

LAURAINGALLS ARRESTED

AS NAZI AGENT

Laura Ingalls Jailed in D. C. As Nazi Agent

FBI Accuses Flier Of Propagandizing In Pay of Reich

Laura Ingalls, diminutive aviatrix

who thrilled America with her air exploits during the thirties, was lodged in the District Jail last night accused of being an unregistered German agent.

Federal Bureau of Investigation agents, who arrested the 38-year-old flier here on Wednesday, asserted that she had engaged in propaganda activities in this country under the direction and in the pay of the Nazi government.

She was arraigned before United States Commissioner Needham C. Turnage yesterday afternoon, and her hearing postponed until December 26, after she requested an opportunity to consult an attorney. Unable to meet \$7500 bond, she was taken to jail.

The formal complaint was violation of the Foreign Agents Registration Act.

A doll-faced, blue-eyed brunette, with streaks of grey beginning to mark her once jet tresses, Miss Ingalls first piloted her way into political notoriety in 1939 when she flew her silver monoplane over the Capital and bombarded the city with peace pamphlets.

At that time she was the spearhead of a nonintervention campaign sponsored by the "Women's Na-

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Aviatrix Held As Nazi Agent



LAURA INGALLS

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tional Committee to Keep United States Out of War. Last summer she came here with a stay-out-of-war plea in behalf of a West Coast group, the "Mothers of Los Angeles."

Three years before her leaflet-dropping flight over the White House and downtown Washington, she had released pigeons carrying a peace plea addressed to President Roosevelt. A short time ago, during Congressional revision of the Neutrality Act, she was barred from a Senate Foreign Relations Committee room during consideration of the proposal.

She has been a frequent speaker before America First meetings here and in the Middle West.

When brought before Turnage, Miss Ingalls told the Commissioner that she had been arrested and held in a small room without sleep by G-men. She claimed that they had refused to answer her questions, had held her incommunicado and had taken away her money.

When asked how she wished to plead, she questioned Turnage closely and then made an unsuccessful phone call to New York in an attempt to get a lawyer.

"I was a free agent," she told the commissioner. "I followed no orders other than my own. I was doing something which I knew might be questioned if it were found out. I undertook something that I thought I could handle alone and I guess I overreached myself."

She asked if being an agent meant "taking an oath and swearing allegiance, which I never did."

J. Edgar Hoover, FBI director, said that the arrest climaxed several months of investigation of Miss Ingalls' activities during which she "received a specified salary from an agent of the German Reich for her efforts in spreading the propaganda which they furnished her," and that she frequently visited Washington to contact Nazi representatives.

During yesterday's hearing she made a reference to a "private investigation," which she said she had been making. An official said that she was referring to "counter-espionage," and that she had indicated in a statement that she was seeking information for the United States Government in her contact with German representatives.

In the middle thirties, the little "thrill flier" became the first woman pilot to make a nonstop East-West hop across the continent, as well as the first woman to fly over the Andes solo. In 1935 she was awarded the Harman trophy for feminine fliers.

At the District Jail, she told authorities that she was born in New York City, and listed her residence as Burbank, Calif. Dressed in a chic green-and-buff sports ensemble, she hid her face from news photographers behind the brim of a floppy brown hat and the fur collar of her coat.

Wendell Berge, head of the Department of Justice criminal division, said that he was unable to release details of the charges against her since the Government's case had not yet been presented and investigation was still going on. He said that Miss Ingalls had been under FBI scrutiny "for some time," and the date of her activities was listed as "on or about" August 1, 1941.

Full charges against her will probably be given the first of next week, he said.

Princess Stephanie Faces Internment

Philadelphia, Dec. 18 (AP).—Princess Stephanie Honenlohe, reputed friend of high Nazis, went before the Eastern Pennsylvania Alien Enemy Board today for a secret hearing to determine whether she will be interned for the duration of the war.

The red-haired noblewoman, arrested by the FBI Monday in Wilmington, Del., was brought here from the United States Immigration Detention Station at Gloucester, N. J. Nine other Axis nationals seized in the FBI roundup also appeared.

The board, after hearing Government and defense evidence, will make recommendations to Attorney General Francis Biddle, who is empowered to release, parole or intern aliens.

REMEMBER PEARL HARBOR!