from Milan, it was bound to Paris and then Chicago. A violent thunderstorm was raging all over the Lombardy in that moment. A lightning struck a high voltage line while we were going to the place of the disaster. It was about 5.30 in the afternoon when the aircraft – according to some witnesses – was struck by a lightning that broke a wing; it is supposed that the plane was at an altitude of about 1.700 ft. in that moment, because it had just taken off; after being struck by lightning the aircraft rapidly lost altitude, fell on a pylon of the high voltage line and crashed near farm Agnese in the territory of Olgiate, eighteen kilometers far from the Malpensa Airport.

(commentary of journalist Elio Sparano on the footage shot by RAI operators in Olgiate Olona on the late afternoon of June 26, 1959 and aired that same evening)