

GUARD IS INDICTED IN INMATE'S DEATH

Accused of a Fatal Beating
at Hospital in Brooklyn

By MORRIS KAPLAN

A correction officer was charged yesterday with stomping to death a 22-year-old inmate in a shower room at Kings County Hospital in June.

The indictment of the officer, Walter R. Harris, who had been with the department 13 years, was announced by Brooklyn District Attorney Eugene Gold. Mr. Harris was accused of first- and second-degree manslaughter and second-degree assault.

The inmate, Leonard Eusebi, had been arrested in Queens on charges of burglary and possession of narcotics. He was single and lived at 2086 East 41st Street in the East Flatbush section of Brooklyn.

On June 9 he was admitted to the prison ward on June 9 for a mental-competency examination. The alleged fatal beating occurred on June 24, and Mr. Eusebi died two days later. The Medical Examiner's report said he died of a cerebral hemorrhage.

"There is no doubt," Mr.

Gold reported, "he was stomped to death by Harris, who was wearing black, ankle-length boots with heavy heels and soles."

The incident, as related by Mr. Gold, occurred shortly after 10 A.M., after Mr. Eusebi was taken to the shower room by male nurses and the guard. The inmate had been bound in a straitjacket because he had been acting in "an assaultive and resistant manner," according to a Correction Department spokesman.

The inmate was prepared for his shower by being doused

with a mild disinfectant after the straitjacket had been removed. The disinfectant irritated his skin and caused him to jump, Mr. Gold said.

"Harris claimed he was being attacked, so he pushed the inmate with both hands, causing him to fall on the tile floor," he added. "He [Eusebi] lost four teeth and sustained head injuries from external sources other than the fall."

Mr. Eusebi was 6 feet tall and weighed 150 pounds. The department spokesman described Mr. Harris as being 6

feet 1 inch tall and weighing more than 200 pounds.

Correction Commissioner George F. McGrath originally suspended him without pay for 30 days after the incident.

Under Civil Service rules, his pay has been restored by he has not been returned to duty. The department spokesman said he had "a clean record," with no prior disciplinary actions.

Married and the father of four children, the 47-year-old Mr. Harris lives at 120 East 42d Street in East Flatbush. He has been assigned to the hospital's prison ward since June 17, 1966.

Conviction on first-degree manslaughter carries a maximum penalty of 25 years in prison. On his arraignment before State Supreme Court Justice Hyman Barshay, Mr. Harris pleaded not guilty and was released in his own recognizance; Mr. Gold's office had requested \$50,000 bail.

No date was set for trial.