

Impact Statement

Clara Jeon, Grade 7

Agnes Lackovic, 2025

Acrylic, colored pencil, watercolor on paper, 12 x 9 inches

Bellevue, WA

Teacher: Sunyoung Kwon, Independent Study

Unsung Hero: Agnes Lackovic

I admire her bravery and dedication in that rebellion, choosing to do the dangerous thing to protect Allies. Agnes shows you don't need to be an adult to make an impact on the world. I admire her determination to learn so many languages just to help the Allies against the Nazis. She was brave, choosing to involve herself in the war to help others rather than just hide in the corner. I admire her choices, her decisions to be strong. Sometimes, she was held under gunpoint by the Nazis, who suspected her of being an Ally. And yet, despite all the fear she must have been under, Agnes kept going. She didn't give up and leave, but instead kept going, because her courage was greater than her fear. I look up to her resilience and resolution to make everyone's lives better instead of letting the world sort itself out.

The Nazis were taking over Germany in the 1930s, and World War II was looming over everyone. Agnes Lackovic was a small girl when she became a member of the resistance against Adolf Hitler. She was barely ten years old when she joined, credited to her aunt for recommending her, learning English, German, French, and Italian. She rescued injured soldiers and hid them in her home, nursing them back to health. Agnes was a pivotal person during the war, saving over 200 Jews and 100 Allied soldiers. With her small, petite figure, she could sneak around unsuspectedly and roam freely. She became known as the 3-6-9-KID, so other Allies would know who they were going to meet: a kid. As a spy, she was interrogated by the Nazis. Her small body made it easy for her to trick them, saying no one so small could be threatening, and it worked. The risk became too great for her to continue physically meeting others, so Agnes learned how to use the accordion to show hidden Allies messages. She would use subtle signals and movements during recitals to transmit hidden messages. Her impact was impressive, alerting the Allies of a Nazi airstrike and saving hundreds of people.

My artwork included the flags of the four languages Agnes learned, an important part of her education when learning how to become a spy. This is in the background to represent the quiet determination she showed when studying to send messages to all the allies. Morse code represents her signal of messages, the secret codes she chose to spread word to others. The accordion Agnes holds was her main outlet of communication, her facial expression and subtle hand movements indicating another message. A soldier shadows behind her, the hundreds of people she helped, healing

them and sending them to neutral territories of safety. In the picture, her eyes were closed to signify her lies, that she is hiding secrets from the Nazis. Her lips are open to show she is sharing messages to the Allies.

Agnes' journey had a great impact on my life. It made me realize I can affect the world as a minor. If she could save lives, then perhaps I could too. Perhaps, I could be the one to make a stand. Climate change and world pollution have been the main problem we face in the modern world. The world is slowly collapsing, icebergs melting and species going extinct, this is the beginning of a widespread destruction. This could be something we prevent, but only if we try. Perhaps, with the conviction of knowledge that Agnes Lackovic succeeded, I can too. Even if I falter, if I give up halfway through, it doesn't mean the fight is over.