

May 1942

MILLSPAUGH, Mary MacDonnell

This case originated through the receipt of information in February 1942 that the Subject, a civilian employee of the Bureau of Ordnance, was known to have entertained numerous Japanese and to have had some connection with the Japanese Embassy.

In view of the implications, a very extensive investigation was undertaken by the Office of Naval Intelligence. Subject's duties in the Bureau of Ordnance were in connection with all of the confidential and restricted files. Her Commanding Officer stated that she liked a lot of luxury and that while he knew of no subversive tendencies, he would not be too surprised if he learned that the Subject could be tempted to divulge information for her personal gain.

From an employee of the Spanish Embassy, who handled details on the Japanese desk at that place, it was ascertained that the Subject had come to the Embassy in April 1942 seeking information on the method of communicating with a Japanese Officer interned at Hot Springs, Virginia. A message was finally left with the informant which the Subject stated was a birthday greeting to this Japanese Officer who was described as a "good friend". The Subject evidenced much interest in the probability of a reply and asked that she be notified away from the Navy Department in the event such was forth coming. The message was addressed to Capt. Ichiro Yokoyama, the former Japanese Naval Attache who was regarded as the Chief of the Japanese Espionage System in the United States. Early in May 1942, the Subject again contacted the informant and made arrangements to send a farewell message to the Captain. She again evidenced feelings of close friendship for the Japanese and a desire to learn all about when they would be repatriated, etc.

Other information regarding the Subject was received from a former neighbor who knew the family well. This individual recalled that the family had three Japanese naval officers as roomers prior to and during the famous Farnsworth Trial of three years previous. At that time, the informant's son, who had been one of the attorneys in the Farnsworth case, advised the Subject to get rid of her Japanese roomers. This advice was followed but the Subject always defended the Japanese in any conversation with her neighbors. Other neighbors reported similar suspicions concerning the Subject and remarked about the fact that there was a strong social tie between the Japanese and the Subject.

Information developed was submitted to the Bureau of Ordnance and the Civilian Personnel Office of the Department. The Office of Naval Intelligence was informed that the Subject was discharged pursuant to Public Law 671 effective 23 May 1942, at which time she had been suspended from duty pending the final decision in her case.

Declassified in her case Downgrade to
Auth: EO 12958
Date: 17 SEP 98 Unit: NPTS 22

UNCLASSIFIED

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

B-3-C
DECLASSIFIED
Authority NND 73643