

Abduction Prevented 2/18/45 post

Invested in Nazi Bank to Aid Husband, Mrs. F. J. Gould Says

Claims Morgenthau Referred to Her in Collaboration Hint

By Edward Kennedy

Paris, Feb. 17 (AP)—Mrs. Frank Jay Gould said today she had invested more than \$100,000 in a Monte Carlo bank last July to keep the Germans from taking her millionaire husband to Germany.

It was a sort of blackmail payment, the business manager for the former Florence Lacaze asserted.

French authorities say the Riviera bank mentioned by Mrs. Gould was controlled by Germans when they occupied France.

Mrs. Gould told the Associated Press she undoubtedly was "the wife of a very prominent American" mentioned by Secretary Morgenthau as being under investigation by French authorities. The U. S. Treasury secretary said Tuesday the United States had told the French government it would assist in a French investigation of a "very famous" American couple suspected of collaboration with the Nazis. France had asked if the United States would object to an investigation, addressing its query to the Treasury because the Americans might have some assets in the United States.

Mrs. Gould is a former Parisian actress and the third wife of Gould, who has lived in France for 36 years. Youngest son of Jay Gould, he inherited an estate estimated at



MRS. FRANK J. GOULD

10 million dollars from his father's \$33-million dollar fortune.

"I haven't the slightest fear of this investigation," Mrs. Gould added. "Not half the story has yet been told. Mr. Morgenthau should have known the full details before he spoke.

"Yes, it is true that I invested some of my own money in this banking concern—five million francs and more," she said. "I did

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Wife Saved Him From the Nazis



FRANK JAY GOULD

GOULD

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so to keep Frank Jay Gould from being taken to Germany. He is 67 years old and a sick man. If he had been put in a concentration camp it would have been his death.

"The date of the transaction was July 21, 1944—when the Americans already were sweeping through France and the Germans were pulling out. If I had wanted to help the Germans, do you think I would have waited until that late date to do so? Ah, no. That would mean I was crazy."

Mrs. Gould said she had not only paid out the money to keep her husband from being taken off by the Germans but had also planned his kidnaping with the help of the French Maquis to prevent the Germans from seizing him.

Mrs. Gould then was in Paris and her husband in Nice, where he remained, unmolested, throughout the war. She said she got four members of the FFI and a physician to proceed southward with the object of taking her husband into the Maquis so the Germans would not find him.

"They got as far as Aix en Provence, where the local FFI authorities would let them proceed no farther because they told them an Allied landing in the south of France was imminent," Mrs. Gould said.

I asked her, "do you mean that this investment in the bank was a sort of blackmail payment to keep the Germans from arresting and deporting your husband?"

Mrs. Gould's business manager, Raymond Gallauziaux, who was present, said "You have the idea precisely."

Mrs. Gould said her investment in the banking firm was as a "commanditaire."

Under this arrangement, investors may participate in the bank without voice in its management and without liability in case of its insolvency.

Gallauziaux said the investigation was "an administrative one" and that the only action the government had taken against Mrs. Gould was sequestration of her property pending its outcome, as is done in all such cases.

"Of course," Mrs. Gould said, "if I were collaborationist would I be here now? Of course not. I wouldn't be free."

Born in San Francisco of French parents, Mrs. Gould said she had always been an American citizen. She spent her entire childhood in France, however.