

2 Correction Guards Indicted and 2 Absolved in Death

By MORRIS KAPLAN

Two guards were indicted by a Kings County grand jury yesterday on charges of beating to death a 37-year-old inmate of the Brooklyn House of Detention for Men. The jury absolved two other guards who had been suspended.

The victim, Bernard Cintron, who lived at 162 Third Avenue, in the Boerum Hill section of Brooklyn, was a heroin addict who had been held on charges of selling dangerous drugs. He died on Aug. 10 of "homicidal assault," according to the Chief Medical Examiner, Dr. Milton Helpert.

Indicted on first-degree and second-degree manslaughter charges were Capt. Fred Kamether, 52, of 138 Burgher Avenue, Dongan Hills, S. I., and James Galashaw, 28, of 3401 Foster Avenue, Brooklyn. If convicted, they face a maximum punishment of 25 years in prison.

Captain Kamether has been with the Department of Correction for 20 years. He is married and has four children. Officer Galashaw, who joined the department seven years ago, is unmarried.

Correction Commissioner George F. McGrath suspended the four on Aug. 19 on the basis of an investigation by District Attorney Eugene Gold. The Commissioner restored to duty yesterday the two guards who were cleared.

Investigation Goes On

A department investigation is continuing, however, to determine if they violated department rules, a spokesman said. The guards are Allen Cronheim, 26, of 283 College Avenue, Westerleigh, S. I., and George

Sidotti, 27, of 993 Third Avenue, Brooklyn.

The incident occurred amid rumors that inmates on the fifth floor of the prison might rebel.

Shortly after Cintron was pronounced dead by a prison doctor, there were published reports that correction officers had found Cintron in his cell with a homemade knife and that he had attacked a guard. Commissioner McGrath retracted that report, explaining that it had been made by one of the suspended officers.

The District Attorney's investigation established that at no time did Cintron have a knife in his hand, or that he attempted to attack anyone.

An autopsy report showed that his death resulted from "a traumatic laceration of enlarged soft spleen associated with cirrhosis of liver, massive hemorrhage into the peritoneal cavity, injury caused by assault — homicidal."

Accused of Punching

When the guards were suspended, Mr. Gold declared that there was no doubt that correction officers had violently pushed Cintron into a protruding metal bar and then punched him in the stomach. The Medical Examiner said he suffered six rib fractures, cuts on the forehead and multiple bruises.

In announcing the indictments, Mr. Gold deplored conditions in the city's jails, terming them "archaic."

"How many more prison deaths must we have, how many more suicides in our jails, how many more disruptions before we give meaning to human dignity?" he asked. "When will jails be a place where men are not made into better criminals but into better men?"

He said the Correction Department needed more money for a rehabilitation program, adding that both the guards and inmates were "victims of the system." He noted also the "overcrowding," to about 180 per cent capacity at the Brook-

lyn House of Detention.

The Correction Department's current budget of nearly \$92-million includes an item of \$3,874,719 for rehabilitation. This is almost \$400,000 more than the 1970-71 figure.

William J. vanden Heuvel,

of a Prisoner

chairman of the Board of Correction, a watchdog agency pointed out, however, that the funds for rehabilitation were used as salaries for nurses, chaplains, administrative personnel and "certain correction officers."