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Criminal Law, Treason: United States v. Douglas Chandler

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• CRIMINAL LAW • TREASON

United States v. Douglas Chandler

U.S. District Court for the District of Massachusetts, Case No. 17367
1947

“with intent to betray the United States”

Judgment and Commitment, July 30, 1947

1

DOUGLAS CHANDLER
Passport No. 480-2500
(Form No. 218—Passport Bureau)
Washington, D.C. 20535
Issued on July 17, 1940
At New York, New York

VALID FOR
APPLICATION FOR AMENDMENT OF EXTENSION OF PASSPORT
(To be filled out in duplicate)

I request that my passport be amended to include my wife
who was born at _____ (Place and State or country) on _____ (Date) and to whom I was married on _____ (Date of marriage) at _____ (City, State or country) and whose photographic likeness is attached
My wife's maiden name was _____ and she (has not previously married)
She was formerly married to _____ (Full name of former husband) on _____ (Date) and the marriage was terminated by _____ (Death of husband) _____ (Date) and _____ (Date)

Her present address is _____ (City, State or country) _____ (Country)

She (has not) been naturalized as a citizen of a foreign State. She (has not) taken an oath of allegiance to a foreign State. (If she has taken an oath of allegiance to a foreign State, a copy of the certificate of naturalization, or of her oath, should be submitted)

My wife's last American passport was obtained from _____ (Name of issuing office) on _____ (Date)

and is submitted herewith for consideration
(Date of expiration of passport if it cannot be submitted)

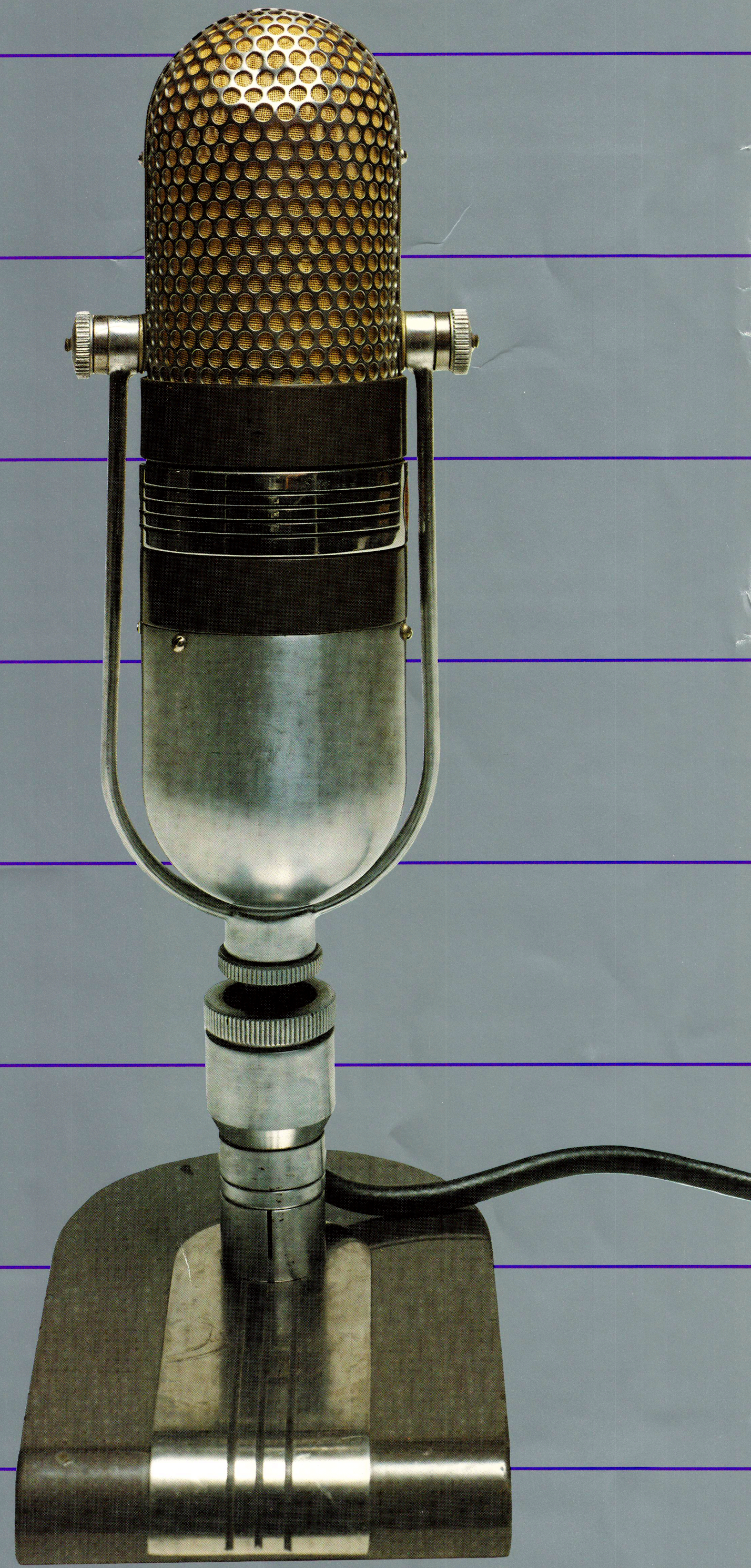
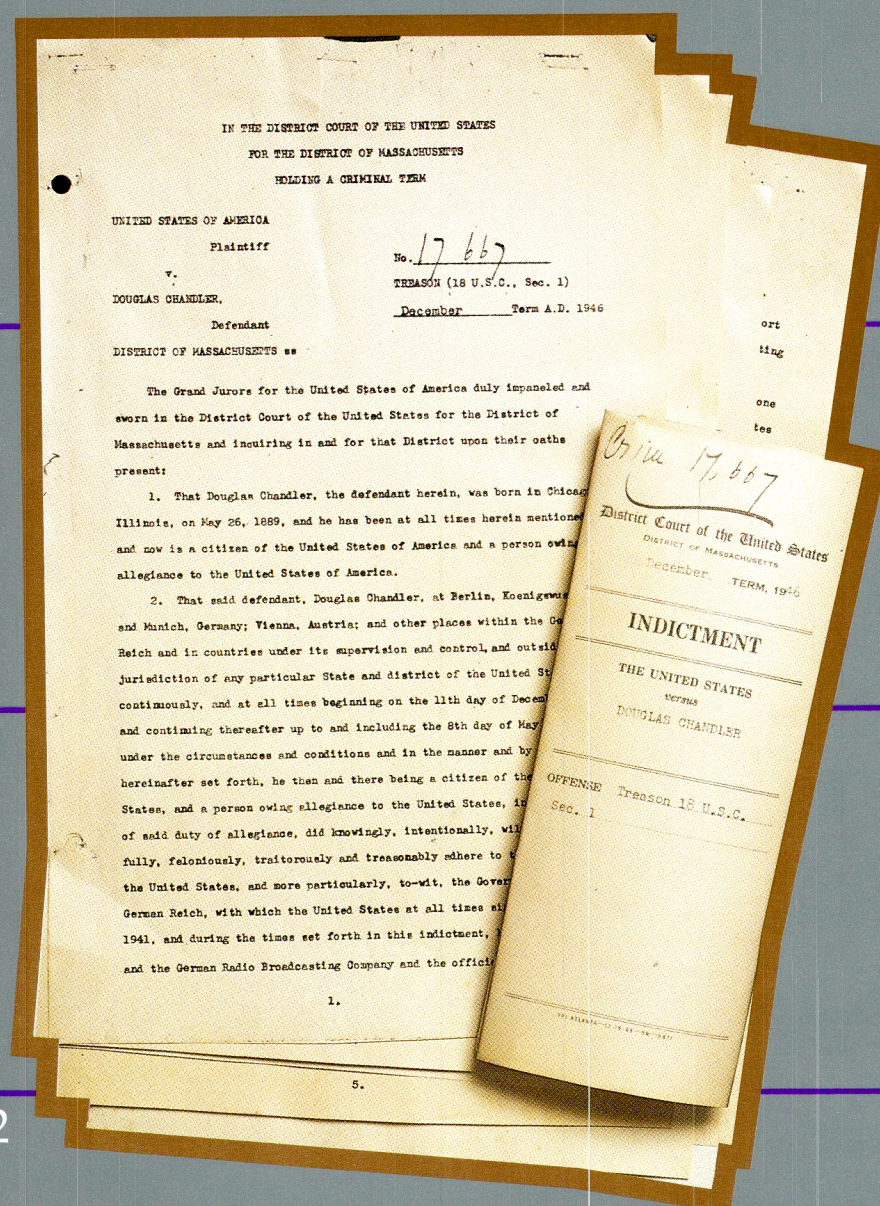
I request that my passport be amended to include my minor children, as follows, whose photographic likeness is attached:
_____ (Name of child) born at _____ (Place and State or country) on _____ (Date)
_____ (Name of child) born at _____ (Place and State or country) on _____ (Date)
_____ (Name of child) born at _____ (Place and State or country) on _____ (Date)
_____ (Name of child) born at _____ (Place and State or country) on _____ (Date)

and is now residing at _____ (Place and State or country) _____ (City, State or country) _____ (Country)

_____ (Signature)
I certify that the person to whom the above passport was issued is a citizen of the United States and that the person to whom the above passport was issued is a citizen of the United States.

John W. [Signature]
American Consul

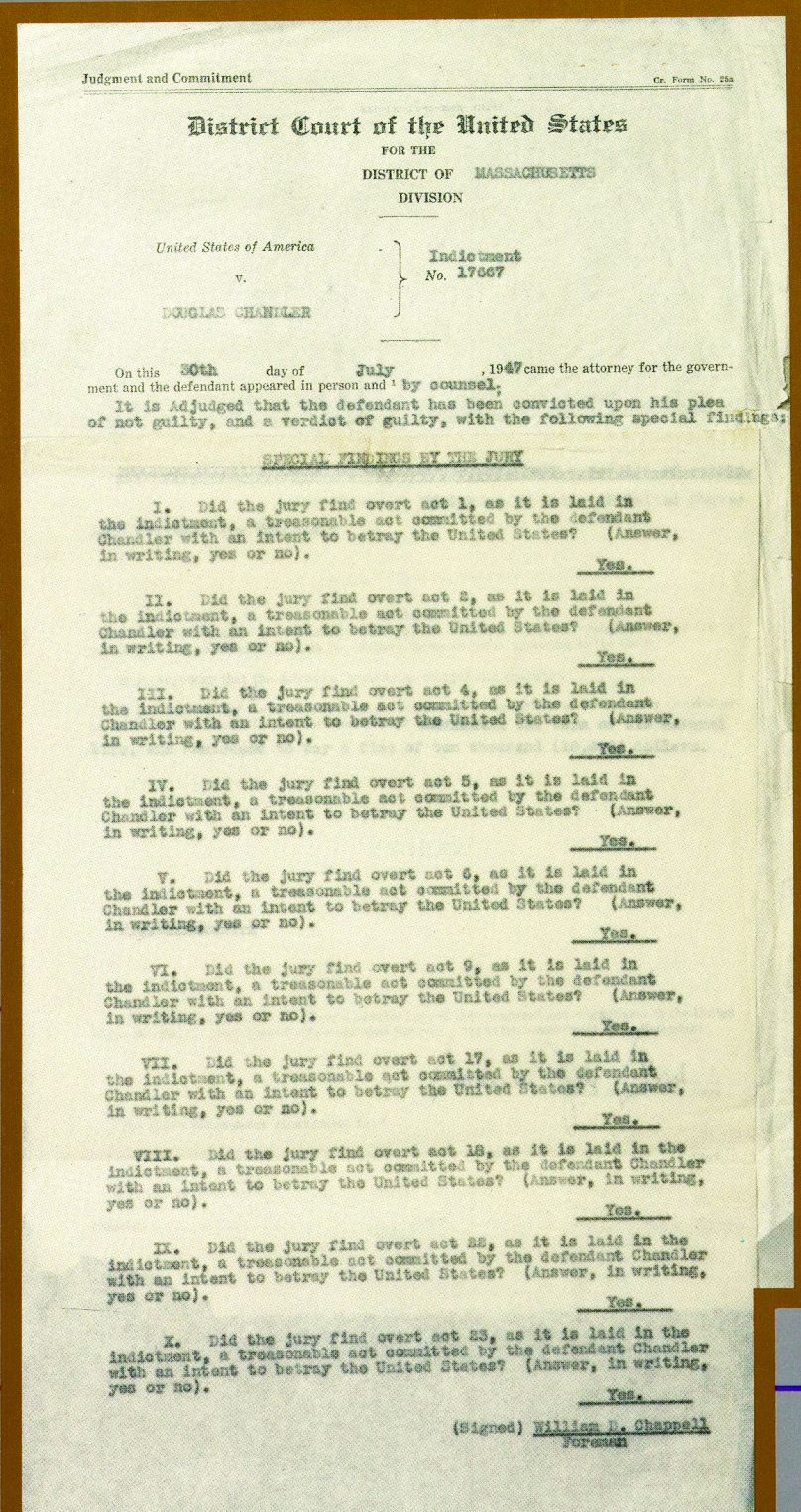
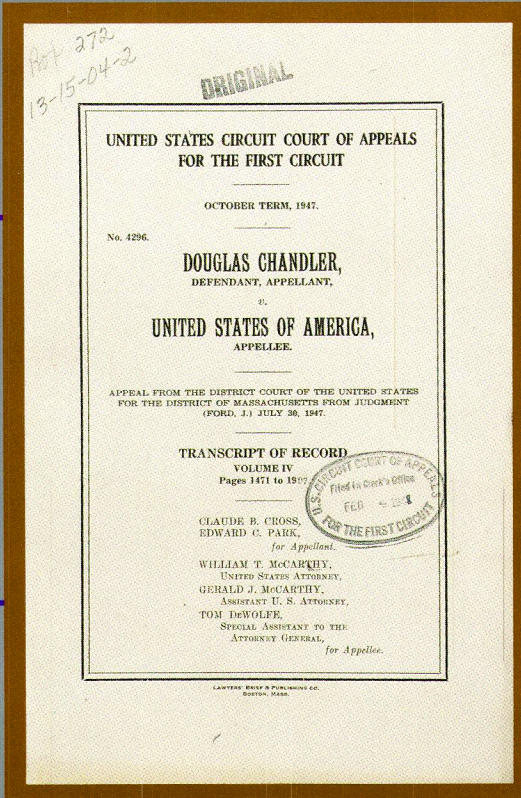
A negative of this positive print was also attached to this exhibit, but is here omitted.



Douglas Chandler was a World War II “radio traitor,” an American who broadcast Nazi propaganda to the United States over Radio Berlin. Taking the pseudonym “Paul Revere,” Chandler signed on to the sound of thundering hoofs on cobblestone streets and “Yankee Doodle Dandy”: “From the heart of Hitler Germany, your messenger Paul Revere greets you again.” Referring to himself as “a patriotic American” and to President Franklin D. Roosevelt as a “warmaker,” Chandler attempted to fill his American audience with doubt about the Allies’ ability to win the war. Captured by American authorities at the end of the war, Chandler was returned to the United States in 1946 to stand trial for treason, a crime established as a federal offense by the U.S. Constitution. On July 30, 1947, the jury found the defendant guilty. The seventy-three-year-old Chandler was released from prison in 1963 when President John F. Kennedy commuted his life sentence.

Unless credited otherwise, documents are from the National Archives, Records of District Courts of the United States.

1. Douglas Chandler’s “Application for Validation of Passport,” July 17, 1940.
2. “Indictment,” December 1946.
3. RCA 77D microphone, used internationally during the World War II period. Courtesy Charles Mayn, National Archives
4. “Judgment and Commitment,” July 30, 1947.
5. “Transcript of Record, Volume IV, October Term, 1947.”
6. Nazi troops on parade in Nuremberg, 1938. National Archives, Records of the U.S. Information Agency (306-NT-865K-5)



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