

# Mrs. Knauff Is Called a Spy; Immigration Unit Bars Her

## Three Say War Bride Stole Secrets of United States for Czechoslovakia

By The United Press.

WASHINGTON, March 26—Mrs. Ellen Knauff, German-born war bride seeking entry to the United States, was barred today after three witnesses testified she once spied for Czechoslovakia against this country.

A special Immigration and Naturalization Service board of inquiry agreed unanimously with a Justice Department ruling that her presence would be "prejudicial to the national security." The board deliberated for only one hour.

Mrs. Knauff remained calm as the verdict was read. Edward H. Clark, chairman of the special board, told her that she could appeal in turn to the Immigration Commissioner, to the Immigration Board of Appeals and to the Attorney General.

If they uphold the board's decision, Mr. Clark said, she will be deported to Germany, and "you may not enter or re-enter the United States unless you obtain permission of the Attorney General."

Her attorney, Alfred Feingold of New York, said that she would appeal the board's decision. Meanwhile she was continued in his parole. A court attaché said she probably would not be taken back to Ellis Island—where she has spent most of her sojourn in the



**Mrs. Ellen Knauff**

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United States—until her appeals were exhausted.

Weighing against Mrs. Knauff was testimony by Vaclav Kadane, a former Czech Army major, and two other Government witnesses that she committed espionage for Czechoslovakia before that country was taken over by the Communists in 1948.

It was not charged that she had spied for Communists.

She was working for American

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# IMMIGRATION UNIT BARS MRS. KNAUFF

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occupation forces at the time. One accusation was that she stole information on a new United States Army decoding machine and fed it to the Prague military intelligence headquarters.

Mrs. Knauff, who has been in this country for some thirty months, denied all the charges "most emphatically."

She said she would just as willingly have fought Stalin as she did Hitler as a wartime member of a women's auxiliary of the British Royal Air Force.

"I detest dictatorship and violence," she said. "I believe in freedom, truth and common decency."

Mr. Clark said the ban on her entry was upheld because she failed to counter testimony that she obtained classified information; that she failed to prove her admissibility to this country, and was an alien whose presence would be against best American interests.

He said she was an alien who, "it was reasonable to suspect," would work contrary to the laws of the nation against espionage, sabotage, public disorder and other subversive activities.

The key witness against Mrs. Knauff at the five-hour hearing was Major Kadane. He said she spied for Prague on the American administration in Germany. The alleged activities took place shortly before the Communist coup of early 1948.

Mrs. Knauff said she did not "believe one word" of his story and said there was "no illegitimate business involved" in her visits to a Czech liaison mission in occupied Germany.

Capt. William C. Hacker of the United States Army Counter-Intelligence Corps, said he also had confidential information that Mrs. Knauff engaged in espionage duties while employed by the American Civil Censorship Division in Germany.

Miss Anna Lavickova, a Czech national, said she saw Mrs. Knauff

at the Czech military liaison mission at Frankfurt, and also in the office of a Colonel Podhora, the then mission chief. After one of these visits, she said, a "woman officer" sent a confidential memorandum to Prague.

Mrs. Knauff had testified that her visits to the mission were to get extensions on her passport.

The Justice Department hitherto had withheld its reasons for barring Mrs. Knauff.

She arrived in the United States in August, 1948, but was unable to get beyond Ellis Island. Recently she was paroled to her naturalized husband, Kurt, and her attorney pending final disposition of the case. Mr. Knauff has returned to Germany, where he is a civilian employe of the United States Army.

Major Kadane served as deputy head and later chief of the Czech mission in Frankfurt. He said Mrs. Knauff was introduced to him in August, 1947, as a "very valuable source of information." She was known by the name Boxonova and her code name was "Kobyla," he said.

Though German-born, she acquired Czech citizenship in 1934 when she married a Czech, whose name was given as Edgar Boxhorn. She divorced him in March, 1947.

Mayor Kadane said he received two "top-secret" orders from the Prague military intelligence ordering him to contact "Kobyla" and have her go to the Czech capital for instructions. She visited the mission every two weeks for four or five months at the end of 1947, he said.

Over objections from Mrs. Knauff's attorney, he said he remembered one report from "Kobyla" because of its "unusual nature."

It was, he said, "a description of a new United States Army decoding machine," and was sent to intelligence headquarters at Prague.

He also testified that Colonel Podhora once told him "Miss Boxonova just told me all our telephone conversations are being tapped" and that "the game is up." Part of her job at the censorship division was tapping telephone conversations to get information on infringement of occupation rules.