

OFFICERS



Charles A. Learned Post No. 1  
THE AMERICAN LEGION



January 22, 1946

COPY

Mr. Ugo Carusi  
Commissioner of Immigration and Naturalization  
Franklin Trust Building  
1500 Chestnut Street  
Philadelphia, 2, Pennsylvania

46

Dear Mr. Commissioner:

At our last meeting on Monday, January 13th, 1947 of the Charles A. Learned Post No. 1 of the American Legion, State of Michigan, a motion was made by Comrade [redacted] and unanimously passed by the members of the Post, that the traitor known as "Axis Sally" shall not be permitted under any circumstances, to return to the United States.

Comrade [redacted] who made this motion, was a gunner in the United States Air Corps and was one of the first men to be shot down while on a bombing mission over Germany. He was held there as a prisoner of war for approximately 2 1/2 years. During the entire time of his imprisonment, he had to listen to broadcasts by Axis Sally and knows of his own knowledge of her traitorous comments and exhortations against the United States.

EX-103

In view of the above and of her general history the Charles A. Learned Post No. 1 of the American Legion composed of nearly 1100 members wishes to go on record as being unutterably opposed to the admission to the United States of the woman known as "Axis Sally".

Loyally,  
Charles A. Learned Post No. 1

147-1-5-1970  
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
JAN 24 1947  
CRIM.-INTERNAL SECURITY SEC.

JJ\*CMS

TLC:VCF:mas

L L

146-7-51-1708

February 4, 1947

RECORDED

I wish to acknowledge receipt of your letter dated January 27, 1947, addressed to the Attorney General.

944  
7c

We greatly appreciate your courtesy in advising the Department that you heard broadcasts from Rome by "Axis Sally" and that you can give the Department the names and addresses of your former comrades in the 450th Bombing Group who may be able to give us further information.

The Department is informed that there were two broadcasters who were popularly referred to by the troops as "Axis Sally". One of these, Miss Rita Louise Zucca, broadcast from a station in Italy which was under German control, and the other, Miss Mildred Gillars, broadcast from the station near Berlin. Since Zucca was an Italian national no prosecutive action can be taken with regard to her. From the contents of your letter it appears likely that the broadcasts which you and your comrades heard in Italy were made by Miss Zucca rather than by Miss Gillars.

VW  
DD

If you can furnish the Department with any additional information which would enable us to identify the exact source of the broadcasts which you heard, we would appreciate receiving such further information from you.

Respectfully,

For the Attorney General

THELON L. CAUDLE  
Assistant Attorney General

RECEIVED AND MAILED  
FEB 4 1947  
DIVISION OF RECORDS

cc: Records

Chrono

Woerheide

RECEIVED  
JAN 30 1947  
CRIMINAL DIVISION

RECEIVED  
JAN 30 1947

Jan 27, 1947

Attny Gen. Tom Clark  
State Dept.  
Washington, D.C.

JAN 30 17  
CRIM.-INTERNAL SECURITY SEC.

Dear Sir;

Ep 6  
7c

I hear Drew Pearson say last night in his broadcast that you are seeking information concerning "Axis Sally" for her trial.

I heard her broadcast from Rome early in 1944 "that 'she' and the German Air Force would give us [the 450<sup>th</sup> Bomb Sq. better known as the "Cottontails"] just 48 hours to get out of Italy or she would see that we were blown off the the face of Italy." That is just one of her statements that we heard. We used to listen to her everynite when we were not busy preparing our planes for the next day's mission.

I can give you names and addresses of fellows in my outfit who will gladly be of any service to you. I will be of any assistance I can whenever you wish.

Sincerely,

TLC:VCH:mab

146-7-51-1708

L. D.

February 4, 1947

RECORD

f

446  
7c

I wish to acknowledge receipt of your letter dated January 26, 1947, addressed to the Honorable Tom C. Clark, Attorney General.

The information contained in your letter has been carefully noted. We appreciate very much your helpful cooperation in this matter.

Respectfully,

For the Attorney General

SIGNED AND MAILED  
FEB 4 1947  
DIVISION OF RECORDS  
L

THELON L. CAUDLE  
Assistant Attorney General

VCH  
mab

cc: Records  
Chrono  
Woerhside

f

RECEIVED  
JAN 28 January 26, 1947  
CRIMINAL DIVISION

The Hon. Tom Clarke,  
Attorney General of the United States,  
Department of Justice,  
Washington, D.C.

Dear Sir:

I am taking the liberty of writing to you concerning Mildred Elisabeth GILLARS, known as "Axis Sally" since I heard on the radio tonight that the Department of Justice was interested in obtaining names of witnesses of her activities at the German short-wave station during the war. On the chance that some or all of my information is already known to the investigators handling the case, I should like to pass it on to you anyway, particularly as I believe that GILLARS should be made to suffer the consequences of her activity.

uf 6  
7c

At the time of her arrest in Berlin in March 1946 I was stationed there as a member of the "Berlin District Interrogation Detachment", and I was attached to the Counter-Intelligence Corps as a special interrogator. (I am now a graduate student at Harvard University.) While GILLARS was still at large, I was ordered by the CIC to check on her acquaintances in Berlin. I happen to have retained the slip of names of persons upon whom I called in this connection. Some of these persons were employed at the Nazi "Kurzwellensender" at Koenigswusterhausen, where GILLARS did her dirty work. As far as I recall, all the persons on this list knew her well. I remember definitely that one (or two) of these persons was very co-operative in discussing his acquaintance with GILLARS, that he had worked beside her at the radio station, etc. I believe it was Mr. WAGNER (below), who said that he remembered that GILLARS had told him they had asked her officially after Pearl Harbor whether she wanted to continue her work at the station, upon which she had decided after some consideration to do so. (At the time of her arrest she reportedly remarked that "the trouble is, I was in love with both countries".)

Here is a list of names of persons associated with Gillars, some of whom were fellow-workers of hers at the radio-station:

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
JAN 28 1947  
RECEIVED

INTERNAL SECURITY SEC.

RECORDED

I regret that I cannot be more specific in describing the individual relationships of these persons with GILLARS. Unfortunately the details of my talks with them have slipped my memory. I believe however, that it should be quite simple to check their degree of acquaintance and their possible use as witnesses.

In case the radio report regarding your interest in these matters was incorrect, I apologize for taking your time.

Respectfully yours,

efb  
7c

**MINOR  
RECORD**

TLC:VCF:mab

146-7-51-1708

*L I*

February 4, 1947

*f*

*Exp 6  
7c*

I wish to acknowledge your recent letter addressed to the Honorable Tom C. Clark, United States Attorney General.

The views which you have expressed in your letter have been carefully noted. Your courtesy in communicating with the Department of Justice is appreciated.

*W*

Respectfully,

For the Attorney General

SEARCHED AND MAILED  
FEB 4 1947  
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

**THERON L. CAUDLE**  
Assistant Attorney General

cc: Records  
Chrono  
Woerheide

246  
7c

RECEIVED

JAN 31 1947

CRIMINAL DIVISION

JAN 31 17

INTERNAL SECURITY SEC.

1/27/47

Att. Gen  
Tom Clark

Dear Sir -

What a  
traumta on justice - the release  
of that Axis SALLY who  
spread such poison to this  
country and our troops.

where does treason start and  
what possible excuse can there  
be for such a Nazi to be  
allowed to come to this country  
and to join the ex Bundeswehr?

- 2 -

There is something wrong somewhere  
in this country that would  
allow such a flagrant injustice,  
hoping that this will not  
take place.

Respectfully

✓

TLC:DBA:DTJ

146-7-51-1708

"L"

RECEIVED

February 4, 1947

X

This will acknowledge your letter of recent date, addressed to the Attorney General, concerning "Axis Sally."

The contents of your letter have been duly noted and you may rest assured that the matters mentioned by you are receiving proper attention by this Department.

746  
7c

Respectfully,

For the Attorney General

all

THON L. CAUDLE  
Assistant Attorney General

SIGNED AND MAILED  
FEB 4  
DIVISION OF INVESTIGATION

cc: Records -  
Chron.  
Mr. Anderson

N 28 47

CRIM. - INTERNAL SECURITY SEC.

Hon. Thos. Black  
U. S. Attorney Gen.  
Washington, D. C.

RECEIVED  
JAN 30  
RECORDED

Dear Mr. Black:-

Wk  
7c

I want to commend you for ordering the re-arrest of Mildred Gillver, alias "Axis Sally". I trust you will push her prosecution vigorously. I cannot understand why we have seemed so loathe & slow in punishing our traitors. Has anyone been pulling strings in her behalf?

I had 4 out of 5 boys in service and we went thru hell to win the war God pity us if we had lost. This cheap specimen of an American (Jap) had the nerve to try & disrupt our forces. We should also bring to trial Ezra Bond, the "Jap American" Rose et al. Why the hesitation. I see from the newspapers that "Sally" is still preaching race prejudice. She should join up with Thalmadge & Bilbo. I am a native of Phila. Pa. but am taking a no. vacation in the  
Very truly yours.

TLC:VCW:DTJ

146-7-51-1708

W. C.

February 6, 1947

RECORDED

Your recent letter addressed to the Secretary of State has been referred to the Department of Justice.

The views expressed in your letter have been carefully noted.

W.C.  
7c

Respectfully,

~~SECRET~~

For the Attorney General

THELON L. CAUDLE  
Assistant Attorney General

UCW  
dd

INSP'TD AND MAILED  
COMMUNICATIONS SEC.  
FEB 7 1947 AJ

cc: Records  
Chron.  
Mr. Woerheide

1 ~~100~~ ~~100~~

TU

Hon. Charles  
Wagoner  
Sen. Miss.

RECEIVED  
FEB 09 1954  
CRIMINAL DIVISION

The release of this party

46  
7c

Would you be good enough to enlighten me as to how it became a fact that this party was released from American custody in Germany.

I understand he has since been taken into custody.

CRIMINAL DIVISION SECURITY SECTION

How is it possible that one proven guilty of treason can be released?  
I always thought that one guilty of treason ~~was~~ executed. Certainly, respect for American tradition is not enhanced by such action as this. The American people deserve an explanation.

Very truly yours,

1954

TLC:VCH:DTJ

February 24, 1947

146-7-51-1708

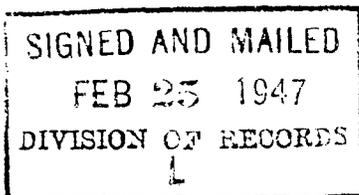
I wish to acknowledge receipt by the Department of Justice of copies of letters addressed to you by ~~SECRET~~  
concerning the making of certain recordings for broadcast purposes by a female employee of the German radio who has been identified as Midge or Madge, Axis Sally or Berlin Sally.

Your courtesy in forwarding this material to the Department of Justice is appreciated.

Respectfully,

For the Attorney General

THERON L. CAUDLE  
Assistant Attorney General



cc: Records ✓  
Chron.  
Mr. Woerheide

VCW  
aa

DREW PEARSON  
WASHINGTON MERRY-GO-ROUND  
1313 Twenty-ninth Street, Washington 7, D. C.

February 13, 1947

efio  
7c  
Mr. Victor Woerheide  
Criminal Division  
Justice Department  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Woerheide:

Mr. Pearson has asked me  
to send you the enclosed copy of  
a letter written to him by  
relating to Axis Sally.

Very sincerely,

(Secretary

TLC:VGV:DTJ

146-7-51-1708

March 4, 1947

B.H.F.

I wish to acknowledge your letter dated February 4, 1947, addressed to the Attorney General.

You may rest assured that your letter will be given full consideration.

246  
7C

Respectfully,

For the Attorney General

THON L. CAUDLE  
Assistant Attorney General

vcw  
sa

cc: Records  
Chron.  
Mr. Woerheide

INSPECTED AND MAILED  
COMMUNICATIONS SEC.  
MAR 4 1947 EC

Veterans of Foreign Wars



646  
7C

February 4, 1947.

Hon. Tom Clark,  
Attorney General of the U. S.  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:

It has come to the attention of this Post that some female who is referred to as "Axis Sally" is seeking admittance to the United States claiming citizenship on some grounds or other.

It is our request that you and members of your staff do what you can to prevent her entrance to this country, since acts reported to have been committed by her were definitely un-American and against all the aims of Democracy.

Sincerely yours, \_\_\_\_\_

B.L.B.

66-7-51-1701  
FEB 7 1947  
SIB

SIB

TLC:VCW:DTJ

146-7-51-1708

March 4, 1947

7-1-1947  
M.L.W.

I wish to acknowledge your letter dated February 15, 1947, addressed to the Attorney General.

The contents of your letter have been carefully noted and you may be assured that the resolution of your Post will be given full consideration.

46  
7c

Respectfully,

For the Attorney General

THERON L. CAUDLE  
Assistant Attorney General

VCW  
sdw

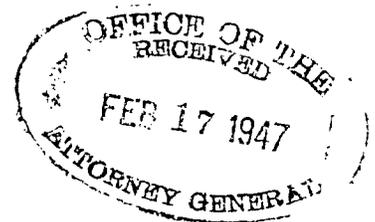
cc: Records \_\_\_\_\_  
Chron.  
Mr. Woerheide

RECEIVED AND MAILED  
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION  
MAR 4 1947 LC



February 15, 1947

Hon. Thomas C. Clark  
Attorney General  
Washington, 25, D. C.



My dear Attorney General:

There have recently appeared in many newspapers, articles to the effect that Mildred Gillars, known as Axis Sally, to most of the soldiers who participated in World War 2 in the European Theatre of Operations, was being permitted to return to the United States, as an American Citizen.

Since her actions during the War have been treasonable by reason of her avowed attempts to destroy the morale of our soldiers, hence to give aid and comfort to the enemy, our Post has passed a resolution on February 12, 1947, urging you to institute proceedings to have her charged with treason so that she may be permitted to return to this country solely to stand trial on such charges.

446  
7c

A communication has been addressed to General George C. Marshall, urging him to direct the American Consul in Frankfurt not to issue her a passport, and it is hoped that both of you will take appropriate action.

Respectfully yours.

R.L.E.

146

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RECEIVED

✓

TLC:VCW:dtj

146-7-51-1708

B. V. L.

March 12, 1947

File  
146  
11

RECORDED

Mr. Walter Winchell  
New York Daily Mirror  
235 East 45th Street  
New York 17, New York

Dear Mr. Winchell:

I wish to thank you for your letter signed  
by your secretary, dated February 10, 1947,  
enclosing a copy of excerpts from a letter sent to you  
by of the Vocal-Letter Communication  
System, Inc.

4/6  
70

We have a copy of catalogue and  
are aware that he has in his possession certain record-  
ings of broadcasts made by the German Shortwave Radio.

As you know, recordings of all enemy broadcasts  
were also made throughout the war by the Foreign Broad-  
cast Intelligence Service of the Federal Communications  
Commission. These recordings are, of course, available  
to the Department of Justice.

Your cooperation in forwarding  
letter to this Department is appreciated.

VCW  
pa

Respectfully,

For the Attorney General

THERON L. CAUDLE  
Assistant Attorney General

cc: Records -  
Chron.  
Mr. Woerheide

*Wainwright - see writing  
this 50 pages  
attached*

February 10, 1947

Hon. Tom Clark  
Attorney General  
United States Department of Justice  
Washington, D. C.

RECEIVED  
MAR 4 - 1947  
COMM. DIVISION

RECEIVED  
MAR 4 1947  
COMM. DIVISION

*4/6  
7c*

Dear Sir:

Enclosed you will find a copy of self-explanatory excerpts from a letter sent to Mr. Wainchell of the Vocal-Letter Communication System, Inc. of Hartford, Connecticut.

We thought you might be interested.

Sincerely yours,

For Walter Wainchell

Enc.

*1 case added*

TLC:DA:DTJ

146-7-51-1708

L.M.E.

May 5, 1947

46  
7C  
This will acknowledge your letter of April 26, 1947, pertaining to Mildred Elizabeth Gillars, popularly known as "Axis Sally."

The War Department is and has been cooperating with us in this matter. We appreciate your interest and your having written us about this case.

Respectfully,

For the Attorney General

THELON L. CAUDLE  
Assistant Attorney General

cc: Records  
Chron.  
Mr. Anderson  
Mr. Folsom

MAY 6 1947



RECEIVED

April 26, 1947

Department of Justice

RECEIVED

Washington, D.C.

APR 29 1947

APR 30 1947

Gentlemen:

CRIMINAL DIVISION

CRIMINAL DIVISION

It has been brought to the attention of this Post through the press and otherwise that your department has been seeking the prosecution of a certain person known during the European Campaign as " Axis Sally ". It is understood that the War Department is not in accord with your wishes and is contemplating the pardoning of her actions.

*ef*  
*7c* We of the American Legion, possibly better than anyone else, know what this person did to our troops during the fighting in Europe and the effect that she had upon a great many of our number there. We might suggest that the War Department give more attention to the pleas of many young fellows of excellent character who are now trying to have discharges reviewed.

This Post wishes to commend your department for your stand in this matter and to wish you every success.

Yours Very Truly.

RECORD

146-7-51-1708
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
APR 29 1947
DIVISION OF RECORDS
CRIM - INTERNAL SECURITY SEC

*L.M.D.*

TLC:JMK:tms

146-7-51-1708

6  
June 13, 1947

Your letter of June 6, 1947, addressed to the President, with respect to protests of veterans' organizations in your community concerning the alleged return of "Axis Sally" to the United States has been referred to this Department and your statements have been duly noted.

446  
7c  
Mildred E. Gillars is the person most commonly known as Axis Sally. 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.

JMK  
DA  
There was a broadcaster in Italy named Rita Zucca, who was also sometimes called Axis Sally. 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 E. Gillars is in jail and Rita Zucca has expatriated herself. As far as I know neither of these women are being allowed to come to the United States.

Respectfully,

For the Attorney General,

THERON L. CAUDLE,  
Assistant Attorney General.

Mr. J.M. Kelley, Jr. — Rm. 2315

Records ✓

Chrono.

RECEIVED

2 1947

DIVISION



June 6, 1947 THE WHITE HOUSE

JUN 7 11 46 AM '47

RECEIVED

*[Handwritten signature]*

The Honorable Harry S. Truman  
President of the United States  
Washington, D. C.

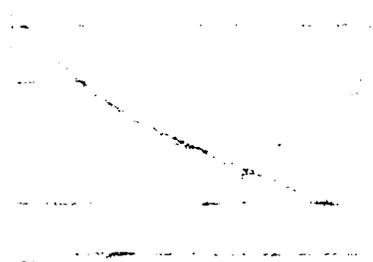
My Dear Mr. President:

*6/6  
7c*

Feeling is running high at the possibility of "Axis Sally" being permitted to reenter the United States. All of the veterans organizations in this community are opposed to her being given permission to reenter and I understand that they have voiced their opposition in telegrams to you.

I, too, want to voice my opposition, having in mind the attitude of "Axis Sally", -out of respect for our heroes during the war.

Cordially yours,



TVO:JMK:tms

44-7-51-1708

December 9, 1947

RECORDS

32

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

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

EWG  
7C

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

The Department of Justice is unable to state whether or not columnist [redacted] 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.

Hamlin  
1/2  
1/2  
1/2

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.

RECEIVED AND MAILED  
COMMUNICATIONS  
DEC 10 1947

VINCENT QUINN,  
Assistant Attorney General.



NOVEMBER 20, 1947

John M. Kelley  
Special Ass't Attorney General  
Attorney General's Office  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Kelley:

Earlier this year I talked to you in your office regarding the investigation you were making of Mildred Gillars, known as the Nazi "Axis Sally."

I told you at that time that the two million members of the Veterans of Foreign Wars were interested in knowing whether Mildred Gillars was to be prosecuted as a traitor to her native country, the United States, or if she was to be released from custody in Germany, retain her full American citizenship rights and possibly get a visa with which she might return to the United States.

You described many details of the case to me and assured me that every possible step was being taken to convict Mildred Gillars on a treason charge.

846  
7c

Since the first of this month the Department of Americanism, Veterans of Foreign Wars, has received several letters from members of our organization asking if radio commentator and columnist William L. Shirer was correct when he reported recently that "charges against Donald Day, former Chicago Tribune correspondent, and Mildred Gillars, known to ETO troops as 'Axis Sally' were dropped on instructions from the Department of Justice."

Shirer went on to say that "lack of evidence" is the reason given by the Department of Justice, despite the fact that "these Americans, Axis Sally in particular, had defended what they had done and even boasted of it."

*File  
pending*

The Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States is on record as opposed to the release of Mildred Gillars and we would like to know if William L. Shirer's report is correct. If so, please tell us what lack of evidence clears her name.

146-7-51-170  
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
DEC 10 1947  
CRIMINAL DIVISION

Sincerely yours

CRIMINAL DIVISION  
INTERNAL SECURITY SEC.  
B. P.

146-7-51-170D

RECORDED

TVQ:JMK:tms

146-7-51-1703

S. L. B.

RECORD

January 16, 1948

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

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

JAN 19 1948

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by  
PKV

- 2 -

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.

RECEIVED

JAN 27 1948

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

January 24, 1948

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

~~SECRET~~

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.

ef 6  
7c

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,

A. W.

146-7-51-1708
RECEIVED
JAN 27 1948

File  
J. W. J.

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

## Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Nathan T. Elliff, Chief,  
Internal Security Section

FROM : Victor C. Woerheide

SUBJECT: Mildred E. Gillars  
Treason

DATE: February 6, 1947

VON:jw  
146-7-51-1708file  
100-I. Broadcasting Activity.

The activities of Mildred Elizabeth Gillars for the German Radio during the time the United States was at war with Germany can be briefly summarized as follows:

Prior to the fall of 1943, Miss Gillars participated primarily in programs of the "Europa Transmitter" beamed to the British Isles. Her duties were those of an announcer introducing programs and an actress in dramatic and cabaret broadcasts.

In the latter part of 1942 or the early part of 1943, she participated in occasional special broadcasts made by the USA Zone and as time went on greater demands were made for her services by the USA Zone of the Short Wave Transmitter. In September 1943, after Dr. Otto Koischwitz of the Foreign Office had been placed in charge of the USA Zone of the Short Wave Radio he requested that Miss Gillars be transferred to its staff. Both Miss Gillars and the head of the Europa Transmitter were reluctant to consent to the transfer, but Dr. Koischwitz, backed by both the Foreign Office and the head of the Short Wave Transmitter, obtained a favorable ruling from the Foreign Director of the Radio. Miss Gillars continued as a broadcaster for the USA Zone until the German collapse in the spring of 1945.

Programs in which Miss Gillars participated, which were beamed either to the United States or to the American Forces in the Mediterranean area include the following:

1. Club of Notions, Smiling Through, Home Sweet Home. This series of broadcasts were cabaret programs. The series originated before the war and were continued into 1943. After the landing of American troops in Africa they were beamed to Africa as well as to the British Isles, America, South Africa and Australia. These broadcasts were made once a week. The dialogue consisted for the most part of jokes and parodies, often with some political implications. Miss Gillars was not one of the authors of the text of the broadcasts but merely read dialogue written by someone else.

2. Alice in Wonderland. A series of 10 broadcasts of satirical political dialogue concerning Russia. Miss Gillars had no

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responsibility for the text of the broadcasts but merely read lines written by another person.

3. Morocco Broadcasts. This broadcast, for the entertainment of American troops in North Africa, Sicily and Italy consisted of recorded music interspersed with light and serious comments. Miss Gillars generally spoke without a manuscript into the microphone and it may be inferred that the thoughts expressed were for the most part her own. The program was conceived and planned by Dr. Hoischwitz of the Foreign Office who supervised it rather closely for sometime, but later Miss Gillars carried on the program almost without supervision. The serious portions of Miss Gillars' talks on this program consisted of remarks of an anti-Semitic and anti-Communist nature and statements to the American soldiers that Germany was struggling to save Europe from the domination of the Communists and the Americans were fighting on the wrong side.

It should be noted that in the late winter of 1942-1943, a series of broadcasts were instituted from a German controlled "Battle Station" in Italy. One of the principal personalities in these broadcasts was a girl who was known by the name of "Sally", her true name being Rita Louise Zucca. Apparently there has been considerable confusion on the part of American soldiers who heard the broadcasts from Germany and Italy as to the identity of "Axis Sally". Many statements which have been attributed to "Axis Sally" were apparently not broadcast by Miss Gillars. Such statements included lewd or suggestive jokes, the revealing of troop dispositions, passwords and other military secrets, taunting remarks, etc. Witnesses affirm that such remarks were a feature of broadcasts made by the "Battle Station". They likewise affirm that Miss Gillars did not make such broadcasts. (Zucca, an Italian national, was prosecuted by the Italian authorities and convicted on a charge of collaboration with the Germans. It is reported that she has since been released on parole.)

4. Life and Fashions in Europe's Capitals. Miss Gillars made announcements and read dialogue on this series of broadcasts which dealt with cultural topics. She was not responsible for the text of the broadcasts. The purpose of these broadcasts was to show that cultural activities were continuing as normally as possible in the German occupied sectors of Europe.

5. Prisoner of War Greetings.

a. Direct broadcasts from Prisoner of War Camps. Miss Gillars visited camps in which American prisoners of war were interned and made recordings of greetings from American prisoners of war to their families in the United States. After the purpose for which the broadcasts were being made was explained to them, the American prisoners of war spoke voluntarily into a microphone in the presence of Miss Gillars. Miss Gillars introduced the speaker and occasionally made some comments in conversing with him concerning the horrors and wastefulness of war. Miss Gillars has denied, and there is no evidence to indicate, that recordings were made using a concealed microphone and without the knowledge of the war prisoners. This series of broadcasts started in November 1940 and continued at least through 1944. It is likely that in the event of Miss Gillars' prosecution, former American prisoners of the Germans would testify as above in her defense.

b. Reading messages written by the prisoners of war. The German military authorities informed American prisoners of war that if they desired to communicate with their families they could write a message on a prepared form and the message would be read over the short wave radio to the United States. Some of these messages were read by Miss Gillars who would intersperse comments of her own concerning the horrors of war and the human misery caused by it. A number of other women employed by the German radio likewise read these messages.

6. Dramatic Plays. Miss Gillars regularly played prominent or leading roles in the dramatic presentations of the German radio, of which there were a considerable number. The role for which she is most universally remembered by her former associates in the radio, was in a play written by Dr. Koischwitz shortly prior to the Allied invasion of the French coast. The play concerned the reaction of an American mother who dreamed that she saw her soldier son approaching the coast of France on an invasion barge and saw him drown after the barge was sunk in the landing attempt. Gillars played the role of the American mother and gave such a dramatic performance that allegedly the entire audience and Gillars herself were literally overcome with emotion.

II. Intent.

Miss Gillars' present attitude is that she has never been disloyal to the United States, that she was doing a favor to the American soldiers and their families in broadcasting the soldiers' messages back home, and she still is firmly convinced that the Jews were responsible

for the war and that Germany in fighting against Russia was right and that America in fighting as an ally of Russia against Germany was wrong. It is apparently her view that Germany did not desire to wage war against the United States, but in combating American forces was merely defending itself against aggression by American armies which were acting pursuant to the orders of a government which was the tool and dupe of the Jews and Communists. In her written statement dated April 15, 1946, prepared for Mr. Victor C. Weerheide, after her arrest in Germany, Miss Gillars admitted her broadcasting activities and said:

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"I was convinced of the good I was trying to do-- whether I did it or not remains to be seen. In any case, as Hamlet said, 'there is nothing either good or bad, but thinking makes it so.' I thought at that time that I was rendering a service to the boys locked up behind barbed wire for the duration and to their women folks, worrying, waiting and weeping thousands of miles away in some little old American 'Home Town'. I was never more sincere about anything in my life and I must say, that given the same set of circumstances again, I would be bound to act in just the same way. There are probably plenty of people who will claim that I did what I did for money. That is not true. I am said to have been the highest-paid person at the German Rundfunk. It is very possibly right. But the payment was only a necessary evil or pleasure, any way you want to take it."

That this statement is not entirely a pose designed to produce an effect is illustrated by the following incident which has been fully verified. In the latter part of 1944, when the American prisoner of war named \_\_\_\_\_ came to work for the USA Zone of the German Radio, Miss Gillars was asked to make some broadcasts from prisoner of war camps with him. She refused to do so and when the radio authorities persisted in their request she resigned, stating that \_\_\_\_\_ was either a traitor or a spy and she refused to work with either. Miss Gillars did not resume her work until approximately two months later when \_\_\_\_\_ had left the USA Zone.

When interrogated by Mr. Samuel C. Ely on April 2 and 3, 1946, Miss Gillars was asked concerning her concept of the war and the nature of her remarks concerning it as recorded for radio broadcasts. The transcript of the questions and answers reveals that during the interrogation she stated that in her prisoner of war messages broadcasts she "didn't leave much unsaid about the Jewish promoters of the war". In response to a question to the effect that she felt the best thing that could happen would be for Germany to win the war she replied, "It is

just complicated. It is a good thing for people to lose in life and I think it is a good thing for nations to lose in life. It is what develops character." In response to an inquiry as to her reasons for broadcasting she replied, "I never considered a war between America and Germany. If it had been a question of Germany's being an enemy invading America, there never would have been a question in my mind. I would certainly have been on America's side. But it was never that kind of war. It was a war between the Gentiles and the Jews." . . . "It was never a war between Germany and America as far as I was concerned." . . . "I was trying to open their eyes to see what they were fighting for. You will see later. I am convinced of being on the right side. It will be only a question of time before others will agree with me."

During the interrogation above mentioned, Mr. Ely showed Miss Gillars several written transcripts purportedly of her broadcasts which had been monitored by the Federal Communications Commission. These transcripts contained statements to the effect that the German side was the right side, the war was essentially one between Jews and Gentiles rather than between Germany and America, Roosevelt and Churchill were tools of the Jews, and American youths were needlessly being killed and maimed for the benefit of the Jewish cause. On several of these purported transcripts Miss Gillars made notations to the effect that she recalled the broadcasts in substance and with the further notations that some statements were not exactly as she had made them.

Miss Gillars' associates at the radio who would be called upon to testify as government witnesses to prove her activities on behalf of the radio are in general accord as to her intent, her political views and her loyalty to the United States. They describe her as not being politically minded, of being pacifist in her views, and of being convinced that she was performing a needed and valuable humanitarian service to American prisoners and to their families in her prisoner of war programs, and of being convinced that the war was in fact a conflict between Jews and Gentiles, that there was no basis for a conflict between Germany and the United States, and that Americans, as dupes, were involved on the wrong side.

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of the Short Wave Radio, in a written statement prepared for Mr. Woerhaise, said: "Miss Gillars is a very artistically inclined person and disliked any contact with political matters." Orally, \_\_\_\_\_ stated that Miss Gillars regarded herself as a loyal American who was rendering a service to her fellow countrymen in broadcasts. He stated that she was extremely emotional by nature and undoubtedly did not give much thought to the manner in which her conduct would be regarded in the United States by acting in the way in which she sincerely believed was right under the circumstances.

of the  
Radio, when discussing Miss Gillars in the written statements which he prepared for Mr. Weerheide, said: "She had a particularly upright character. I do not know whether she relinquished her American citizenship. She always manifested a high regard and love for the United States and I have never heard her speak unfavorably regarding America. This mental attitude was particularly manifested by her deep and genuine indignation concerning the deserter."

in his written statement prepared for Mr. Weerheide, discussed Gillars as follows: "She was actuated by pacifist motives and impressed me as being deeply attached to the American people. Her activities were certainly never motivated by financial or other material considerations. She was a most independent character of unusual courage."

a high official of the Radio Political  
Division of the Foreign Office, in his report prepared for Mr. Weerheide, refers to Miss Gillars as follows:

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" \* \* \* She produced, generally in collaboration with Koischwitz, eye-witness accounts of life in P.W. camps, and took part in the broadcast-series, "Home Sweet Home". Miss Gillars was looked upon as "Axis Sally", but had a rival who allegedly was working at the military radio station "Victoria" in Italy. After Koischwitz's death she took care of his motherless daughters. As I too, looked out after them, Miss Gillars came to see me at my office several times, generally in the company of Koischwitz's oldest daughter (Beginning of 1945). At these occasions Miss Gillars once told me quite excitedly, that she had had a controversy with the radio people because they had asked her to work in the same room with an American deserter and traitor at Koenigswusterhausen. She considered this a degradation and would not let herself be placed on the same footing with a traitor. She had done her work at Radio Berlin as a woman and an opponent of war, as well as out of attachment to both Germany and the USA. She claimed to have never attacked the USA in her broadcast. This, at least, was pretty nearly the meaning of her words. I quieted her down and promised her to speak to the radio people, which I later did. To my recollection the controversy finally was settled in accordance with Miss Gillar's wishes. I have the impression that her remarks actually presented her inner convictions."

who had intimate contact with Miss Gillars at the radio, in a statement prepared for the C.I.C. which she later confirmed to Mr. Woerheide said: "All of her programs followed more or less the same pattern of talking directly to American soldiers trying to get them homesick and dissatisfied in general. She once tried to inject political remarks ('Why are you fighting this war anyway?') but discouraged this practice as being out of place in this type of broadcast, and so it was given up."

It is interesting to note that after the invasion of France by the American forces a number of so-called "Battle Stations" were set up in the field for the purpose of broadcasting directly to the Allied troops. These were operated by the SS, but were affiliated with the German radio setup. It was decided by the highest officials of the radio to transfer Miss Gillars to the staff of these "Battle Stations". The radio officials felt that Miss Gillars' talents could be used most effectively by making direct broadcasts to the troops over these "Battle Stations". Miss Gillars, for motives which have never been clearly explained, refused to accede to the requests of the radio authorities. The authorities thereupon put considerable pressure upon her, threatening her with some punitive measures if she did not agree to the transfer. However, Miss Gillars was adamant in her refusal and the proposed transfer was dropped without retributive action being taken against her.

It may also be worthy of notice that Miss Gillars' career prior to her commencing the series of Morocco broadcasts in January 1943, indicated no particular awareness or interest on her part concerning political problems. Her career had been that of a not too successful vaudeville performer in the United States and a fairly successful radio actress and announcer in Germany. About the time Miss Gillars came to the USA Zone she developed a very close relationship with Dr. Otto Koischwitz of the German Foreign Office and it appears that she may have acquired from him most of the ideas of a political nature which she included in her broadcasts.

Following the German collapse, Miss Gillars obtained false papers from Hans Fritsche, head of the Foreign Press Section of the Propaganda Ministry, who was later tried and acquitted at Ruernberg. Miss Gillars used these false papers to conceal her true identity and traveled throughout all Germany until her apprehension in Berlin. When asked by Mr. Woerheide concerning the reason for which she did this, she stated that she realized that her employment by the radio might be regarded by the American authorities as similar to that of various British subjects who had already been tried and convicted of treason in the British courts and that she desired to avoid such a fate.

In conclusion, it is worth noting that Miss Gillars is an emotionally unstable and somewhat hysterical type of individual. She appears to be mentally responsible, but has such lack of control over her emotional reactions that it is difficult if not impossible to discuss certain matters with her. The officials of the radio, and all prospective witnesses interviewed, uniformly described her to Mr. Woorheide as "hysterical." However, an Army psychologist, after examining her, stated that in his opinion she was legally sane.

### III. Overt Acts and Witnesses.

#### A. Overt Acts

On the basis of the statements which have been obtained previously it would be possible at this time to allege specific overt acts of making recordings by Miss Gillars. These are as follows:

1. Sometime after August of 1943 Gillars was recording a program in the studio of Koanigwusterhausen when her work was interrupted by an air raid alarm. a technician, and a supervising engineer, both recall this incident and also recollect that the other was present. executed a signed statement setting forth his information for Mr. Kly, and corroborated it orally to Mr. Kly. This assertion was also corroborated orally to Mr. Woorheide by both witnesses.

2. Prior to the invasion of Europe by Allied Forces in June of 1944, Miss Gillars recorded a dramatic sketch in which she played the role of an American mother who had a vision of her son losing his life in an invasion attempt.

orally stated to Mr. Woorheide and Mr. Kly on separate occasions that they played minor roles in this play and were present at the time Miss Gillars made her part of the recording and remembered it particularly because of the dramatic effect of her performance.

likewise are able to testify concerning this incident.

3. A former American soldier who was held in a German Prisoner of War Camp in Poland has written to the Department stating that Miss Gillars, a German professor who spoke excellent English, and a radio technician visited the prison camp where he was being held and asked the soldiers to record messages to be broadcast to the United States. The prisoners refused to do so and Miss Gillars left after expressing dissatisfaction with their refusal. The informant wrote that he will be able to produce corroborative witnesses concerning this incident. The Criminal Division is requesting the FBI to investigate his report.

Because it was not possible, under the conditions which prevailed in Europe during the first six months of 1946, to bring scattered witnesses together for the purpose of having them refresh each other's recollections of former incidents in which Miss Gillars was involved, it was not possible to obtain further statements by two witnesses concerning the same event etc. However, the persons who were associated with Miss Gillars at the radio have a vivid recollection of her and of many of the things that she did, and there is every expectation that when such persons are brought together they will be able to recollect a number of specific instances upon which they can agree when Gillars made recordings, obtained material for use in her broadcasts, discussed her work with officials of the radio or made arrangements necessary for her work.

B. Witnesses

The following persons can testify concerning the activities performed by Miss Gillars on behalf of the German radio:

German Radio.

of the

stated to Mr. Voorheide that he had frequent contact with Miss Gillars since she frequently contacted him when she had a problem or some difficulty at the radio.

made the decision which resulted in the transfer of Miss Gillars from her position with the Bremen transmitter of the Europe Station to the USA Zone of the Short Wave Station in the latter part of 1943. When Miss Gillars resigned at the end of 1944 in protest against being asked to work with the American prisoner-of-war, persuaded her to resume her broadcasting.

of the USA Zone.

stated to Mr. Voorheide that in his capacity as of the USA Zone he had considerable personal contact with Miss Gillars, who came to him to discuss any problems which arose in her work. He had a part in making the various decisions which affected Miss Gillars' work including her transfer from the German European stations to the USA Zone of the Short Wave Station in late 1943, also her assignment to specific programs, etc. Miss Gillars' programs

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included "Ridge at the Mils," "Home Sweet Home" and the prisoner of war greetings program. furnished  
prisoner of war messages to Miss Gillars which she read in some of her broadcasts. At first he gave her these messages indirectly through Dr. Katschka, but later gave the messages directly to Miss Gillars. obtained  
these messages from the German High Command and after they had been recorded he returned them to the military authorities to verify the fact that they had been used. stated  
that he often gave these prisoner of war messages to Miss Gillars in the presence of other witnesses who are available, including

and it is likely that over a six month period these incidents can be developed when the witnesses are brought together.

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All also testify concerning Miss Gillars' resignation when asked to make broadcasts with and her subsequent return to work after was no longer actively connected with the IMA Zone of the Radio. Miss Gillars' dismissal with both her departure and her return to work.

Station. } of the Short Wave Radio

stated to Mr. Voorheide that Miss Gillars frequently came to discuss with him any problems or difficulties which she had concerning the radio. He helped to arrange for her transfer to the German Short Wave Stations from the German European Stations, and approved the arrangements which were made for her broadcasts. asserted that the German High Command made the arrangements whereby Miss Gillars visited prisoner of war camps for the purpose of recording messages by the prisoners for broadcast to the United States. stated that Miss Gillars likewise came to see him both at the time she resigned in protest against being asked to work with and upon her subsequent return to the radio station.

Zone under of the USA

stated to Mr. Voorheide that he was responsible for the political censorship of Miss Gillars' broadcasts. He would listen to play-backs of her recordings before they were broadcast to be sure that they conformed to the current political directives. stated that prisoner

of war messages which received from the German High Command for broadcasting purposes were sometimes turned over to him by [redacted] and he in turn gave them to Miss GILLIAR, generally in the presence of [redacted] sometimes they were given to [redacted] who gave them to Miss GILLIAR in [redacted] presence and sometimes they were given directly to Miss GILLIAR by [redacted] in the presence of [redacted] and possibly also of [redacted]

[redacted] stated that Miss GILLIAR threatened to resign if ordered to make broadcasts with [redacted] at the end of 1944, or the beginning of 1945. She was ordered to make the broadcasts and carried out her threat. The radio officials decided to withdraw Miss GILLIAR's special rations and other privileges but [redacted] cannot say definitely that this decision was put into execution. After some lapse of time, when [redacted] was no longer closely associated with the USA Zone, Miss GILLIAR returned and asked to be reinstated to her former position. Her request was granted.

to October 19, 1944.

of the USA Zone prior

[redacted] stated to Mr. Weerhede that for a considerable period of time he was responsible for the political censorship of Miss GILLIAR's broadcasts and listened to many of her recordings for the purpose of carrying out this responsibility. He can testify in substance as to the nature of her remarks as broadcast over the radio. He will state that he saw her make a number of recordings in the presence of other people including several "Guns West Zone" broadcasts, German broadcasts, etc. [redacted] can also testify concerning the arrangements made for Miss GILLIAR to visit prisoners of war camps with Dr. Kolshubke for the purpose of interviewing American prisoners for broadcast purposes. [redacted] further recalls having seen Miss GILLIAR participate in recording the radio drama concerning the invasion of western Europe mentioned above.

Empire Zone.

[redacted] statement prepared for Mr. Weerhede contains the following information concerning GILLIAR: "Escentric's American who did my broadcasts. Was considered top-ranker by the authorities and was generally believed also best paid woman in Bundfunk. I last saw her at Koenigsmaerthausen. I do not know where she is now."

of the USA Zone of the Short Wave Radio.

Editing Office

stated to Mr. Koerbelde that he saw Miss Gillars frequently in the office of the Head of the USA Zone where she came to discuss her work, arrange recording time or obtain material for her broadcasts. He asserted that he saw her on such occasions with

\_\_\_\_\_ of the USA Zone.

The following statement prepared by \_\_\_\_\_ for Mr. Koerbelde is quoted in detail because it gives a fairly comprehensive view of the activities of Miss Gillars for the USA Zone of the Radio:

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Mrs. Gillars visited Kirt as an announcer at the German Europa Station. In the course of time she was also taken over by us for broadcasts since she was particularly gifted as an actress. Thus, she participated in the broadcasts of Mr. Schotte, 'Voice of Moscow' and 'Smiling Through.' Likewise, in a broadcast of a Woman's Radio, 'Widge at the Wheel,' and in broadcasts to American troops in Morocco. With the growth of the various fronts these broadcasts were further developed. The weekly broadcast 'Home Sweet Home,' which was directed by Dr. Katschitz, was added. She made the broadcasts to the troops without a manuscript. It became a routine matter in course of time, she did them in advance and often made four to six broadcasts at one time, however the time in the technical section permitted. It was the same to her whether she could make three recordings late in the evening or even Sunday, only not in the early morning hours. During these recordings she was always 'on the beam,' and made them with an ease which I have often wondered about to myself. In addition to these recordings she later had to read short greetings from American prisoners of war to their relatives in America, as well as hospital reports concerning wounded American soldiers who lay in Germany. These letters and reports came from the Army High Command and sometimes in very large numbers. These broadcasts, too, Mrs. Gillars made mostly in advance. She developed substantially in her accomplishments. It finally came about that she was to work solely for the Short Wave Station which those at the German Europa Station naturally did not like and did not want to permit, and caused particular difficulty during the evacuation of the various stations. She decided in favor of the German Overseas Station and came along to Koening-ruetherhausen. I must also mention that Mrs. Gillars now and

then was enlisted to visit American prisoners of war camps with Dr. Katschmidt to collect material for broadcasts, greetings which the soldiers themselves spoke. She seemed to be able to work well with Dr. Katschmidt. As head of the USA Zone he definitely had a more engaging way of getting along with the commentators than Dr. Schette. When, shortly after the transfer of a German Overseas Station, the wife of Dr. Katschmidt died in an air attack while lying in a hospital, Mrs. Gillars, in an exemplary, friendly manner, looked after the children and Dr. Katschmidt and I believe there developed from this a deeper friendship. Dr. Katschmidt understood how to exploit fully her abilities; thus, in my opinion, she delivered her best performance in a radio play that Professor Katschmidt had written personally, 'Invasion Front.' As a result of a brief, severe illness, Dr. Katschmidt died, just on the day of his funeral Mrs. Gillars came back from France. She was naturally very shocked by this news; however, maintained a courageous front and continued with her work. Taken all in all, she was somewhat capricious and apparently became somewhat more so as a result of her success. We got along well together although she frequently caused us headaches through cancellation or alteration of her recordings. In her work, however, she was utterly dependable and when she had to come nights to the station she did not miss her broadcast. She is supposed to have been the last one at the station, to make her broadcast directly, when all others had already flown. Yet, it is characteristic that Mrs. Gillars refused to do her work when she heard of Wietzmann's She would not work with a deserter. She stayed in Berlin at this time and came back only after several weeks. At first, Mr. von Richter kept the material for the greetings broadcasts for Mrs. Gillars in his desk, later Mr. Kowben. It was often times given to me by Mr. von Richter or often (later) by Mr. Kowben. Mr. Kowben reserved for himself the supervision of this toward the end. So far as I know, these greetings came from the Army High Command, Chief Government Advisor Wunsche, I do not know how it was sent. Mrs. Gillars came to me which she needed greetings for her broadcasts. I requested Mr. von Richter or Mr. Kowben to give me a pile, then I would pass this on to Mrs. Gillars. In case she had her recording after the close of work, I either placed them in an envelope, wrote on it 'For Mrs. Gillars' and gave it to the Head on duty at the Technical Operations Office, Kowalk, Mallias, etc., and I had arranged with Mrs. Gillars that she would find it there, or we agreed upon a place in our office, on top of the roll cabinet. After the recording, she needed approximately seven greetings for one broadcast, she mailed these greetings with

the date of the day of recording and laid them for us at my place. I had to collect them and send them at intervals of several weeks, 5-6, to the Foreign Office. I do not know what happened to them then.

"I saw Mrs. Gillars, according to how her recordings were, at least twice a week. She made her Moscow broadcasts at first with Dr. Hase and then with Mr. Pitts, now and then with Mr. Miller in Koedlgemusterhausen. I believe that from 1943 Mrs. Gillars worked exclusively for the German Overseas Station after the evacuation to Koedlgemusterhausen.

"After reading the part of [redacted] statement in which he describes the way he received and passed on the material for Mildred Gillars' broadcasts, I recall that I was present when he came over to our office and gave the messages from the American prisoners of war to Miss Gillars personally. I recollect that on one occasion when Miss Gillars asked for some more material, I crossed the hall to [redacted] office and as he was just ready to leave, he went back to his desk while Mrs Gillars and I were waiting in the corridor in front of his open door. After a short time [redacted] came out of his office, handed Miss Gillars the material and then both went together towards the stairway while I went back into the zone office."

Empire Building Office.

stated to Mr. Wechsler that he inaugurated the broadcasting of messages by Allied prisoners of war in the first instance and took Miss Gillars with him to the prison camps to help make these recordings. At the time Miss Gillars was working for the Bremen Broadcasting Station and the prisoners interviewed were British airmen. These activities occurred about the year 1942, though it may have been somewhat earlier. After Miss Gillars moved to Koedlgemusterhausen in the Fall of 1943, she still made occasional broadcasts of the prisoners of war programs with [redacted] tried to arrange for the transfer of Miss Gillars to a "Battle Station" after the invasion of France, but she was adamant in her refusal to make this change.

Lead of the USA Zone.

Alli state that during the latter half of 1944, and until about 1945, she worked in the office of the USA Zone assisting [redacted]. She will state that she was present on a number of occasions when Miss Gillars came in to arrange for broadcasting time, to obtain material or to discuss business matters with the Zone Head.

Announcers who worked with Miss Gillars at the Bremen Transmitter in Berlin.

All stated to Mr. Koethelde, either in writing or orally, that they were present on a number of occasions when Gillars worked as an announcer on the Bremen Station and saw her performing this work while other persons were present. The above-named individuals would work on the same programs with Gillars as announcers and speakers and saw her very frequently up until the fall of 1943, when Gillars was transferred to the Short Wave Station.

Announcers and Speakers who worked with Miss Gillars at the Short Wave Transmitter in Koelngrustertshausen.

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[ ]  
Orally stated to Mr. Koethelde that they made recordings of radio programs with Miss Gillars reading announcements and prepared summaries. Similar statements were made to Mr. Ely by

Technicians and Engineers

Virtually all of the technicians who worked at the German Short Wave Station at Koelngrustertshausen between August 1943 and March or April of 1945 will state that they made a number of recordings of radio programs by Miss Gillars, and that on such occasions a co-worker was frequently present. The engineers state that they saw Miss Gillars arriving in the recording studio to ascertain in which room and with what technician she was to make a recording, sometimes saw her while she was making recordings with various technicians, and saw her leaving afterwards. In Berlin these technicians, who are numerous, were interrogated for the most part en masse and in the presence of their superiors at the Russian controlled radio. Elsewhere they were, for the most part, interrogated individually without being able to discuss past incidents with their former colleagues to refresh their mutual recollection. It is likely that under favorable circumstances a number of overt acts of making recordings on the part of Miss Gillars could be recalled by a number of the technicians and engineers, but this presupposes bringing them together informally and concentrating their full attention upon mutually recalling trivial incidents distinct

from the usual routine of their work. As yet, exact agreement by the technicians and engineers as to specific overt acts is lacking, excepting as indicated above.

IV. Recommendations.

In view of Miss Gillars' apparent emotional instability and her erratic behavior in the past, which leaves her mental competency open to serious question, the exculpatory quality of the available testimony concerning her intent, and the difficulties inherent in procuring additional evidence of overt acts, I recommend that the case against Miss Gillars be closed without taking prosecutive action.

FILE  
BY ~~W. M. H.~~  
On OCT 18 1947

Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation.

September 24, 1947

T. Vincent Quinn, Assistant Attorney General,  
Criminal Division.

TVQ:JMK:tms

MILDRED ELIZABETH GILLARS, was,  
"Axis Sally", Mildred Elizabeth Sisk;  
TREASON.

CORD

44-7-51-1708

S. L. B. *File*  
*1/11*

Reference is made to the report of dated  
August 20, 1945, at Washington, D. C., from which it is apparent that, throughout  
the war, it was customary for the British Broadcasting Company to interchange  
information with the Federal Communications Commission. The above report recites  
in part:

*Frank*

"BBC's latest report on Midge states:

"In the program of July 8, Midge's contribution was obviously  
a recording (for the first time) and on July 9 she spoke from the  
invasion front. Since that date, in her own broadcasts and those  
of her 'pinch-hitters', the male colleague deputizing for her in  
Berlin - various announcements about her broadcasts have been made.  
The upshot is that 'each night from somewhere along the invasion  
front' the recording of her program is sent back to Berlin for her  
personal presentation of her 'Home Sweet Home' program. Her work  
on the invasion front is mainly recording interviews with U.S.  
prisoners.

*FC*  
*7c*

"'Home Sweet Home' program on June 29 introduced a song writ-  
ten by a U.S. prisoner, 'I Want a Blue-eyed Buddy', first read  
by Midge, then sung by Jack, accompanied by 'Dick and His Foot-  
warmers'.

"This song has since been used repeatedly in broadcasts of pris-  
oners' messages.

*jos*  
*17Q*

"In her 'Home Sweet Home' program of July 27, 'little old Midge'  
spoke of herself as a 'pacifist like Jill (another vocalist in the  
program) and all other women except Dorothy Thompson and that ilk'.  
If Miss Thompson was listening in, Midge hoped that she was satis-  
fied with the U.S. sacrifices. A lot more patter and songs with  
the 'surrender' motif led up to Midge's final: 'How about it, kids?  
You've been holding tight for long enough. Nobody would blame you  
for slipping a bit.'

"Midge also has been handling or taking part in broadcasts called  
the 'Doughboys' letter-box, which started on June 24, 1944, and have  
since been renamed 'The GI's letter-box' and now include the names  
of Canadian prisoners.

Mr. J.M. Kelley, Jr.

- Records ✓
- Chrono.
- Miss Hamlin
- Internal Security

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"In her broadcast on Medical Reports on June 8, 1944, after giving one report, Midge said: 'You will see him after the war in all probability. I say so because of the air raids on Germany which are in no way confined to military objectives'.

"During the absence of Midge, at which time she was at the invasion front, a woman calling herself Marjorie Allen read the Medical Reports and messages.

"Midge started a new series of interviews with U.S. prisoners on August 2, 1944. The first message was announced as having been recorded in a German officers' barracks near Paris and others were said to have been recorded at a gathering of prisoners in a meadow behind the barracks. Midge promised that her programs would be 'rolling along to Berlin' as fast as she could send them. She said she was living a dangerous life on the invasion front, but doing her best for U.S. wives and mothers.

"In the Berlin preview of August 5, 1944, it was announced that broadcasts by Midge from the invasion front would be given on Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday. These recordings, allegedly made at the front, were presented by Berlin's announcer who identifies himself as 'Your Nazi Commentator'. He introduced them by saying: 'For the first time, the German Overseas Service is able to arrange a permanent prisoner of war schedule exclusively from one theatre of the war. The song, 'I Want A Blue-Eyed Buddy, I Want A. C. I. Girl' is the 'trademark of these broadcasts'.

"In the 'Home Sweet Home' broadcast of August 12, 1944, Midge confided that she was on her weekly return visit to Berlin and told how some of her recordings, made at the front, had been lost on one occasion, when, she said, the cars carrying them were machine-gunned by U.S. aircraft in France.

"Midge broadcasts as Sally in a Berlin broadcast to American Expeditionary Forces at 1500, EST, and takes part in a series of broadcasts during weekday evenings at various times after 9:15 PM, etc."

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28th December 1944

"RILLARD GILLARS: 'MIDGE' 'SALLY'

(Extracts from BBC Monitoring Service Notes on the German Overseas Service)

PROGRAMME FOR THE AMERICAN EXTRACTIONARY FORCES IN ITALY AND THE  
MEDITERRANEAN THEATRE (30 minutes, daily in English 20:00  
EC only)

"This programme was first presented on Christmas Eve 1942 and regularly since.

Except Thursdays, the programme opens with a news bulletin. Midge then presents a series of dance tunes and songs with all her powers of bitter-sweet sentiment, nostalgia, insidious intimacy and, above all, the constant passionate harping on 'the Jewish war'. From the first appearance of this daily feature Midge has insisted that she is a 100 per cent American girl (and that the American soldiers are 'on the wrong side of the fence'). She has since confessed to being part Irish. She was first named on 27th April 1943, as 'little old Midge'. The German European Service named her MILDR D GILLARD on 13 November 1943. Since 1st May 1944 (when the American Hour began) she has also been nick-named 'Axis Sally' while a talk on 1st June emphasized that, despite many imitators, she is the only genuine 'Axis Sally'. She is also active in a similar feature on the German European Service and in prisoner transmissions.

Daily, except Monday, Midge reads messages at 03:15, 08:15, and health reports at 04:15, both for North America, the duration varying from five to fifteen minutes. Midge was also responsible for two long series of special broadcasts: (a) messages recorded by her in a camp on Halloween 1943 and broadcast subsequently as 'Christmas Bells', with many repeats, (b) recordings of her interview with American pilots in camp, broadcast as 'Easter Bells' starting 3rd April, also with many repeats.

Midge is a striking example of the use of an American girl in the Overseas Service. Announcers and speakers frequently pay tribute to her hard work in the interest of the American forces, particularly for the benefit of prisoners. Several talks have been devoted to eulogies of Midge on Thursdays when her musical programme is not presented. In many ways it is clear that she is regarded as a particularly valuable member of the Overseas staff.

"During her 18 months' service she has been absent on only three occasions. In her direct contact with prisoners the dangerously insidious nature of her appeal is obvious - the men's easy response to her quips and familiarities suggests that she would have little difficulty in securing replies to intelligence points which at times she raises casually but immediately and discreetly

quashes herself.

From the foregoing, it is evident that the BBC has in its files considerable material relating to the subject that might be of value to the instant investigation. By virtue of the distance involved and because of adverse atmospheric conditions most of the Memovox recordings made in this country are of poor audible quality. Many of the FCC phonographic recordings are so affected by static or the voice is so inaudible as to render the records unsuitable as evidence. As in the case of the phonographic recordings, many of the written transcriptions of such programs are fragmentary and incoherent.

It is, accordingly, requested that an effort be made to secure from the BBC, to the fullest extent possible, copies of material in its files relating to broadcasts made by the subject. It is particularly desired to secure at the outset copies of the written transcriptions of all of the subject's broadcasts monitored in England and noted in the BBC memorandum quoted above and to determine at the same time whether or not phonographic recordings of good audible quality of any or all of said broadcasts might ultimately be made available to this government if it should appear that the same would be of value in the event of prosecution. Phonographic recordings of the subject's broadcasts directed to the United States Armed Forces should be admissible in evidence even though recorded in England, provided a competent witness from the BBC were available to testify to their authenticity and to the circumstances obtaining at the time such phonographic recordings were made. The FCC did not record any of subject's programs which were beamed directly to the AFM in Europe and, therefore, we are not in possession of any physical evidence demonstrating her activities in this particular connection.

In the latter part of January 1944 the subject visited a prisoner-of-war camp and recorded a series of messages spoken by certain American fliers who were shot down over Berlin on January 11, 1944. These recorded messages were utilized by the subject in a series of programs entitled "The Battle of Brunswick," which were beamed to the USA on January 23, 1944 at 21:30; January 25, 1944 at 19:15; January 27, 1944 at 23:30; January 31, 1944 at 21:30, and on February 1, 1944 at 19:15 (all times given are GMT—G.W.T.). The subject's comments made during the course of these programs are insidiously keyed to the German propaganda line and it is believed that her activities in this particular connection may be made the basis of charging a specific overt act of treason, provided, that an audible phonographic recording of any of said programs can be obtained. While the FCC made phonographic recordings of these programs they are of such poor audible quality as to be useless for evidentiary purposes.

It is, accordingly, requested that if the BBC is in possession of phonographic recordings of any of the programs last hereinbefore referred to, every effort

should be made to obtain a duplicate phonographic recording thereof [transcriptions to be made at the standard VCA speed of 33 $\frac{1}{2}$  RPM—or in the alternative but second in preference—at 78 RPM], and that such duplicate recordings be forwarded to the Criminal Division at the earliest date and by the speediest means possible.

A similar request is made for a duplicate phonographic recording of the subject's "Home, Sweet Home" program broadcast on July 27, 1944 (see reference to this program in the quoted portion of EBC memorandum set forth earlier herein). It is understood that this program was broadcast at 15:00 hours to the United States Armed Forces, and was repeated in a later broadcast to the USA at 21:30, (USA—S.W.T.). As in the case mentioned above the FCC phonographic recording of this program is of such poor audible quality as to be useless for evidentiary purposes.