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Brutality
At Attica,
Doctor Says

New York

The national guard's senior medical officer at the storming of Attica prison testified yesterday that he saw prison guards using such excessive force on subdued prisoners that he considered asking the general to put the place under martial law.

Major John William Cudmore, 33, a surgeon from Buffalo, said he saw guards clubbing prisoners in the genitals and across the knees, even breaking one man's legs.

He said the prison yard after the September 13 assault by the troops, in which 39 prisoners and hostages were killed, resembled a painting of the Civil War battlefield of Gettysburg.

Cudmore told a hearing by the McKay Commission, which is investigating the affair, that both guardsmen and state troopers were "quite nauseated" by the conduct of the prison guards.

Besides the beatings and other mistreatments, he said he heard racist and obscene epithets shouted to prisoners.

Cudmore said he discussed with a regular army major assigned as an adviser about asking Major General John Baker, the commander of the state guard, to declare martial law.

"We discussed asking General Baker to put the place under martial law, but we did nothing about it."

Cudmore attributed the prison guard's reaction to rumors that hostages had been emasculated or had their throats cut.

lious prisoners.
A commission investigator said Wednesday that the throats of four guard hostages had been cut.

A film of the assault, shown in public for the first time, showed that inmates were not ordered to surrender until four minutes after state troopers launched their assault.

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