

State Troopers Filmed Attack on Videotape

NYTimes

SEP 16 1971

By MICHAEL T. KAUFMAN

Special to The New York Times

ATTICA, N. Y., Sept. 15— State troopers, using a videotape camera, filmed the assault Monday on the Attica prison's rebellious inmates, a spokesman for the state police said today.

The spokesman, Douglas Dales, said the camera, which reporters saw being hoisted over the prison wall last Sunday, had been used to make a record that could be replayed "for training purposes."

Another pictorial record of the assault that led to the deaths of nine hostages and 32 prisoners was made available today. This record consisted of photographs taken immediately after the assault on the prison yard by a member of the National Guard.

Nine pictures taken by the guardsmen—acting as a private citizen—constitute the only ones of the carnage so far that have not come from either the state police or Correction Department personnel.

The photographer, one of 700 Buffalo-based guardsmen activated at midnight on Sunday by Governor Rockefeller to assist in litter-bearing and other "humanitarian" duties, sold the photographs to The Buffalo Evening News. Murray Light, the managing editor of the paper, refused to disclose the guardsman's identity.

Six Released to A.P.

Mr. Light released six of the photographs to The Associated Press. He said the remaining three were of poor quality. The guardsman is reported also to have sold some of his films to Life magazine. Rain and clouds of tear gas affected the pictures.

After reporting the videotaping of the assault, Mr. Dales said that agents of the Bureau of Criminal Identification of the State Police took "stills" when the assault began.

According to state police sources, Gen. Almerin C. O'Hara,* the head of the state's office of General Services, was acting as a monitor at the scene. General O'Hara, formerly the commander of the state's Office of Military and Naval Affairs, could not be reached today.

His successor as head of the state's National Guard units, Gen. John C. Baker, arrived at the prison with the National Guardmen about an hour after the raid started.

Others who were reportedly on the prison grounds during that period included Robert R. Douglass, the Governor's secretary; T. Norman Hurd, Director of the State Operations, and J. C. Miller, chief inspector of the State Police. These men were also unavailable for comment.

Inside the walls at that time were many of the members of the observers' committee that had been assembled to help in earlier negotiations between the rebellious prisoners and correction officials.

A number of these men, including some elected officials, said they had asked permission to observe any assault that might come. Their requests were kept under guard in a room from which they could not see the attack. Reporters had also asked to be allowed to witness the assault, but their requests were ignored by Correction Department aides.

*

See NYTimes 29 Jul 67, filed Prep

See this file, NYT, Clines, 18 Sep 71