

Rites for POW Who Killed Self

Quincy, Mass.

Air Force Captain Edward A. Brudno, a former prisoner of war who committed suicide, was eulogized yesterday as a man who was burdened with the changes in his family and the world and wondering if he could catch up.

Funeral services for Brudno were held yesterday morning at Temple Beth El here, with fellow former POWs serving as pallbearers.

He died of an overdose of barbiturates at the home of his wife's family in Harrison, N.Y. The body was found Sunday, one day before his 33rd birthday and four months after he was released by the North Vietnamese.

In the eulogy, Rabbi David Jacobs described Brudno's difficulty in adjusting to his family after 7½ years imprisonment.

He was freed February 11 and reunited with his wife, Deborah, but had been described as "despondent" recently by his mother in law, Bernice Gittenstein.

The rabbi said, "He came back to a woman he knew in her youth, but because of her character, she had developed into a strong capable wonderful person. He expected to be her strength; she was his strength, and he could not bear it."

He knew his family had suffered during his lengthy imprisonment, the rabbi added, and "it was a burden he could not bear."

Brudno spent seven years in North Vietnamese prison camps after his jet fighter was shot down in 1965.

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