

Prisoner Suicides

George Luka Budak, prisoner of war No. 631, committed suicide at the internment camp last Sunday afternoon.

Budak had complained to the officers a couple of weeks ago that he feared ill-treatment at the hands of his fellow prisoners and obtained permission to sleep in a cell in the

guard room. Sunday he had cleaned up the guard room and then gone to his cell, which was left unlocked. A prisoner, confined in an adjoining cell, heard a noise and called to the sergeant of the guard. Investigation disclosed Budak lying on the floor beneath his bunk, and blood stains on the floor. He was hauled out from under the bunk, assistance procured from the medical detail and Drs. Brett and Poyntz summoned. The doctors speedily arrived upon the scene but nothing could be done to save the man's life. He had taken a razor and gashed the left side of his throat, without cutting the larynx, then committed harakiri, slashing his abdomen with the sharp steel with two crosswise cuts from 8 to 10 inches each in length. The cuts were of sufficient depth to sever the intestines.

He lived for an hour and signified to interpreters that he had committed the rash act, but failed to supply the motive.

Budak was brought here Dec. 6 from Regina. His commitment papers declared him an Austrian subject, although he claimed to be a Roumanian. He was aged 35.

A jury was empanelled Sunday night and, after viewing the body, adjourned until Tuesday afternoon when an inquest was held at the police barracks.

Coroner Dr. Brett examined a number of witnesses, but nothing was brought out to establish a motive for the rash act.

~~The jury returned a verdict that~~
"George Ludak Budak came to his death from wounds self-inflicted, cause unknown."