

P.O.W.'S WIFE SAYS U. S. KILLED HIM

Sergeant Charged With Aid
to Enemy Shot Himself

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DENVER, June 28—The wife of a former prisoner of war who fatally shot himself yesterday charged today that his countrymen had killed him with harassment and torment.

"The North Vietnamese kept him alive for five years and then his own country killed him," said Mrs. Sandra Kavanaugh, 22 years old, the wife of Marine Sgt Abel Larry Kavanaugh. He shot himself in his father-in-law's suburban Denver home yesterday afternoon.

The 25-year-old sergeant, facing charges with seven others of aiding the enemy while in a North Vietnamese prison camp, killed himself with a .25-caliber pistol, the police said. Although suicide was suspected, a local district attorney said today the pistol could have accidentally discharged while Sergeant Kavanaugh was attempting to dislodge jammed bullets.

'Made an Outcast'

Sergeant Kavanaugh had returned only an hour earlier from taking a physical examination at the office of Dr. John Bolin, who described him as "in excellent health but extremely his pending return to Camp Pendleton for a discharge physical.

Dr. Bolin said the sergeant had told him he was worried that the Marines would not discharge him until charges against him were resolved.

"Here's a guy who served five years as a P.O.W. and came back to his wife and daughter he hadn't seen and was made an outcast," said Mark Amsterdam, a lawyer with the Center for Constitutional Rights in New York, who was representing the sergeant.

On May 30, Air Force Col. Theodore W. Guy, the ranking prisoner in Sergeant Kavanaugh's prison camp, filed charges against eight fellow prisoners.

He charged Sergeant Kavanaugh with disrespect to an officer, disobedience of a lawful order to stop collaborating with the enemy, communicating with the enemy, conspiracy to undermine the morale of fellow prisoners and attempting to undermine fellow prisoners' morale.

"The Pentagon has sat on those charges along time and that put pressure on this guy," said Mr. Amsterdam.

Mrs. Kavanaugh said, "I blame Colonel Guy and the Pentagon for his death."