

Trooper Charges Attica 'Race War'

BUFFALO (N.Y.) .— (UPI) — “It wasn’t a prison riot,” said James Watkins, 24, of Buffalo. “It was a race war.”

Watkins is an enlisted man in the Army National Guard. His unit was ordered into the state prison at Attica Monday to regain control of a cellblock area held by hundreds of rebellious convicts.

He testified in court at a hearing involving the opening of the maximum security facility to permit lawyers to meet with inmates yesterday, and talked with newsmen afterward.

Watkins said he saw white guards beat black prisoners

as officials herded the rebels back into confinement.

Watkins, who is white, said the beatings were being administered “apparently to the more militant blacks.”

Watkins said that after his company arrived at Attica he distributed ammunition inside the facility.

He said he saw about 40 injured inmates brought in on stretchers.

“Many of them were twitching . . . I could see a lot of blood . . . It appeared some of them were in convulsion or shock,” he said.

Watkins said two doctors looked at the injured men but failed to give them any medical attention — “they examined them and tagged them.”