Attica Hostage: 'I Was Scared Sil

NYTimes By JOSEPH LELYVELD Special to The New York Times

death right there."

were a small two-inch bandage al Commissioner Russell G. Osat the base of his neck and a wald had been delivered. visible shakiness in his knees.

blankety-blanks have had it.' I and told they would be burned doubt about their fate. was scared silly up there. I real-alive there when the assault bely was. I didn't want them to gan. Then, apparently because shoot.'

accounts clerk at the prison, the helicopters circling the pris-ATTICA, N. Y., Sept. 13-"I was one of eight hostages who on, they were dragged and laid there on the floor and were led this morning, bound shoved to a trench, which was knew I was going to bleed to and blindfolded, out of the full of gasoline. jerrybuilt pen in the center of As he said this, the only signs the prison yard where all the two Army helicopters made that Ron Kozlowski had been hostages had been held for their first low passes over the one of the hostages whose four days. The 30 others left yard to drop their freight of throats had been slit in the first in the pen were also bound and stifling CS gas, the eight hosfierce instants of the assault blindfolded soon after the ul-tages were led to a parapet atop on the rebellious prisoners here timatum from State Correction- a catwak that crosses the yard.

their captors felt the pit would Continued on Page 29, Column 3

Mr. Kozlowski, a 23-year-old not be sufficiently visible to

Finally, moments before the

There they were held, each with a stick at his back and a First, Mr. Kozlowski said, the knife at his throat, bent back-"They told us, 'As soon as eight were taken to a pit that wards in plain view of the copthe first shot is fired, you white was partly filed with gasoline ters so that there could be no

Mr. Kozlowski thought · he

heard machine-gun fire as he collapsed on the parapet. "You ing, not one bit," said Sgt. could hear the bullets right Gerald Riger, 51, who is in his were blindfolded. But as the experiences in the prison yard. next to your head on the ce- 21st year as a prison guard. "I harrowing weekend wore on, "If you want to know, I'm still

his throat had been stitched charged from the Wyoming be killed as soon as the shoot-County Hospital. At a glance, looked robust and well-tanned. treated carefully, at times even On closer examination he solicitously. showed a sickly pallor.

Dr. Warren Hanson, who were there to protect our lives treated the hostages brought to till just about the end," said the hospital, said that at least Larry Lyons, a 32-year-old one other of the eight held on guard who was treated at the the parapet had survived. That Genesee Memorial Hospital in hostage told the doctor that Batavia. They did what they instead of cutting his throat, could. I really believe that. We his captor had cut his bonds got to eat what they got to and pulled him down to the eat.' ground.

hostages who remained in the pen and mattresses and blan- to see them get all their de-with blood. pen in the center of the yard kets were distributed, he said. mands. It would start the same thing I've ever seen," he said.

Continued From Page 1, Col. 7 had knives at their throats or backs.

"I didn't feel they were bluffment," he said.

Miraculously, barely an hour later, the superficial wound to ment they were very determined."

Miraculously, barely an hour talk over four days convinced me they were very determined."

The hostages came to depend. They work want to know, I'm still their captors dispensed with too scared," said Dean Wright, too scared, said Dean Wright, a guard.

Freed, the surviving hostages

The hostages had been told The hostages had been told increasingly for their safety on the first that they would their captor guards, fearing the through the placid countryside ing started. But until the ultithe young prison employe others said that they were

"The inmates right around us

On the first day, the prison-thing going in prisons all over ers had been stripped naked the United States." and bound with strips torn from Not all the hostages were bedsheets. Periodically they ready or able to talk about their

going back into that prison ex-cept to get paid off—if they got The hospitals also prepar

tages indicated they were torn son to treat the wounded here. between their fear and their incredulity over the liberal con-the prison in mid-afternoon in cessions the prisoners seemed a blood-stained to be extracting.

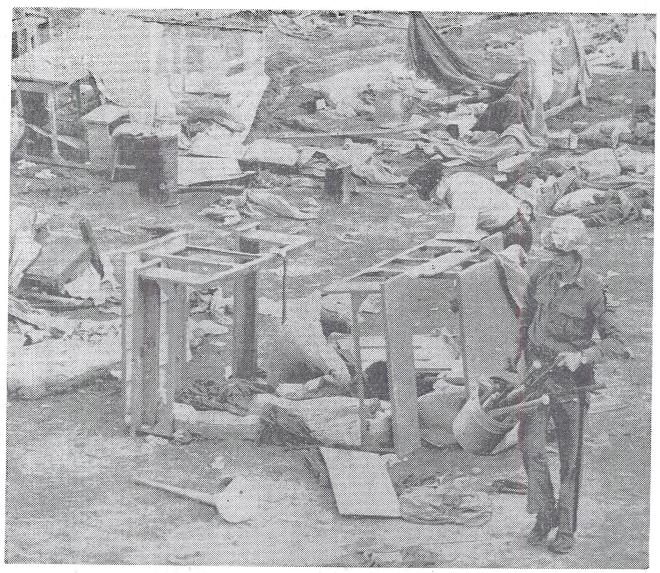
The hostages came to depend were rushed in ambulances diffuse hostility of the more to the towns of Wyoming and 1,000 angry prisoners milling Batavia. By lunch time, at least 15 of them had been discharged. "Some guys started to crack," The rest were still being treated one of the hostages said. "Quite for a variety of knife and bullet a few said they were never wounds, but these were said to

The hospitals also prepared to treat inmates but, instead When they thought about prison authorities summoned how it all would end, the hos-doctors and nurses to the pri-

One doctor emerged from gown. wounded inmates, Make-Shift Facilities

Menaced With Knives

As the assault began, the 30 up for the prisoners in their Riger said. "But I didn't want which was already covered stages who remained in the pen and mattresses and blanto see them get all their de-with blood. "It's the worst



COLLECTING PRISONERS' WEAPONS: Policemen in prison yard picking up baseball bats used during the riot

For the Survivors, a Nightmare of Blood and Terror