



### **Episode 705, Story 1: Tokyo Rose**

Gwen: Our first story explores whether this 1940s recording may have helped convict the woman alleged to be “Tokyo Rose.” World War II, the lonely pacific. As many as two million servicemen listen wistfully while a woman’s voice floats over the airwaves.

Tokyo Rose: “Greetings everybody this is your number one enemy, your favorite playmate ...”

Gwen: They call her “Tokyo Rose.” Many GI’s considered her a godsend... a familiar American voice keeping them company far from home. But, in a celebrated post-war trial, prosecutors portrayed her as an American devil, a siren who knowingly worked for the enemy, luring soldiers and sailors, then undermining their fighting spirit. In 1948, the woman who twice signed her name the “one and original Tokyo Rose,” was brought back from Japan to face a grand jury. The war had ended, but her battle had just begun. Now Bill Moore from Sun City West, Arizona, has an object that may explain the story behind her “confession.”

Bill: My uncle Harry went to Japan to get Tokyo Rose.

Gwen: Hi ya Bill! I hear you have an old record to show me, is this it?

Bill: Yes this is it.

Gwen: Well it’s unusual. This must be 16” across.

Bill: 16 inches I think.

Gwen: Someone’s written “Tokyo Rose” on the record. Bill found it with his mother’s things after she passed away but he believes it originally belonged to his larger-than-life uncle, Harry Brundidge.

Bill: This is my uncle Harry and my aunt Janet.

Gwen: What did he do?



Bill: Well, he was a war correspondent and an associate editor at *Cosmopolitan* magazine.

Gwen: This is you, is that right?

Bill: Oh yeah.

Gwen: So were you out in the Pacific?

Bill: 2 years and we used to listen to Tokyo Rose all the time.

Gwen: Bill had heard that his uncle met Tokyo Rose on assignment and believes he played a key role in her prosecution.

Bill: After the war, he went back over to Japan and he got Tokyo Rose, brought her back to San Francisco and had her indicted for treason.

Gwen: Bill thinks the record may have been used as evidence in her trial. But he's never been able to hear what's on the recording because it's too large to play on standard equipment.

Bill: all I know is – a – of course, is what I heard in my family that this was part of the trial. Well what exactly would you like me to find out about your record?

Bill: I'd like to find out what's on it of course and about my uncle and the trial.

Gwen: I'll have to take this with me and I'd like to take the photographs with me too if that's ok. I've found a studio with a turntable that can play the oversized disc. I'm in Long Island City, New York, to meet audio engineer, Guy Rosmarin, at Vidipax.

Guy: Oh wow, haven't seen one of these in awhile.

Gwen: What is it made of?

Guy: It's probably aluminum-based. They started using it again after the war.



Gwen: You couldn't use aluminum during the war for anything except the war.

Guy: That's right.

Female reporter: "Alright, now take it from five... Iva better known as Tokyo Rose will touch American soil in a few moments and will immediately be taken into custody."

Gwen: Well this certainly doesn't sound like courtroom evidence. But Bill's uncle is definitely part of the action.

Female reporter: "We are fortunate today in having two very famous correspondents. Harry Brundidge..."

Gwen: Guy's made a CD copy for me. Bill's uncle Harry is speaking now.

Brundidge: "She shook hands with me as she came off the boat, she recognized me."

Female reporter: "I noticed that."

Gwen: Iva Toguri, the woman who was tried as "Tokyo Rose," was born in Los Angeles to first generation Japanese immigrants. She left the US in the summer of '41 to care for a sick aunt in Tokyo. After Pearl Harbor, wartime bureaucracy made it impossible for her to return to the US. Stranded in Japan during the war, Iva found a job at Radio Tokyo as a typist until she was tapped to host a Japanese war propaganda program. Iva's broadcasts would be at the center of what was then one of the costliest trials in US history. That trial cost the US government \$750,000 dollars. Today's money that's almost 7 million. Of the eight counts brought against her, the Grand Jury found her guilty of only one: "announcing the loss of American ships." I'm in New York City, meeting with media historian Steven Phipps. I'm eager for you to hear this.

Female reporter: "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."



Steven: Well, this is obviously a news report and it's clear that it must have been September 25<sup>th</sup>, 1948.

Gwen: Steven says that's when Iva returned to the United States by military escort. The press and public clamored for a closer look at the woman the media had already branded a wartime traitor, Tokyo Rose.

Stephen: But there was no evidence that she was "the" Tokyo Rose. In fact, there was no one person who was "the" Tokyo Rose.

Gwen: As Bill told me earlier, the GI's used that name for all the English-speaking female hosts broadcasting in the Pacific.

Steven: The Japanese felt that using women announcers would make the GI's more prone to listen and that it would tend to make them homesick.

Gwen: Why did Brundidge claim Iva was Tokyo Rose? Steven has done some digging on the reporter's background.

Steven: I found quite a few articles on Brundidge since I know that you're interested in him.

Gwen: Much of his early career was in St. Louis, reporting on the Mob. Steven discovered Brundidge had a flair for the dramatic and often played fast and loose with the facts.

Steve: Here's one from 1930. This one is called "call Brundidge story hearsay."

Gwen: So for years he had been known as someone that was pushing the truth.

Steve: Well yes.

Gwen: What was his involvement in the Tokyo Rose story?



Steve: Let me show you in this article.

Gwen: It's a May 1948 front page story from the Nashville Tennessean. That's four months before the date on our recording. In it Brundidge details his time in Japan, hunting for Emperor Hirohito, then for Tokyo Rose. In his story, Brundidge takes credit for her indictment.

Steven: There's a reference to secret witnesses that Brundidge came up with. Do we know who they were?

Steven: I have no clue.

Gwen: Steven gives me the name of a journalist who revisited this story in the 1970s. Ron Yates, once the Tokyo bureau chief of the *Chicago Tribune* wrote a series of articles in 1976 on the Tokyo Rose trial. We've agreed to meet at the Japanese American National Museum in Los Angeles. Well here's the record I was telling you about, Ron.

Ron: Oh wow, look at that.

Gwen: I'm investigating a man named Harry Brundidge who was mentioned on this recording. Do you know who he was?

Ron: Harry Brundidge is a very interesting character.

Gwen: Ron explains how Harry Brundidge had first become involved with "Tokyo Rose" three years before the trial, in the immediate aftermath of World War Two. That's when Brundidge hooked up with veteran war correspondent Clark Lee. They headed to Japan in 1945 in pursuit of the scoop of a lifetime.

Ron: They thought we'll find Tokyo Rose and that will be our story. They said we'll pay her 2000 dollars if she'll come to the Imperial Hotel to be interviewed.

Gwen: In war torn Tokyo, where most people were starving, that money might get her home to the United States.



Ron: But when she walked into the room, this was not what they were expecting.

Gwen: In her pigtails and saddle shoes, Iva neither looked nor sounded the part of the Mata Hari of the east. Ron shows me a re-enactment of a "Zero Hour" broadcast that Iva later agreed to do for the US Army in Tokyo

Female voice: "Greetings, everybody, and this is your favorite enemy and playmate Orphan Anne ready again with a vicious assault on your morale."

Gwen: Ron explains that all of the scripts were written by Allied POW's, who had also been forced to work for Radio Tokyo. The language was intended to be tongue-in-cheek, the kind of teasing that Americans would easily recognize.

Ron: And they would always go over the scripts with her and say ok, here's what we want you to say, Iva. And she would say these things, like hello my honorable boneheads in the Pacific this is your favorite enemy Orphan Anne, I'm going to sneak up behind you with my nail file.

Gwen: You see in her face that she knows she's saying things that sound mean to the Japanese, but it is actually an inside joke among all of the Americans.

Ron: Right. There's a real facetiousness to it.

Gwen: When Brundidge and Lee interviewed Iva in 1945, that teasing-tone never made it into their notes. They had other plans.

Ron: The story just wasn't there. This was not the siren of the pacific.

Gwen: Brundidge took out the contract for 2 thousand dollars, and then asked Iva a fateful question.



Ron: Just for the heck of it, would you sign this as Tokyo Rose? And she said sure. What he did is he took those notes... And gave them to the occupational forces, authorities, and said I have the signed confession of Tokyo Rose, here. And, within a few days she was arrested.

Gwen: She was first imprisoned in Tokyo under martial law and held for a year while the Army Counter Intelligence Corps investigated. Finding no evidence of treason, the war department cleared and finally released her. That should have been the end of it.

Gwen: So Brundidge met her in '45, '46 she's released from prison. How did it become a story again in 1948?

Ron: That is a story in itself.

Gwen: After being freed by the US Army, Iva had applied for repatriation. But the popular radio host Walter Winchell learned of the request and started a campaign to prevent her return and try her for treason.

Ron: Gold Star Mothers, these are mothers that lost their sons fighting in the Pacific who began writing letters to Walter Winchell and he forwarded them to the Truman administration and the pressure began to build.

Gwen: It was an election year. Ron says charges of being soft on Communists and traitors was a critical factor in Truman's close presidential race against Thomas Dewey.

Ron: The Truman administration doesn't want to be seen as soft on traitors.

Gwen: The Department of Justice issued a request for witnesses to Iva's alleged acts of treason.

Ron: So here comes Brundidge again.

Gwen: When Brundidge met up with Attorney General Tom Clark, he offered to get a new confession from Iva and to find witnesses to help convict her.



Ron: Tom Clark assigns some of his minions to go back to Tokyo and Harry Brundidge goes with them.

Gwen: Ron says it wasn't until a quarter century after Iva's trial that he unlocked a crucial piece of the government's strategy. Ron arranged to meet two men who had held on to a secret, George Mitsushio and Ken Oki, Iva's old bosses from Radio Tokyo.

Ron: They said our testimony is what convicted her and it was all a lie. They had been coached for 2 months by the Justice Department what they should say at the trial. And their testimony was the 6th of the 8 counts which she was indicted on. That she did speak into a microphone about the loss of ships.

Gwen: But what about Brundidge's claims of finding additional "secret witnesses"?

Ron: I know the perfect person to tell you about them.

Gwen: I'm meeting with Barbara Trembley at Darkwoods studios. Barbara met Iva twenty years ago. Over time they became friends; Iva agreed to tell her full story, and gave Barbara the rights to make her saga into a feature film. I have a recording that is describing the moment when Iva comes back to the United States. I tell Barbara that on this recording Brundidge boasts of getting Iva to sign a new confession... why is Iva even willing to see him, much less to sign this document?

Barbara: She had just lost her baby...

Gwen: Barbara explains that Iva had just suffered a miscarriage and desperately wanted to get home to the states. Iva told Barbara that Brundidge had assured her that signing the document was a passport home.

Barbara: And then as soon as she signed it, Brundidge leaned over to Iva and said you've done yourself a good deal, they'll never execute a woman.

Gwen: Brundidge had written about secret witnesses that would prove the case against Iva.



Barbara: Yes, Mr. Yagi. Yagi was actually someone that Brundidge had known before the war.

Gwen: Barbara says that when Brundidge traveled to Japan, Hiram Yagi acted as a fixer, making local introductions for the journalist.

Barbara: Brundidge literally bribed him. He said you'll get a trip to the US, and we'll have a wonderful time. And all you have to do is testify for the grand jury and this is all you have to say.

Gwen: Barbara found the handwritten testimony Yagi had given Brundidge and the US Attorney General.

Barbara: "I heard her say into the microphone that your wives are out with war workers."

Gwen: So does he testify this before the Grand Jury?

Barbara: Yes he does but as soon as he gets back to Japan he recants. Yagi even writes a letter to Brundidge saying to please stop this before it too late. "Dear Mr. Brundidge, this is an 11<sup>th</sup> hour appeal to ask you to use your good influences to call off the coming trial."

Gwen: Barbara explains that, by now, the government had serious doubts about Brundidge, and even began to investigate him for witness tampering, but they had too much invested in the trial to back out now.

Barbara: The Department of Justice, Tom Clark and so on, they put a lid on it and it became a cover up.

Gwen: The trial proceeded as planned, but did it go on with Brundidge?

Barbara: That's when it becomes very interesting.



Gwen: The confidential files of FBI director J. Edgar Hoover, were opened in 2005. In those documents, Barbara has found some answers for Bill. Let me play for you what's on your record. And then we hear a voice you may recognize.

Brundidge: I went back at the request of, of the Attorney General last March and Rose willingly signed.

Bill: I recognize that voice. That was my uncle Harry.

Gwen: I tell Bill about his uncle's role in linking the real life Iva Toguri and the fabled Tokyo Rose.

Bill: Well that's sad isn't it?

Gwen: Yeah.

Bill: He probably did almost anything to get a story and that was a big story.

Gwen: You wanted to know what part Harry Brundidge played in the trial. When he mentioned that the Attorney General's office had sent him back, that's where the story becomes larger than just your uncle. So what was Brundidge's role in the trial?

Barbara: Well Brundidge had no role in the trial. They wouldn't allow him to testify. The FBI, the Department of Justice, he was such a hot potato, nobody wanted to get near him.

Gwen: On one internal memo Barbara discovered that J. Edgar Hoover had weighed in on Brundidge's so-called witness recanting his testimony.

Barbara: "I'm not surprised at developments it was most unwise for the department of justice to use such a person as Brundidge in the first place. They realized the whole case could be blown up if he testified. He finally went to the defense and offered to testify for them but they wouldn't touch him either."



Bill: Gee, that's something else. You know back in the war times people looked upon the Japanese really bad. You know and it didn't make any difference whether they were Americans, or look at all the internees they had, and they were good people.

Gwen: They were. Bill I really want to thank you for giving me this record and giving me a chance to see the larger history. Thank you.

Bill: Well I'm glad all this came out.

Gwen: I appreciate the wisdom in which you heard this story. Given the new public disclosures about Iva's innocence and the perjured testimony against her, President Ford agreed to look into her case. In his last official act in office, he granted Iva Toguri a full and unconditional pardon on January 19, 1977. She passed away in 2006.