



Tokyo Rose recording transcript

Unidentified Female journalist: Alright, now take it from five. Iva D'Aquino, better known as Tokyo Rose, will touch American soil in a few moments and will immediately be taken into custody, or if she has already been taken into custody, by the FBI. She's a very small, rather attractive Japanese girl wearing a thin plaid suit. She's being whisked off into a car by the Provost Marshall. The photographers are crowding around her, trying to get photographs. The newsreel cameramen are here. If you were unaware of her identity you would suppose she was one of the most famous movie stars in the world. There are crowds here that have been standing since 9 o'clock this morning, waiting to see Tokyo Rose, the girl who undermined the moral – or tried to – of our boys in the Pacific. She has already gone and there are a lot of disappointed cameramen here. The television studios from NBC are here, represented by newsmen. We were unable to get close enough to Tokyo Rose to even speak to her or to get any sort of reaction from her at all but we are fortunate today in having on the scene the two men who were responsible for Tokyo Rose signing a confession. They're two very famous correspondents. I know that you'll recognize the names of Harry Brundidge, who was formerly with Cosmopolitan. I believe he's now on leave from Cosmopolitan magazine...did a wonderful job during the war and Mr. Clark Lee with INS, who I understand is also on leave. Is that correct, Mr. Lee?

Lee: That's right. I'm writing a book.

Female Reporter: I am very anxious to hear the story that you gentlemen told me a little bit about earlier this morning because I think it is a story that the general public is not very well informed on. Mr. Brundidge, I understand that you and Mr. Lee were responsible for getting the first confession from Tokyo Rose. Can you tell us about that?

Brundidge: That's correct. Clark Lee and I went AWOL after we set down at Atsuki Airport, went directly to Tokyo and found Rose the next day, uh, got a 17-page statement from her which Clark Lee was standing by my side typed. She admitted many things. She admitted some things that are now today considered overt acts and it is that statement that the government is predicating its case upon. Uh, Mr. Lee and I didn't get that statement signed, uh, that September day in '45 but I went back at the request of the Attorney General last March and Rose willingly signed it. She just shook hands with me as she came off the boat and recognized me.



Female Reporter: I noticed that.

Brundidge: Mr. Lee and I were saying a minute ago that her arrival after seven long years back on this long voyage home is a bit different when she sailed from uh Los Angeles port the 5th of July 1941 when she left third class with a few relatives waving their hands to say goodbye. Today, she was greeted by this battery of cameras, newsreels, stills, the young lady here with the microphone and some others, a group of reporters and a crowd of curious people. I want to say thanks and I want Mr. Lee to say hello.

Female Reporter: I want to know about this book you're writing, Mr. Lee. I know that many of us that have read your reports through the years are very anxious to hear about it.

Lee: This is a little different from my previous books, which were war books. This is a biography of the last queen of Hawaii.

Female Reporter: Well, interesting. Uh-huh. You've just taken a little different tact.

Lee: Yes. I have.

Female Reporter: Uh-huh. Well, since we are down here to talk about Tokyo Rose this morning, I wonder if you could fill in just a few of the gaps. I was told that she had made this confession. And she had signed to the effect that she is the only "Tokyo Rose" that was ever in existence. Is that true?

Lee: Well, yes. She was the only girl known as Tokyo Rose...she made clear to us. There were a number of others on the "Zero Hour" program but the name Tokyo Rose was never used until she came on the program. And it was applied to her alone.

Female Reporter: She had a following that any person in radio might envy but I understand she didn't make much of a salary. Do you know how much she earned?

Brundidge: \$6.66 a month of American currency [laughs].



Female Reporter: Well, that is hard to believe. She must have been doing it because she wanted to then. How do you feel about that Mr. Brundidge?

Brundidge: Well, she told us if she hadn't done that she never would have had a chance to appear before the mike.

Female Reporter: Well, that's a sad commentary on people who want to break into radio!

Brundidge: Remember what she studied at UCLA.

Female Reporter: Well, tell us about that. I realize she graduated, was graduated from UCLA...

Brundidge: She majored in zoology, but she specialized herpetology.

Female Reporter: Herpetology. What is that?

Brundidge: The science of snakes.

Female Reporter: Well put, Mr. Brundidge. I guess we shouldn't convict anybody before the judge gets a chance to do it himself but it is interesting that so much publicity is being accorded this young woman who is going to be tried for treason. Do you know what the penalty is for treason Mr. Clark Lee?

Lee: If she's found guilty the minimum is five years and a \$10,000 fine. The maximum charge is death.

Female Reporter: How will she be able to pay any such a sum as that? I understand she has no American money and her family is in rather ordinary circumstances.

Lee: If she is convicted and given that sentence I believe she can plead poverty in court and the fine will be...



Female Reporter: Oh, I see. The maximum penalty is death, is it not?

Lee: Yes. But I don't believe anyone has been put to death on that charge in many years.

Female Reporter: I don't recall reading of any case. Did you feel that Tokyo Rose was a little gay or are we being unfair?

Lee: No, I thought she was on the point of tears. It looked that way to me. She tried to hide her head as much as she could and she was behind that burly FBI man.

Female Reporter: It was difficult to see her. I thought she was very attractive and appears much younger than she does in her pictures.

Lee: Well, she looks smaller than when I saw her last and more worried. That's understandable.

Female Reporter: She may have lost a lot of weight. Well, what do you think will be done with Tokyo Rose now? Will she be sent to prison? She'll be actually locked up? On the ship I understand that she was able to eat in the mess and had privileges that would not be accorded anyone who was in prison.

Lee: She'll be taken down and arraigned and charged and then will be confined I think until uh she's either indicted or released by the grand jury.

Female Reporter: Well, it is certainly wonderful to be able to talk to you, Clark Lee and to you Harry Brundidge. After all, you were responsible for bringing this girl to trial and I think that all of us who are interested in America and America's future are very anxious that whatever is put out over the air and in our newspapers is representative of the type of thing that this girl did in Japan which seems to us to be inexcusable. However, we'll let the judge decide that. That's the American way. Thank you so much.

Recording Ends