

FILE DESCRIPTION

BUREAU FILE

SUBJECT Elizabeth Bentley

FILE NO. 9-16655

SECTION NO. 1 (only)

SERIALS 1

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Date: 10/78
(month/year)

POWDER

Washington, D. C.

November 5, 1948

Honorable George Morris Fay
United States Attorney
U. S. Department of Justice
Washington, D. C.

RE: UNKNOWN SUBJECT; ELIZABETH THURTELL
BENTLEY - Victim
ESPIONAGE
CHLONI
ESPIONAGE - R

Dear Sir:

This is to confirm conversation on October 14, 1948, between Assistant U. S. Attorney JOSEPH L. LEE and SA W. A. TAYLOR of this Office, at which time Mr. LEE declined prosecution in the above entitled case for reasons of lack of evidence to prove a violation and because the public interest would not be served by lengthy investigation in view of the content of the letter identifying it as a "crank letter."

This case involved the direction through the mails of a letter to Miss ELIZABETH THURTELL, who is presently implicated in the Espionage hearings conducted by the House Committee on Un-American Activities. The letter was handwritten in poor writing and contained several misspellings of simple words. The signature on the letter is somewhat illegible but appeared to be "Sandy." It was postmarked August 12, 1948, at Lowell, Massachusetts, and addressed in handwriting as follows: - "Spy Author, R. BENTLEY, c/o Senator F. McNamara, Washington, D. C." The body of the letter is also set forth as follows:

"Lowell Mass.

"Dear Betty,

"Congratulations: on your spy story U.S.S. You should have got 4 stars instead of the medal. It will be the last story you will ever write. He will write the last chapter.

65-36402-3693
9-16655-1

Letter to Mr. Washington, D.C.
Re: [illegible]
[illegible]

In view of the above, the further investigation is being
expedited in this matter by the [illegible] and the case is being con-
sidered [illegible]

Very truly yours,

Y. M. TAL
Special Agent in Charge

cc: Bureau

WAT:JD
100-17493