

Petawawa Camp Orderly ✓ Meets Accidental Death

FRED. NEIGUS DIED IN HOSPITAL
ON WEDNESDAY.

A most regrettable tragedy, and one which has stirred deeply the sympathy of all who have heard of it, occurred on Monday night at the Petawawa detention camp, Fred Neigus, an orderly, being the victim. It was one of those unfortunate shooting accidents for which no one can be held responsible, and the victim and the man responsible for the shooting having been close friends there is no suspicion whatever of any intention on the part of the soldier whose weapon caused the death of Neigus. It seems that the two men were in the mess together and Neigus was engaged storing some provisions away in the refrigerator, while a fellow soldier was handling a loaded revolver nearby. Neigus was in a stooping position when the revolver was accidentally discharged, and the bullet entered the hip and passed into the abdomen, perforating the small bowels in two places, leaving an opening of three-quarters of an inch in both bowels. Dr. Jones, the camp surgeon, was summoned to his assistance at once, and he was subsequently removed to the General Hospital here and local surgeons set to work in an effort to save his life. An X-ray plate was made and the bullet was located, after which Dr. Graham operated for its removal and for the repairing of the bowels, assisted by Drs. Dodd and Jones. They realized, however, that there was practically no chance for recovery, and that afternoon, realizing that he was face to face with death within a few hours, Neigus wrote several farewell messages to his friends. As was expected, peritonitis soon developed and his death followed about 8.30 yesterday morning.

The remains were prepared for burial and on the C. P. R. afternoon local were conveyed to Catleton Place for interment. A sister, Mrs F. Tinsley, lives in that town. The unfortunate man was an Englishman, and had been in Canada for a number of years, having attended camp at Petawawa for several years. Mrs Tinsley is his only relative in Canada.

Among the officers and men at the camp much regret is felt over the tragedy. We understand a formal military investigation is being held into the sad affair, but there is no suspicion whatever of intent on the part of the man who held the revolver. He is almost distracted over the occurrence, he and Neigus having been particular friends.