

Laura Ingalls Tells of Tie to Hearst at Trial

Prosecution Closes Case on Aviatrix Accused of Being Nazi Agent

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WASHINGTON, Feb. 12. — The name of the Hearst newspaper empire figured today in the trial of Laura Ingalls as an unregistered Nazi agent.

The aviatrix testified that she was under contract to the Hearst papers when she called at the German embassy early last year and solicited help in securing an interview with Hitler and Marshal Henri Petain of France.

The testimony came at the close of the prosecution's case in Federal Court. Prosecuting Attorney M. Neil Andrews had presented a damning sequence of testimony which included letters from Miss Ingalls to the Nazi embassy and to Nazi agent Julia Kraus in which she pledged devotion to Hitler. Many of the letters concluded with the Nazi salutation, "Heil Hitler."

Miss Ingalls took the stand today

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in her own defense and under questioning by her attorney, James F. Relly, wove a fantastic picture of dealings with the Nazis which she claimed was for the purpose of obtaining information for the federal government.

Miss Ingalls, after a few questions from Relly, told her story without questions, speaking very rapidly and seldom glancing in the direction of the jury.

At one point she attempted to explain her repeated calls at the Nazi embassy by claiming to be a newspaper woman. It was then that she revealed that she was under contract to the Hearst newspapers.

"I told Dr. Thomsen [the former German charge d'affaires] that I wanted to interview Hitler, Franco, Petain and Mussolini.

"No woman," she said in a somewhat awe-struck tone, "has ever interviewed Hitler."

Miss Ingalls obviously not only intended to visit Germany; she apparently expected to live there in grand style. One of her letters which was read into the record of the case was written to Catherine Curtis, a Washington lobbyist. It said:

"I know you will visit me at my chalet near Berchtesgaden." [Hitler's country home is at Berchtesgaden.]