

# 2nd POW Kills Self

Commerce City, Colo.

A young Marine charged with collaborating with the enemy while in a North Vietnam prison camp shot himself to death yesterday, police said.

A private physician who examined Sergeant Abel Larry Kavanaugh only an hour before he shot himself said, "I found he was in absolutely perfect physical condition, but he said he was afraid the military would make something up and find an excuse to hold him in the service."

Dr. John W. Bolin, a general practitioner at nearby Aurora, said the 24-year-old former POW left his office near noon Wednesday. Kavanaugh shot himself to death about an hour later, at the home of his in-laws.

Police Sergeant Jack Baldwin said Kavanaugh, who returned home fewer than 60 days ago, died of a single bullet from a .25-caliber handgun. The bullet entered his left temple.

Kavanaugh was the second former POW to take

his own life since returning home. Air Force Captain Edward Allen Brudno died of an overdose of barbiturates June 3 in Harrison, N.Y.

Kavanaugh was one of eight former POWs charged with aiding and conspiring with the enemy while held at a prison camp called the Plantation near Hanoi. Colonel Theodore W. Guy of Tucson filed charges against all eight.

The young sergeant had declined for the most part to talk with newsmen. In a rare interview, he said of the charges: "I'm not guilty of any of them. I didn't do any of those things."

Kavanaugh had requested a discharge from the Marine Corps "for personal reasons. I wish to find a job and go to night school." But he was scheduled to return to Camp Pendleton tomorrow at the end of a 60-day convalescent leave.

His attorney, Mark Amsterdam of New York, said he had

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AP Wirephoto

**SERGEANT ABEL KAVANAUGH**  
**Death was apparently suicide**

he had talked with Kavanaugh on Tuesday by telephone. "He sounded very confident," Amsterdam said. "He said as soon as the charges were dropped he wanted to sue Colonel Guy."

Captured April 24, 1968, while on patrol in South Vietnam, Kavanaugh spent almost five years in enemy prison camps.

He is survived by his wife and a 5-year-old daughter.