

Excerpt from Attorney General's Report for fiscal year ended June 30, 1939:

ESPIONAGE

The fiscal year 1939 was marked by the trial of four cases involving violations of the Espionage Act. In the years following the World War, only two such cases had been tried.

In the southern district of New York on June 20, 1938, the grand jury indicted two officers of the German War Ministry and 16 other defendants for espionage, involving acts on the part of German spies to steal Army, Navy, and air defense secrets. Fourteen of the defendants fled the country. On December 2, 1938, Gunther Gustave Rurich entered a plea of guilty and was sentenced to 2 years in the penitentiary. Johanna Hoffman, Erich Glaser, and Otto Herman Voss were found guilty by a jury. Miss Hoffman was sentenced to serve 4 years; Glaser, 2 years, and Voss, 6 years in a penitentiary.

On December 14, 1938, in the district of the Canal Zone, Hans Schackow was found guilty of taking and making photographs and photographic negatives of gun implements and their locations within Fort Randolph, property of the United States connected with the national defense. Schackow was sentenced to 2 years' imprisonment. Ernest R. Kuehrig was convicted of the same offense and received a like sentence on January 12, 1939. An appeal has been taken.

United States v. Michael Nicholas Gorin and Hafis Salich—Southern district of California.— On March 10, 1939, the defendants were found guilty by a jury of violating the Espionage Act by unlawfully obtaining information from the United States Naval Intelligence files and reports at San Pedro, Calif., respecting the national defense, with the intent and reason to believe that the same was to be used to the injury of the United States and to the advantage of a foreign nation, namely, the Union of Soviet Russia. The case is now on appeal.

Karl Allen Drummond, a former aircraft employee, was charged in the southern district of California with the theft and attempted sale of information relating to the national defense, in violation of United States Code, title 50, section 31. He was convicted and sentenced on December 23, 1938, to imprisonment for 2 years.

Seventeen (17) persons were arrested for sedition in New York City, as will appear from the Washington Daily News of January 15, 1940 (in this file).

In addition, there has been one other case which might loosely be termed a spy case since June 30, 1939. Edward William McDonough was convicted at Los Angeles of theft of government property, namely, plans for an aeroplane. He was given six months in December 1939.

Gorin, referred to above in this memorandum, was given six years in the penitentiary and a \$10,000.

Salich received four years and a \$10,000 fine.

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