

STAN DELAPLANE'S



POSTCARD AND AROUND THE WORLD

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(Dictated Sept. 3, 1971)

Dear Marion Tajiri:

I covered the Tokyo Rose case from the original Federal indictment right through the last day of trial and the verdict.

I felt that the verdict was not right and that Mrs. d'Aquino was innocent for a number of reasons.

First, there was no evidence that she had broadcast any damaging material. The recordings that were introduced by the Government simply had her saying something to the effect that "We now are going to play a record by the Boston Pops entitled such-and-such." I think this certainly puts down the evidence given by the ex-soldiers and sailors who said they had heard Tokyo Rose broadcast and which she had advised troops to lay down their arms or other such things. That was a kind of fairytale that went around the Pacific. The Army and Navy in war time is something like a prison camp. There are rumors going around and I've heard that story a number of times that such-and-such a company heard Tokyo Rose broadcast the name of their Commander and give the next day's attack and even what they had for breakfast.

I never believed any of this and I don't today. I think it's just one of those gossipy stores that breaks up the boredom of war.

There were a half a dozen Tokyo Roses. It was just Mrs. d'Aquino's bad luck that she was the only American National that they could hang it on and, therefore, try her for treason. The Japanese Nationals - the women Tokyo Roses - didn't get anything.

It didn't seem to be very much in evidence but she was recruited by Allied officer POWs who were working for radio Tokyo and these officers told her that she was doing a job that would be good for the allied position. That is, they told her that they were sabotaging radio Tokyo in sly ways and that she would be a part of it. The way they put it to her, she was doing the patriotic thing.

Then there was the testimony of the two Hearst newspapermen that she had admitted that she was Tokyo Rose. Which I don't think meant a thing but maybe it weighed some with the jury. That was Clark Lee and another man whose name I can't remember. Clark was

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Federal

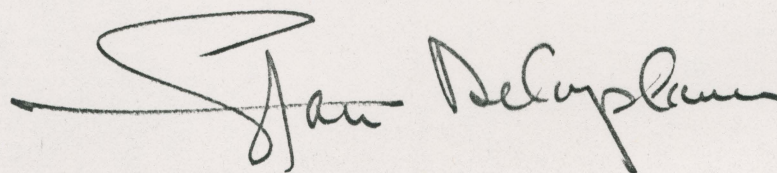
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a friend of mine and it seemed obvious to me these men were simply making their stories stand up. In fact Clark just as much as told me that some years after the trial was over.

Feelings were running pretty high after the war and we hanged one Japanese General just as a political favor to the Filipinos. And I don't see that at this long after - and after Mrs. d'Aquino has served time in a Federal Penitentiary and was innocent in my opinion - that the Government should go on pushing her around for some fine.

This is written for any use you care to make of it in furthering the cause of Mrs. d'Aquino. This is the only trial I've ever covered in which I felt the defendant was innocent, treated unfairly and treated viciously.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Stan Delaplane". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the left from the first letter.