

AMC:JMK:tms

146-7-51-1708

October 7, 1948

Re: UNITED STATES v. MILDRED E. SISK,
also known as MILDRED E. GILLARS.

Thank you for your letter of October 5, 1948. It does not appear that the information within your knowledge in relation to Miss Gillars would have any bearing upon her guilt or innocence in connection with the charge of treason now lodged against her. For this reason, I do not contemplate calling you as a witness.

Your courtesy in informing me of your whereabouts is, nonetheless, appreciated.

Yours very truly,

JOHN M. KELLEY, JR.,
Special Assistant to the Attorney General.

TELEPHONE CONVERSATION:

On Thursday, October 14, following receipt of letter from Colonel Meade, JMK telephoned Col. Clark, explaining that original statement was being mailed to James J. Laughlin, Esq. defense counsel and indicating that the defense would undoubtedly make use of the same in an effort to delay the trial.

In the course of this conversation, Col. Clark agreed to cable Intelligence in Germany indicating that be fully interrogated immediately in order to determine specifically what evidence he is in position to give and that the same be furnished to the Department of Justice at the earliest possible date, to the end that we would be in a position to indicate the lack of relevancy or materiality of this witness's testimony in the event that the defense seeks an adjournment in this connection.

Copy...

Feb. 8, 1947

Dear Sir:

On Jan. 30, 1944 I was taken prisoner by the German's at the Anzio Beach-head. I was the Sgt. Major of the 1st Ranger Bn. I was taken to a German prison Camp in East Prussia (Stalag 2B) About the second week in March 1944 I was called to the office of the American confidence man who introduced me to a woman and man who wanted to have some of the boys to make records saying that we were being treated good and had plenty to eat. Outside of the barracks she had a sound truck already to make these recordings. These records were to be broadcasted to the USA by shortwave. This woman spoke perfect English and said she had come from America, also that she had lived in N.Y. Being a New Yorker I questioned this woman. She lived along time in the Grenwidge Village section and seemed to know all about village life. This was not the first time she visited prison camps. I believe the year before, she paid a visit to Stalag 3B and made recordings. I refused to allow her to take these recordings. As she left her parting words were (What a bunch of ungrateful people we Americans were). This woman was Berlin Sally. At the time she visited us her hair was black. The man with her was a German professor. This woman, I believe, came to see what was left of the 1st Ranger Bn. because all through the N. African, Tunisian, Sicily and Italy campaigns she ridiculed the Rangers. I can give you the names of two other GIs who were with me at the time of my conversation with her.

Sincerely,

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TLC:JMK:ly

146-7-51-1700

JUN 30 1947

June 30, 1947.

Honorable Louis Ladd
House of Representatives
Washington, D. C.

My dear Mr. Congressman:

This is in reply to your communication of
June 4, 1947, with attached letter to you from

protesting the alleged return of "Ella Sully" to
the United States.

Mildred Gillars is the person most commonly
known as Ella Sully. She was released from actual custody
by military authorities in Germany in December 1946 but she
was kept under surveillance in order that she might be again
taken into custody if so desired. This was deemed advisable
and she was again taken into actual custody of our military
authorities in January 1947 and she has since been held
pending further study as to whether or not a treason prosecution
against her is warranted. This matter is receiving
active consideration at this time.

There was a broadcaster in Italy named Rita
Sacco, who was also sometimes called Ella Sully. She became
an Italian citizen in 1941 prior to our entry into the war
and therefore her activities did not constitute treason against
the United States. She was arrested and prosecuted by the
Italians and served a sentence because of her activities.

As pointed out above, Mildred Gillars is in jail
and Rita Sacco has expatriated herself. As far as I know neither

CC: Records
Chromo,
Mr. Kelley, Jr.
Miss Healy

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of these women is being allowed to come to the United States.

I trust that the above facts furnish you the desired information.

In accordance with your request the basic communication is returned herewith.

Yours sincerely,

Douglas W. McGregor

Douglas W. McGregor
The Assistant to the Attorney General

Enclosure #375474

FILES

July 28, 1947

JOHN M. KELLEY, JR., Special Assistant to the
Attorney General, Criminal Division.

JMK:tms

MILDRED ELIZABETH GILLARS, was AXIS SALLY;
TREASON.

146-7-51-1708

On Thursday, July 24, 1947, the writer was notified by Mr. Cawley's
Secretary that a _____ representing the Veterans' of Foreign Wars,
desired to discuss the matter of Mildred Gillars. The writer thereupon
conferred with _____ and informed him Miss Gillars was presently
in custody of the military authorities in Germany and that this case
was receiving active investigative attention.

Ed G
pi

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TVQ:JMK:tas

46-7-51-1708

December 9, 1947

In Re: Mildred Elizabeth Gillars,
va "Axis Sally."

Your letter dated November 26, 1947, addressed to Mr. John M. Kelley, Jr., of my staff is acknowledged.

The Department of Justice is unable to state whether or not columnist _____ made the statement attributed to him and set forth in your letter with respect to the above named subject, to the effect that charges against Mildred Gillars were dropped on instructions from this Department. In any event, please be assured that such assertion, if made, was erroneous.

As you were earlier informed by Mr. Kelley, this matter is actively under investigation and the subject is still in custody. An investigation of this character, involves manifold difficulties, the acquisition of admissible evidence is complicated in view of the fact that an overt act of treason must be established by the testimony of at least two witnesses and accordingly progress is necessarily slow. Be assured, however, that the instant investigation is being exhaustively pursued and that your interest in the matter is appreciated.

Respectfully,

For the Attorney General,

Mr. Kelley--Rm. 2315
Records
Miss Hamlin
Internal Security
Chrono.

T. VINCENT QUINN,
Assistant Attorney General.

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TVQ:JMK:tas

146-7-51-1708

January 16, 1948

Re: Mildred Elizabeth Gillars, alias
"Axis Sally,"

Reference is made to your letter of December 20, 1946, addressed to the United States Attorney at Boston, Massachusetts, a copy of which was duly forwarded to this Department. It is noted that in this letter you state that on May 13, 1944, you made a recording of a short radio play broadcast from Berlin. The government is engaged in conducting an investigation into the alleged treasonable activities of Mildred Elizabeth Gillars, alias "Axis Sally," alias "Midge." The said investigation has developed the fact that on the night of May 11, 1944, the German Short-Wave Station broadcast to the United States a radio play entitled "Vision of Invasion," in which the subject, Gillars, was a participant. In all probability the radio play of which you made a recording was a repeat broadcast of the same play.

Briefly synopsised, the play in question opened with a fanfare followed by various voices shouting "D-Day," "D-Day," "D-Day!" The plot involved a dream or vision of an American mother that her son was on board an invasion boat—that the boat was torpedoed—and that her son was drowned. As the mother awakens from her dream she becomes hysterical and the play ends with the ringing of church bells and a dramatic announcement to the effect that "The bells of Europe are tolling the death knell of American youth!"

It will be appreciated if you will inform us whether or not you are still in possession of the recording to which you referred in your letter and whether or not the radio play there involved is identical with the one above described. If such should be the case, will you also indi-

Mr. J.M. Kelley, Jr. -- Rm. 2315 ✓

Records

Chrono.

Miss Hamlin

Int. Security

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cate whether or not your recording is of good audible quality, that is to say, can the dialogue be clearly understood when played back over a loud speaker or headphones? In the event that you are in possession of duplicate recordings, it would be appreciated if you would make one of the same available for study. Will you also please advise if you made or still possess any additional recordings of short-wave broadcasts in which the subject Mildred Gillars may have participated.

Respectfully,

For the Attorney General,

T. VINCENT QUINN,
Assistant Attorney General.

January 24, 1948

T. Vincent Quinn, Asst. Atty. General
United States Department of Justice
Washington 25, D. C.

Re: TVQ:JMK:tms
146-7-51-1708
Mildred Elizabeth Gillars, alias
"Axis Sally."

Dear Sir:

In reply to your letter of January 16, 1948, this will advise you that I still have in my possession recordings stated in letter to U.S. Attorney at Boston, dated December 20, 1946.

The play mentioned in my letter I believe was under the title "Stories of Old Vienna" and I do not remember any of the characters being played by Mildred E. Gillars. In connection with the play "Vision of Invasion" in all probability, I heard it as I was a constant listener to all programs emanating from Berlin, but at this time I cannot recall said program.

The recordings I have in my possession are of fair quality and if listened to carefully can be clearly understood.

I listened to "Midge" regularly, perhaps more than any other program from Berlin and know her style and routine perfectly. If I can be of any use concerning her or any persons broadcasting from Germany, I would be pleased to be of any assistance possible.

My recordings are available at any time you may require them but I wish to advise you I have no duplicates.

Sincerely yours,
