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Findings Shock Hostages' Families

By **JOSEPH LELYVELD**
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ATTICA, N. Y., Sept. 14—
Reactions from families of slain hostages to reports that most had died of bullet wounds and not by the knives of prisoners ranged today from angry disbelief to an accusation that authorities had recklessly risked the hostages lives in ordering the assault at the state prison.

The accusation came from the family of Carl W. Valone, a 44-year-old guard who was killed, according to an autopsy performed yesterday in nearby Batavia, by a bullet in his side.

"We feel that Carl was

killed not by the prisoners but by a bullet that had the name Rockefeller written on it," declared a close relative who asked not to be named because he holds a government job but said he spoke for the whole family.

The relative said he had personally viewed the body after the autopsy. "There was no slashing," he said. "He was not even touched."

The solution for the impasse at the prison that preceded the assault, he said, was "talk, only talk." The family had sent telegrams before the assault to Governor Rockefeller urging him to put in an appearance at the

prison.

The autopsy on Mr. Valone, a Batavia resident, was the only one not conducted at the Monroe County medical examiner's office. It was performed at the Genesee Memorial Hospital by Dr. Muhtesem Veznedaroglu, a pathologist from the Genesee Laboratory Company. The Valones were the first family to learn that their relative had been killed by bullet, rather than knife, wounds.

The other families, which were told yesterday that their loved ones had been slashed to death by the prisoners,

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found the Monroe County medical examiner's findings hard to accept.

"Bull!" was the reaction of a brother-in-law of John G. Montelone, a slain hostage. The brother-in-law, who declined to give his name, said he broke down emotionally and quit his job at the prison as a guard yesterday morning after the last hostage was freed.

A burly man with the build of a football lineman, his eyes were watery as he said: "I don't want to work there so long as this state is run by the Oswalds, the Dunbars and the niggers."

Russell G. Oswald and Walter Dunbar are the two top officials in the Corrections Department.



Associated Press

Carl W. Valone



United Press International

MOURNING THE DEAD HOSTAGES: Robert George placing a flag on a street in Attica

ment whose reformist policies are seen by many of the townspeople here as the basic cause of the rebellion at the prison.

James Hardie, a Main Street insurance man whose father, Elmer G. Hardie, was one of the dead hostages, was also angry about the autopsy findings in Rochester, especially the medical examiner's statement that he had found no evidence of mutilation.

Mr. Hardie said he was at the prison when the bodies were removed after the carnage in the prison yard and he saw wounds that he was sure could not have been caused by bullets.

The reaction of disbelief was widespread and strongly felt in this all-white town of 2,800, whose major industry is a maximum-security prison with a population of inmates that is 85 per cent nonwhite or Spanish-speaking.

tactics used yesterday tended to take the form of assertions that the assault came four days too late. A number of persons noted that it was not until the second day that the hostages were dressed by their captors in prison garb, which made it hard for the assaulting force yesterday to distinguish them from inmates.

Funeral Homes to Be Busy

To signify support for authority—and resentment over its breakdown at the prison last week—merchants belonging to the Lions' Club flew the American flag at full staff today from their shops, which gave the town a holiday appearance that seemed strangely out of key with its prevailing mood of mourning and anger.

There will be funerals in the area in the next three days for prison personnel killed here. Five of the dead hostages will be buried from the Marley Funeral Home in Attica on Friday, the most hectic day there, a funeral director said, since last April when services were held for three children who had been slain by their mother.

William Quinn, a guard who

died Saturday night from injuries suffered at the start of the prisoners' revolt, will be buried tomorrow. Mr. Valone's funeral will be held in Batavia Thursday. All the rest will be conducted on Friday.

There was no information about funeral arrangements for the 31 prisoners killed in the assault. Authorities have yet to release the names of 15 of the dead inmates.

Families in Vain Plea

Special to The New York Times

ROCHESTER, Sept. 14—The families of 16 Attica prisoners complained today that they had been unable to get state correction officials to tell them whether their husbands, fathers, brothers and sons were dead or alive, injured or well in the aftermath of the police assault on the prison yesterday.

About 40 relatives, all of them black residents of Rochester, gathered in the drizzling rain outside the Monroe County Medical Examiner's office in a vain effort to get from the autopsy reports what they said they had been rudely denied by prison authorities: the names of the dead, and the hospitals to which the injured had been taken.

The group of 40, mostly women, huddled together in the gray afternoon, most of them weary with fear for their men, but some steely with anger.

"None of us—they haven't called us any time," said Doris Session, whose husband, Josh, has been in Attica since last year, following a conviction for second-degree manslaughter. "At least, if they're in the hospital, why can't we know what hospital so we can see them?" They're people."

The Sessions have three children, aged 2, 3 and 4.

"I raised him from a baby—my mother was sick," murmured Ethel Whitaker of her brother. "They hang up on us, they won't even call us."

"The Police Department cursed my mother-in-law out last night," said Ella Greer, whose husband, Lee, is serving a sentence for attempted robbery and escape. "They're not concerned about our black men."

Examiner Explains

The groups of relatives said they had come together last Thursday night after the disorder broke out, and had been able to determine whether their men were in the prison yard with the rioting inmates.

Some of them had entered the prison Thursday night, they said, but had received no word since then.

"They make you salute the flag," spat Mrs. Nancy Johnson, "and you're supposed to have some sort of respect."

"To know that America could allow this," said Mrs. Annette Thomas as she held her 2-year-old son, Ivan, in her arms. "We have not had word from the administration about our husbands, sons, fathers. We don't know anything about how they are, where they are."

The Medical Examiner, Dr. John F. Edland, said that he did not know the identities of the dead prisoners sent to his office here for autopsies, because identification tags, tied around the toes by correction authorities, were labeled only "P-1," "P-2," and so on—the "P" standing for prisoner.

Dr. Edland said he was fingerprinting the bodies and waiting for identifications to be made on that basis.

So the relatives stood outside in futility through the afternoon. And when dusk came, they returned to their homes, not yet knowing whether to feel sorrow.