

MRS. KNAUFF PLANS TO ASK CITIZENSHIP

Happy to Be Admitted to U. S. After 3-Year Fight, She Says She Harbors No Grudges

Mrs. Ellen Knauff, the 36-year-old German-born war bride who on Friday won her three-year fight to enter this country, assured everyone yesterday that she wasn't mad at anybody. Her chief emotion was joy that now she can become a United States citizen.

With Department of Justice clearance to be admitted here for permanent residence, Mrs. Knauff said that her first step would be to go tomorrow to the Immigration and Naturalization Service here to apply for formal admission. At the same time she plans to apply for citizenship, since she wants to be sure of her status before leaving this country again.

Mrs. Knauff arrived here Aug. 14, 1948, to acquire citizenship, but was held on Ellis Island as a "security risk." In March, 1950, she was finally told that she had been accused of spying for a Czechoslovak mission in Frankfurt, Germany, where she and her husband were civilian employes of the United States Army.

Tells of Her Experiences

She was interviewed in the office of her lawyer, Alfred Feingold, at 36 West Forty-fourth Street. The tiny brunette, dressed in a powder-blue suit, was vivacious as she told of her experiences in excellent English.

"Why did I stay here instead of going back to Germany?" she asked. "In the first place, I was being wronged. No reason was given for keeping me out, except that I wasn't wanted here. Then when they gave me the reason, I decided to face it here because I knew the charges weren't true.

"After all, this is America and I

telling the truth as they believed it, but they were just repeating rumors they had heard from someone else and they had no proof."

Declaring that her stay on Ellis Island—except for a few visits to the mainland—now "seems like a bad dream," Mrs. Knauff still had praise for the Government personnel there. She said "they are doing a great job under difficult circumstances," citing antiquated buildings and "the hundreds of rules and regulations they have to comply with."

"I admit I was discouraged at times," she said. "After all, there is a limit to everything. But I always managed to pull myself together again."

Mrs. Knauff, now a Czechoslovak citizen because of a previous marriage, will stay for a time with friends here. Until she gets her citizenship—a procedure that should take little time under the War Brides Act—she will try to do secretarial work.

Mrs. Knauff said she would like to remain in New York, but would return to Germany if her husband, Kurt W. Knauff, prefers. A United Press dispatch from Germany yesterday quoted her husband as saying, "in Germany we would live much cheaper on the Army economy."

I knew I could get justice here. But I have nothing against the persons who accused me. I think they were