

RUSSIAN EX- OFFICER'S DEATH

Rifle and Violin Bow by Body

A tragic story of the struggle of a Russian officer for existence lies behind the death at Mornington last Sunday of Alexander Spisbah (54). He was found in his home dead, with a bullet wound in his head, and a rifle and a violin bow beside his body.

Spisbah, who had been living at Mornington for about 20 years, came to Australia from Russia, where he had held a commission in the army. For most of the time he was in this State he was employed at the sawmill of Millars' Timber and Trading Co, at Mornington, but when this mill closed down in 1931, he was thrown out of work, and he had been unemployed ever since.

He had lived at Mornington with his wife, in hopes of resuming work. Last Sunday afternoon his wife left the house for a walk, and about 5.30 p.m. a neighbor heard a shot at Spisbah's house. Investigating, he found the Russian's body in a bedroom, with a wound in the head. Beside the body was a .303 calibre rifle, and nearby was an old violin bow, which had evidently been used to release the trigger. Police and a doctor were summoned, but Spisbah was found to be dead. An inquest has been ordered.

The dead man's son was employed at Kondinin.