

# Mrs. Knauff Leaves Ellis Island After Winning Fight to Enter U. S.

The United States opened its gates to Mrs. Ellen Knauff last night, and the 36-year-old German-born war bride who had fought for three years to enter this country came ashore at Manhattan from Ellis Island smiling about her victory.

The last minutes before her release were action-packed for the plucky woman who had been barred in 1948 by immigration officials as a "security risk."

At 6 o'clock, J. Howard McGrath, United States Attorney General, announced in Washington his approval of the recommendation by the Board of Immigration Appeals that Mrs. Knauff "be admitted to the United States for permanent residence."

Fifteen minutes later, the Department of Justice in Washington telephoned to Ellis Island, where, except for two months, Mrs. Knauff has spent almost three lonely years. The department said that she was to be permitted to leave there "on the first available ferry."

Notified of her release, Mrs. Knauff hastily assembled a few clothing items and a toothbrush.

Dressed in a powder-blue suit and a dark blue topcoat, she boarded the ferry that left Ellis Island at 7:30 o'clock. Ten minutes later reporters and photographers gathered around her as the ferry berthed at the Manhattan pier.

The small woman said that the first thing she wanted to do was to get in touch with her husband, Kurt W. Knauff, who is in Hanau, near Frankfurt, Germany.

"Next," she declared wistfully, "I want to have a lobster dinner. Next? Well—I want to get a job. And then, if I may, I want to become an American citizen."

She said that she was just about "broke," but added that she would "manage somehow."

During her stay on the island she wrote a book, Mrs. Knauff said, describing it as a "documentary" of her experiences. The tentative title is "It's All Up to Washington." For it was in Washington that both her seizure and release were ordered.

Mrs. Knauff arrived here on

Continued on Page 5, Column 3



Mrs. Ellen Knauff on ferryboat that brought her here from Ellis Island, where she has spent most of the past three years.

Associated Press

## MRS. KNAUFF WINS FIGHT TO ENTER U.S.

Continued From Page 1

Aug. 14, 1948, to take up residence as the wife of Mr. Knauff, a former American soldier, and to acquire United States citizenship. She was taken to Ellis Island, but was not told why admission was denied. She did not receive a formal hearing until March, 1950. Then three witnesses accused her before the Appeals Board of spying for a Czechoslovak mission in Frankfurt, where she and her husband were civilian employes of the United States Army.

Mrs. Knauff, who would have been provided her citizenship under the War Brides Act for alien women married to American soldiers, denied all the charges. She said that she had not seen the persons who accused her of espionage.

On March 26, 1950, the board ruled that she should be deported, and an order to that effect was issued May 18 by the Commissioner of Immigration, Argyle Mackey. She was able to stay action on the order through appeals.

Then last Aug. 29 the board reversed its previous order and recommended that Mrs. Knauff be allowed to enter the country. This is the action that Mr. McGrath approved yesterday.

In Washington, Mr. McGrath issued the following statement:

"I have carefully considered the record in these proceedings. On the basis of the evidence and in the light of the nature of the hearing I have concluded that the order of the Board of Immigration Appeals dated Aug. 29, 1951, that the alien be admitted to the United States for permanent residence should be, and it is hereby, approved.

"The action does not constitute approval of all of the legal principles set forth in the opinion of the board."

Neither the Justice Department nor the Immigration and Naturalization Service made public the basis on which the Appeals Board reversed its ruling or the "legal principles" to which Mr. McGrath referred.

Mrs. Knauff is German-born, but holds Czechoslovak citizenship because of an earlier marriage to a Czechoslovak. That marriage ended in divorce. Mr. Knauff, to whom she was married on Feb. 28, 1948, in Germany, is a native of that country, but is now a citizen of the United States.