

NEW YORK STATE SPECIAL COMMISSION ON ATTICA

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In the Matter of the :

Public Hearings :

at :

NEW YORK, NEW YORK :

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Channel 13/WNDT-TV
433 West 53rd Street,
New York, New York

April 18, 1972
10:30 a.m.

Before:

ROBERT B. McKAY, Chairman,

MOST REV. EDWIN BRODERICK,

ROBERT L. CARTER,

MRS. AMALIA GUERRERO,

AMOS HENIX,

BURKE MARSHALL,

WALTER N. ROTHSCHILD, JR.,

MRS. DOROTHY WADSWORTH,

WILLIAM WILBANKS,

Commission Members

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2 PRESENT:

3 ARTHUR L. LIMAN,
4 General Counsel

5 MILTON WILLIAMS,
6 Deputy General Counsel

7 JUDGE CHARLES WILLIS,
8 Deputy General Counsel

9 DAVID ADDISON,
10 Deputy General Counsel

11 HENRY ROSSBACHER,
12 Deputy General Counsel

13 STEVEN ROSENFELD,
14 Deputy General Counsel

15 MARC LUXEMBURG,
16 Deputy General Counsel

17 ROBERT POTTS, JR.,
18 Communications Consultant

19 ANDREW LIDDLE,
20 Inspector

21 LEONARD POLAKIEWICZ,
22 Investigator

23 JOHN E. CARTER, JR.,
24 Assistant Counsel

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MR. McKAY: This is the opening ses-
sion of the fifth day of the hearings of the
New York State Special Commission on Attica.

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will be Sergeant Miller.

SERGEANT RICHARD MILLER,

having been duly sworn by Mr. McKay, was

examined and testified as follows:

MR. FINANSON: May I note for the record that Mr. Miller is represented by counsel, Mark K. Benenson, from the office of Murray A. Gordon, P.C., 401 Broadway. We are counsel to Mr. Millers' union.

EXAMINATION BY MR. LIMAN:

Q Say your full name for the record.

A Richard William Miller.

Q What is your occupation?

A I am a Correction Sergeant at Attica Correction Facility.

Q How long have you been a sergeant at Attica?

A Since February 3 of this year.

Q How long have you been a correction officer?

A Oh, about eleven years.

Q How much of that time was spent at Attica?

A Ten years.

Q How old are you?

A Forty-three.

1 Q Sergeant, in September of 1971, what 272
2 were your duties?

3 A A At that time I was, along with other
4 correction officer duties, assigned as a lock repair-
5 man in the Attica facility.

6 Q Do you have other duties besides examining
7 and repairing the locks at Attica?

8 A Yes. I did general officer duties, reliefs
9 in the hospital, Center Square, Amos Gate and I also
10 did transportation of inmates for medical care at
11 Buffalo and some transportation at other institutions.

12 Q Under what circumstances would you escort
13 an inmate to Buffalo?

14 A Primarily for medical purposes, to see
15 doctors, therapy and this type of thing.

16 Q How frequently would your duties call for
17 you to do that?

18 A At one time I was doing this quite a bit,
19 probably sometimes two or three times a week, four.

20 Q Now, Sergeant, would you describe what the
21 function of what we call Times Square is at Attica?

22 A Well, Times Square is basically centrally
23 located between the cell blocks and was designed to
24 control traffic moving through the institution. It
25 is four gates that can be closed to seal off the square

1 itself and it leads, a corridor to each
2 one of the four blocks.

3 Q Each gate leading to a block had a separate
4 lock on it; am I correct?

5 A That's correct.

6 Q Was this constructed so that if there was
7 trouble in any one block that could be isolated?

8 A Well, this was the reason, I believe, behind
9 the square, so that you could isolate the blocks, keep
10 them separate.

11 Q Now, on September 9, the gates at Times
12 Square gave, the gate from A-block into Times Square;
13 am I correct?

14 A That is correct.

15 Q Did you, after the prison was retaken by
16 the authorities, have occasion to examine that gate?

17 A Yes, I did.

18 Q Did you make an effort to determine how
19 this gate came to give?

20 A Yes, sir.

21 Q Would you tell us what you found and what
22 your conclusions were?

23 A Well, basically, the gates in the corridors,
24 or two gates that swing together and are locked by a
25 cream on bolt lock system or a three point lock system.

1 If this explains it better, a rod going into
2 the ceiling, one into the floor and one into the
3 gates as they come together.

4 Now, the rod leading to the ceiling was
5 broken probably about fifteen inches down from the
6 top and this broke -- it had been welded -- as this
7 broke, it left the release spring apart so that the
8 rest of the mechanism gave and left the two gates
9 open.

10 Q The bar that goes to the top which was
11 broken was intended to withstand pressure; am I cor-
12 rect?

13 A I would believe that's correct, yes.

14 Q Have you determined why it broke?

15 A Yes. I guess about fifteen inches down
16 from the top, there was a splice in the rod, a weld.
17 I would have to say at this time, not a very good
18 weld.

19 Q That weld wasn't supposed to be there in
20 that fashion?

21 A I would think, sir, that the rods would
22 have been much better had they been continuous rods
23 rather than spliced, and most of them, by the way,
24 are continuous rods.

25 Q Did you know by September 9 that this rod

1 had been spliced?

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2 A No, sir.

3 Q Was it visible?

4 A No, sir. Because these rods had been
5 painted and it would have been impossible to tell that
6 it had been welded at that time.

7 Q So that inmates and correction officers
8 alike could not have known that there was this type
9 of weld splicing together this rod?

10 A In my opinion that is true.

11 Q This weld gave when the gate was shut --
12 shaken.

13 A Under the strain of pressure on the gate,
14 yes.

15 Q Would you characterize this weld as a
16 defective weld?

17 A Yes, I would. I would term it as a butt
18 weld? Would you like a better explanation of that,
19 sir?

20 Q Yes.

21 A Well, if you put two pieces of metal to-
22 gether, if you grind them so that you can get a weld,
23 a flow around it, and burn it in, you would get a
24 good weld, but if you just put two pieces of metal to-
25 gether and put them butt together, there is no place to

1 weld.

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2 So this was ground off. Actually, there
3 was less than a sixteenth of an inch holding all the
4 way around this particular rod.

5 Q When was this weld put in?

6 A I have no idea. I have an opinion.

7 Q What is your opinion?

8 A My opinion is, it would have been original
9 installation.

10 Q Back in 1930 or so?

11 A Well, '28, '30, whenever the Center Square
12 area was built, yes.

13 Q Did you also examine the gates leading from
14 the corridors into the various blocks?

15 A Yes, sir. As we wanted to secure the
16 institution, certainly when we seen what happened at
17 this gate, we started scraping the paint on the other
18 bars and checking them.

19 Q Did you find that other bars had welds of
20 this type?

21 A I found two other bars that had been welded.
22 Both of these bars being in A-block.

23 Q Did you make any determination or do you
24 have an opinion as to how inmates were able to get
25 into C-block, B-block and D-block through the gates there?

1 A No, sir.

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2 It is my belief, probably that either the
3 officers didn't have a chance to secure these gates
4 or the inmates had keys to them.

5 Q Where would those keys have come from?

6 A Possibly from Center Square. They did get
7 the keys to Center Square after this one gate closed.
8 Possibly from this area. They may have brought some
9 down with them from A-block.

10 These keys probably shouldn't have worked,
11 but it is possible that one of them did open another
12 gate.

13 Q When you say they shouldn't have worked,
14 each gate is supposed to have its own special key, am
15 I correct? In general?

16 A We did have some duplications in Attica
17 from one corridor to another where there wouldn't be
18 a gate leading directly to one another, but there
19 were some duplications, yes.

20 Q What did you mean when you said these keys
21 shouldn't have worked, but it's possible that some
22 of them did?

23 A Well, I think our locks had been wore,
24 used a number of years, and it's possible that a key
25 from another gate could have opened it.

1 Q Sergeant, I understand that you
2 were on duty on September 8 in the evening at Times
3 Square when two inmates were taken to the box.

4 A That's right.

5 Q Would you describe their condition as they
6 passed Times Square?

7 A As I recall --

8 Q And if you can, differentiate between the
9 black inmate and the white inmate.

10 A As I recall, the black inmate was being
11 carried and the white inmate was walking between the
12 two officers.

13 Q Was there any conversation with the black
14 inmate as he passed through Times Square?

15 A As I recall, Sir, somebody, one of the
16 officers that was carrying him, possibly one of the
17 ranking officers, asked him at this time if he would
18 like to walk, and as I recall he left a little pro-
19 fanity at this time, but chose not to walk.

20 Q How was he being carried?

21 A There was about two officers on his legs
22 and arms and supporting his head.

23 Q Were there any visible signs of bruises on
24 either of these inmates as they passed through Times
25 Square?

1 A Not to my knowledge, sir.

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2 Not that I could see.

3 Q Was there any -- were the eyes of the black
4 inmate closed as he passed through Times Square?

5 A No, sir.

6 Q He was conscious?

7 A Yes, sir.

8 Q Did you or anybody else, to your knowledge,
9 make any effort to communicate the fact that the
10 inmates were conscious to the inmates back in A-block?

11 A I didn't.

12 I don't know whether anybody else did or
13 not.

14 MR. LIMAN: I have no further ques-
15 tions.

16 MR. MCKAY: Are there any questions
17 from members of the Commission? Bishop Broderick?

18 BISHOP BRODERICK: Sergeant, would
19 there be such a thing in Attica as, I think they
20 call it a master key, one that would open all the
21 doors? We saw a demonstration yesterday of
22 about five thousand different keys, and I wondered
23 whether there would be a master key, and secondly,
24 who would have it if there was one?

25 THE WITNESS: On the prison locks --

1 this would be the gates -- big post-type keys, 280
2 no, sir, they are not master. The small door locks
3 that we have in individual buildings, like the
4 hospital and some of these areas, are masters,
5 but these are small, regular keys like you would
6 use on your house, but the prison locks, no.

7 BISHOP BRODERICK: Thank you.

8 MR. McKAY: Mr. Henix.

9 MR. HENIX: My only question, Sergeant,
10 is: as I heard the testimony at this point, it
11 is that you have the position of sergeant --

12 THE WITNESS: That's right, sir.

13 MR. HENIX: In the institution.

14 Also, I am under the impression that
15 your major responsibility is in this area of
16 dealing with locks and security.

17 THE WITNESS: Not at this time. Not
18 as sergeant, no.

19 MR. HENIX: But at that time --

20 THE WITNESS: At that time, yes.

21 MR. HENIX: It was?

22 How does this pass on? I mean, what
23 would be your responsibilities outside of this
24 area?

25 THE WITNESS: Do you mean outside of

1 the lock work, sir?

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2 MR. HENIX: Yes.

3 THE WITNESS: Yes, sir. I worked
4 approximately in the days that I was in the
5 institution and wasn't assigned to a regular offi-
6 cer detail, if I was working the locks, I worked
7 approximately four hours a day on lock or lock
8 repair and the rest of the time I was assigned to
9 various officer's assignments.

10 Like I said, relief in the hospital,
11 AMS gate, Center Square.

12 MR. HENIX: As you already testi-
13 fied, these men that are the officers that passed
14 you with these two inmates, if you -- did you
15 have the authority to ask them, to stop them and
16 say, "Well, what's going on?" "What condition
17 is this person in?"

18 Would they have had to respond to these
19 questions?

20 THE WITNESS: I don't feel that I
21 had the authority at this time, because they
22 were escorted by a superior officer.

23 MR. HENIX: Okay. Thank you.

24 MR. MCKAY: Mrs. Wadsworth?

25 MRS. WADSWORTH: My question is in

1 the system itself.

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2 Is this system, the block system, the
3 one that was devised when Attica was built? Is
4 it the same system that we are using?

5 THE WITNESS: To the best of my know-
6 ledge, yes.

7 MRS. WADSWORTH: Is this periodically
8 reviewed for strength and bringing it up to date?

9 THE WITNESS: Yes. We try to go
10 through this. However, we probably wouldn't have
11 covered the lock devices unless we had specific
12 complaints of some lock not working right. We
13 didn't have the time, always, to make a routine
14 check because of the shortness of staff. Like I
15 said at one time, I was making many trips and so
16 forth, and we didn't have the help to spend the
17 amount of time probably on the locks that should
18 have been spent.

19 MRS. WADSWORTH: We hear a great deal
20 about lack of budget being a reason for so many
21 of the deficiencies. Would you say, then, that
22 lack of budget, therefore, lack of staff, is the
23 reason that these were not reviewed as often as
24 they might be?

25 THE WITNESS: Well, certainly I will

1 make this statement: I feel that 283

2 lack of budget has been a lot of our problems.

3 MRS. WADSWORTH: Thank you.

4 MR. McKAY: Mr. Carter.

5 MR. CARTER: So that I understand
6 the significance of your testimony, maybe it
7 came clear to other people, but I want to be sure,
8 and I correct that this defective lock gave and
9 that in part, or rather in great part, this was
10 what contributed to the fact that the inmates got
11 control of what they got control of; is that
12 correct?

13 THE WITNESS: Well, certainly this
14 was a contributing factor. Had this lock held,
15 then the disturbance may have been confined more
16 to one area.

17 MR. CARTER: Contained? It would
18 have been contained?

19 THE WITNESS: I can say I hope it
20 would have been contained.

21 MR. CARTER: Would you -- do you
22 think that you would have had a better opportu-
23 nity or chance to confine it had this lock not
24 given; is that correct?

25 THE WITNESS: Certainly.

1 MR. McKAY: Mr. Rothschild. 284

2 MR. ROTHSCHILD: Sergeant Miller,
3 one question. We heard a good deal -- in the
4 course of the taking of the institution -- of the
5 various doors that were sprung one way or another,
6 it never was clear to me which doors -- and I
7 don't mean by details -- were opened because the
8 inmates had a key to open them, which were opened
9 because they brought welding equipment from the
10 shops and burned them open, which they ran fork-
11 lift trucks through, and what have you.

12 Is the only door that gave under what
13 one might call normal usage, if you will, the
14 one at Times Square?

15 THE WITNESS: I would think the only
16 one that I found that had a default and was con-
17 tributed to this was the one at Center Square.

18 MR. ROTHSCHILD: And the only one which
19 could normally have given way to any inmate pres-
20 sures without outside assistance of ram rods,
21 et cetera, tools and what not, was that one, then?

22 THE WITNESS: Let's say all the other
23 gates that I examined showed where possibly some-
24 thing else had been used. However, if you get
25 enough manpower against any given gate, that is con-

1 structured by man, it probably can be tore 285
2 down by man. This is my belief, yes, that the
3 gates -- probably some of them could have been,
4 through sheer power if enough people get ahold of
5 them, tore down.

6 MR. MCKAY: Sergeant Miller, you have
7 testified that the problems that arise when locks
8 may be made insecure or broken down. Let me ask
9 the converse question.

10 What if there were an emergency in the
11 institution, a fire, let us say, that made some
12 of the keys unavailable, but it was necessary to
13 evacuate prisoners or officers who were locked in
14 in various areas. What alternative way is there
15 to unlock or to make insecure your otherwise se-
16 cure institution?

17 THE WITNESS: Well, all our gates
18 are usually manned when they are locked, and there
19 are people available with keys in secure places.
20 However, there is no alternative means, other
21 than the key, as far as these gates are concerned.

22 MR. MCKAY: So, if the keys and
23 persons who have access to the keys are unavail-
24 able, individuals could be locked in the premises
25 and there would be no way, other than breaking down

1 the bars to get them out; is that right? 286

2 THE WITNESS: I would say this is
3 true.

4 MR. McKAY: Thank you.

5 Mr. Liman, have you questions?

6 EXAMINATION (cont'd) BY MR. LIMAN:

7 Q You mentioned that a superior officer was
8 accompanying the two men being taken to the box on
9 September 8. Was that Lieutenant Maroney?

10 A Yes, sir.

11 MR. McKAY: Sergeant Miller, I
12 think you have been advised, and you are invited
13 at this time, if you wish, to make a statement
14 that need not relate to questions that have been
15 put to you.

16 Is there anything that you would like
17 to tell the Commission and the public at this
18 time?

19 THE WITNESS: I think, sir, the
20 only thing I would like to say -- I have read
21 so many things in the papers, television, about
22 the brutality, the officers -- I think they have
23 made all the officers look a little bit like we
24 have horns and certainly I don't think this is
25 true.

worked at Attica, I haven't seen this brutality. I don't believe it exists, or at least it hasn't existed in the last ten years. This, I think, is probably the only statement I would like to make.

MR. McKAY: Thank you, Sergeant Miller, for your statement and your willingness to be with us today.

MR. LIMAN: Our next witness is Dr. Warren Hanson.

WARREN HANSON, having been duly sworn by Mr. McKay, was examined and testified as follows:

EXAMINATION BY MR. LIMAN:

Q Would you state your full name for the record?

A Warren H. Hanson.

Q What is your occupation?

A Surgeon.

Q Where do you practice surgery?

A In the Wyoming County Community Hospital in Warsaw, New York.

Q Where is that located in relation to Attica?

A Approximately fifteen miles south.

1 Q What is your age?

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2 A Fifty.

3 Q Dr. Hanson, did you have occasion to go to
4 the Attica Correctional Facility on September 9?

5 A Yes.

6 Q Would you tell us the circumstances under
7 which you went?

8 A The whole story?

9 Q Yes. You can go -- tell us that.

10 A On that Thursday morning we arrived at the
11 hospital at our usual time, about eight or eight-
12 thirty, and received the warning that we might be
13 getting some casualties from Attica because there was
14 a disturbance there. Of the twelve people that were
15 released hostages that were injured that were released
16 that morning, we got four and took care of them.

17 Later in the day, about noontime or so, we
18 got a request from the Wyoming County Sheriff's Office
19 asking if some doctors could come over and stand by
20 outside of the prison.

21 So, three of the men went over at about
22 six or seven o'clock that evening. I guess it was
23 probably five-thirty or six when I received a call
24 and they said that these men had been there all af-
25 ternoon and asked if I would go over and substitute.

1 So, I arrived at the prison probably 289
2 around six-thirty or so and -- I had never seen the
3 prison before; in spite of its being so close, I had
4 never been there. I was aware of its existence, ob-
5 viously, and it was quite a hectic scene, with hundreds
6 of State Police cars, probably twelve, fifteen res-
7 cue vehicles of various kinds, all staffed with nurses
8 and personnel of various types.

9 I talked to the doctors that had been there
10 all afternoon and asked them what the situation was,
11 and they were in complete ignorance of what was going
12 on inside. I asked about the hostages, and they didn't
13 know. I talked to some of the people rambling around
14 the area and no one seemed to know what was going on.

15 There was a lot of rumor flying about about
16 hostages being either dead or seriously injured inside,
17 and I ran into a gentleman from Albany, a Health Depart-
18 ment official, and I spoke with him. I asked if I
19 could go inside to see if I can find out more and
20 they took me into the Administration Building and I
21 talked to some people there.

22 They didn't seem to know anything either.

23 At this point, I was asking somebody if
24 I could go further into the prison to see what was
25 there, and at this point a gentleman came down from

1 some stairs to my left and asked me who I 290

2 was. I told him and he asked if I would come upstairs.

3 It turned out that this was Mr. Mancusi.

4 He took me upstairs and into the offices, where he
5 introduced me to Commissioner Oswald, Mr. Dunbar and
6 some other people. And it was apparent that they did
7 not know what the situation of the hostages was either,
8 and apparently they hadn't given some thought to the
9 possibility of getting a physician inside to see.

10 So, after some discussion and debates, as
11 to whether it would be safe for me to go in or not --
12 they decided -- and I decided that we would give it
13 a try if they would give me some assurances of safety,
14 that is, the prisoners.

15 Q Dr. Hanson, did you understand that Mr. Os-
16 wald had been inside the prison in D-yard?

17 A I was not aware of that. I was not aware
18 of who had been inside, except they told me that they
19 had been in and came out.

20 Q But in any event, they did not know what
21 the condition of the hostages was at that time?

22 A Yes.

23 Q Would you --

24 A So they had three other negotiators that
25 were going in shortly, so I went down and at the gate

1 one of the prisoners came up and they said that 291
2 they had three negotiators and they also had a doctor
3 and would the doctor be assured safe conduct.

4 He gave us that assurance, so I went in.

5 Q Who were the three negotiators that you
6 went in with, do you recall?

7 A I don't recall.

8 Q Do you recall whether one of them was
9 Herman Schwartz?

10 A I believe so.

11 Q You say you went in. Would you describe
12 the process by which you were admitted to D-yard?

13 A The so-called DMZ area in, I believe, it
14 would be A tunnel, where it connects to A-block, and
15 about half way down there is an exit from the tunnel
16 into the adjacent yard.

17 And the half between the yard entry and
18 the block -- as you are indicating there, that was
19 part was called the DMZ.

20 At the yard exit the prisoners had some
21 tables and there were four or five of them on guard
22 on that point all the time. They opened the gate and
23 the prisoners stepped back, one of the officers opened
24 the gate and we walked in and then we were taken and
25 escorted down to that point of exit.

1 We were frisked, not very thoroughly, 292

2 and taken out to that yard. We crossed the A yard,
3 I think it is, over into the other tunnel, midway,
4 where we were again frisked and taken through that
5 tunnel into D yard.

6 In D yard, they had a phalanx of men that
7 I came to know where called security guards lined up
8 shoulder to shoulder, extending -- I guess it would
9 be East -- over to a conference table that had been
10 set up against the East wall.

11 Q Were the security guards dressed in a dis-
12 tinctive manner?

13 A Only in that each one had a white cloth
14 wrapped around their left arm. Around the negotiating
15 tables they also had a phalanx of similar men and they --
16 I think it's over on the other wall.

17 Q It's over there?

18 A That's where the security table was. They
19 pretty well enclosed the area so that the negotiators
20 could not see into the yard except what they could
21 see over the heads of the security guards, so they
22 couldn't tell much of what was going on inside the
23 yard proper.

24 Q What did you do when you entered the yard,
25 Doctor?

1 A In the -- may I use this? 293

2 Q Yes, sure. There is a pointer.

3 A I came in through the Administration Build-
4 ing, out through this tunnel, across A-yard, across
5 here into D-yard and the phalanx of men was drawn
6 up -- thank you. The phalanx man were drawn up from
7 this entrance right over this wall and across in front
8 of the negotiating tables which were here.

9 When I came in, the negotiators proceeded
10 to that table and I was led over to this corner where
11 they had a little first-aid set up.

12 They had a couple of tables, three tables
13 I believe. They had a chest that they had some medi-
14 cations in that apparently they had taken from some
15 place. The medications were not very sophisticated.
16 There were no narcotics in there, for instance, but
17 they did have some medications and bandages and a few
18 things like this.

19 There were three men on duty there.

20 Q Inmates?

21 A Inmates. That were serving as first-aid
22 men and apparently this had been their function in
23 the prison. They were medical aids of some type.

24 I talked to them briefly and then we went
25 over to visit the hostages. The hostages at this time

1 were in a little enclosure in this
2 quadrant right there.

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3 Q What was the enclosure composed of at that
4 point?

5 A It was an oval of knee-high benches,
6 probably twenty-five by thirty-five foot in circum-
7 ference, I would say. At this time, all the hostages
8 were either lying or sitting down -- most of them
9 were lying, huddled up with a blanket over them.
10 There were no mattresses. They were lying on the
11 ground.

12 It was getting now quite late in the even-
13 ing and it was fairly chilly.

14 Q Were they blindfolded?

15 A Blindfolded. And I went around and there
16 was, of course, around this little compound or enclo-
17 sure, a group of security guards.

18 And the other security guards were not
19 permitted into the hostage area. The man that had
20 been assigned to me as a guard seemed to be of a
21 certain level or rank in the prisoner organization.
22 He wasn't one of the major leaders, but apparently
23 he was a first lieutenant, because he seemed to have
24 a certain amount of authority and free rein and the --
25 it was a little unique. When I first walked in, he

1 grasped my arm very firmly and as we walked in
2 through the DMZ and so forth, he was guiding me and
3 not turning me loose. As we walked across A-yard, he
4 turned and he said, "Doctor, I am responsible for your
5 safety."

6 And he said, "There are some men in here
7 who are dangerous." And he said "I don't want to be
8 holding and push you around. Why don't you hold my
9 arm and let me kind of lead you, and you just follow
10 me."

11 So he dropped my arm and I grabbed his and
12 just followed him in. When we got to the hostage
13 area, he was permitted inside, but the other security
14 people that had come along in my little group, they
15 were not permitted inside the hostage thing itself.

16 Q In what condition did you find the hostages?

17 A After all the rumors I heard, I was quite
18 pleased to find they were in quite good shape. A
19 number of them had wounds and injuries of different
20 kinds, but they were not life threatening.

21 One of the inmates, one of the medical aids,
22 had done some emergency suturing on some minor wounds,
23 cuts probably, and maximum of a couple of inches.

24 Q That was Tiny Swift who had done the
25 suturing?

1 A Yes. Tiny Swift had stitched up 296

2 mouth here, put a couple of stitches on the other
3 side, I believe, and there were a couple of people
4 with scalp lacerations that he put a few stitches in.
5 He did a reasonably good job, and when I complimented
6 him later on, he looked at me rather sheepishly and
7 he said it was the first time he ever did it, and he
8 was quite proud of himself.

9 He also put some temporary rustic splints
10 on some arms that had possibly been injured. One
11 person had possibly sustained a dislocated shoulder
12 and he put some type of strapping on that.

13 So, I checked over all the people that he
14 had worked on and then went around and tried to talk
15 to each of the individuals to ask them if I could do
16 anything for them.

17 Q Were any of the hostages that were blind-
18 folded suspicious of you, doctor?

19 A Yes, some of them were very reluctant to
20 say anything and I tried to reassure them that I
21 really was a doctor. Subsequent to this, on succeed-
22 ing days, when I talked with them longer, a couple
23 of them did admit that they thought this might be
24 some type of trick or something and they weren't about
25 to talk to me.

1 Q On subsequent days you were able
2 to see them and they could see you?

3 A Yes.

4 Q But on this first day they couldn't see
5 you?

6 A Yes.

7 Q Now, you say that you then went and looked
8 after ailments of some inmates after you finished
9 with the hostages?

10 A Yes.

11 After an agreed time of looking over the
12 hostages, I talked to my guide and I told him I would
13 be willing to see any prisoners that wanted help.
14 So I returned to the little aid tables and sort of
15 held a sick call and had approximately twenty-five,
16 thirty, prisoners come up with various complaints.
17 Then I made the rounds of the entire yard. There were
18 four or five inmates that went along with me. One
19 of them was carrying my medical bag, one of them had
20 a stethoscope, another had bandages, and each one had
21 a specific job.

22 We walked around the entire yard with a
23 fellow with a bull-horn leading us hollering out "Any-
24 body want a doctor? Anybody want a doctor?"

25 As we went around the yard, various men would

1 could up and ask me questions or tell me
2 about their problems.

298

3 Q Were there instructions given with respect
4 to the dispensation of drugs?

5 A Yes. The aid quarters -- when I started
6 dispensing medication, a couple of leaders came up
7 to the table, three of them, at different times, and
8 they wanted to make sure that no drugs were being
9 handed out that could be addictive or cause a high or
10 cause a reaction of this type.

11 When the drugs that could possibly be used
12 in this manner were dispensed, I had the patient
13 take them right there and I gave them none to take
14 with them.

15 After making the rounds of the entire yard,
16 we then went into the D-block and made rounds there
17 on the first and second tiers. I saw a great deal of
18 wreckage, of course, in the corners, with heaped up
19 parts of burnt furniture, lots of broken glass and
20 water and debris. The cell gates were all open and
21 men were lounging in their cells, one or two in a
22 cell, and several of these men had complaints.

23 Then finally I returned to the yard. At
24 this point I talked to my guide and he in turn to some
25 of the leaders, and I was given permission to leave

1 the rebel hill compound and go back out to 299
2 the prison hospital to obtain supplies.

3 Tiny or one of the other men, rather, was
4 keeping notes for me. I had given him the name and
5 told him the medication that I wanted to get for him.
6 So, I went out to the prison hospital and procured,
7 oh, a half dozen good splints to replace the rusted
8 ones that Tiny had used, and a large amount of medi-
9 cation.

10 I went back in and -- well, as a matter of
11 fact, I didn't go directly back in. I felt that Tiny
12 could pass out the medication according to the list
13 that I had given him and could apply these other
14 splints. So, I left Tiny to go back to the DMZ and
15 I went back to the Commissioner's office to talk to
16 the people there.

17 I was there for about five minutes, and
18 a correction officer came running up and said they
19 wouldn't let Tiny back in without me; that they in-
20 sisted that I come in to apply the other splints and
21 hand out the medication.

22 So, I went back in the yard and went back
23 to the hostage compound and spent maybe an hour there
24 giving them the tetanus injections, handing out
25 antibiotics and rewrapping some new bandages I had,

1 and rewrapping some new splints and wound 300
2 up over in a corner again and saw another twenty-five
3 or thirty prisoners for various complaints.
4

5 Q What kind of complaints were you treat-
6 ing?

7 A There were no injuries among the prisoners,
8 of an acute traumatic nature, that is, where they
9 had been hit or bumped or struck or this kind of
10 thing. It was all mostly chronic complaints.

11 There were a great many of them that had
12 asthma, and apparently the stress of the situation
13 plus perhaps the irritation of the tear gas had
14 given them reactions, so I gave quite a few injec-
15 tions or pill medications for asthma.

16 A lot of people complained of headaches
17 and chronic back aches, and all sorts of things like
18 this.

19 Q When did you finally leave the yard, Doc-
20 tor?

21 A It was quite late. I imagine probably
22 around eleven-thirty or so.

23 Q What did you do after you left the yard?

24 A I went up to the offices and spoke with
25 the various people up there. They, of course, were
very interested in finding out what the condition of

1 these hostages and the prisoners were, 301
2 and the attitude of the prisoners, and how the hos-
3 tages were being treated, and so forth.

4 Q What did you report to them?

5 A Pardon?

6 Q What did you report to them?

7 A From the time of the original violence,
8 after they had all been rounded up and initially put
9 in what was called P.V. corner, which was over here
10 (indicating), they were initially herded into a little
11 corner there and then after a couple of hours --
12 they were -- a lot of them were stripped. Some of
13 them were not completely stripped, they were allowed
14 to keep their shorts.

15 A few of them even had their own civilian
16 clothing on, but most of them were stripped to some
17 degree and they were in that corner for some time and
18 one of the leaders came around and gave instructions
19 to the security men in the area that these prisoners
20 should be clothed.

21 So, they went up into the store room, which
22 I believe was up in D-block -- on the second or third
23 floor -- and they broke this open and threw a bunch
24 of sheets and blankets and things out the windows
25 and that gave them some protection; and then, subse-

1 quently, they were given the prison uniforms, 302
2 either the overalls or the shirts and work trousers.

3 From the time they arrived in that corner
4 they had absolutely no violence done to them. They
5 received all their injuries in the initial hours and
6 after that they were carefully protected.

7 Q Did you so report to Commissioner Oswald?

8 A Yes. Even though they were blindfolded
9 and they were going in sheer misery and sheer terror,
10 one, because of their various hurts, although they
11 were not lethal, they were certainly in pain and it
12 was cold and miserable and damp lying on the ground,
13 and so forth, and they were -- the situation was, it
14 was a night of sheer terror for them because they
15 couldn't see anything and they didn't know what was
16 going to happen to them next, but at the time that
17 I reported to the Commissioner, they were all well
18 and doing fine and there were no acute injuries that
19 were going to do permanent harm, and they were being
20 protected.

21 Q Dr. Hanson, did you make any request to
22 the inmates to have the blindfolds removed from the
23 hostages?

24 A Yes. A couple of the fellows complained
25 that the bandages were bothering them and I suggested

1 that they might be irritating and so forth 303
2 and tried to do what I could, but they wouldn't
3 tolerate this at all.

4 Q Were you threatened at any time that you
5 were in the yard on Thursday?

6 A No. Not threatened as such. After I had
7 probably been in there about an hour or so and was
8 making the rounds of the yard, I suddenly realized
9 that the negotiators had long since gone and I was
10 there alone. I sort of looked around; it was dark,
11 and people were guiding me around with flashlights,
12 and all these menacing people around carrying clubs
13 and weapons of all kinds, and their peculiar garb,
14 I sort of wondered what I was doing there and actually
15 they did nothing whatsoever.

16 Q Could you characterize what you described
17 as the peculiar garb and also the weapons?

18 A Well, many had football helmets. Many
19 of them had taken blankets and put a hole in the
20 middle to make a poncho. Some of them had blankets
21 and cut a little hole for their eyes or face and had
22 them over their head to completely shield them.

23 Some of them put pieces of sheets over their
24 heads with eyeholes and nose-holes torn out, and put
25 a football helmet on top of that.

1
2 a few had nightsticks that they had obtained from
3 correction officers. Many had baseball bats. Many
4 of them had steel rods which, I assume, were stakes
5 from horseshoe pits.

6 All kinds of different weapons.

7 I recall one man, I believe, who was a
8 Puerto Rican, and he was -- this was rather paradoxi-
9 cal. He came up with another Puerto Rican who was
10 six foot three or so, and very husky and could not
11 speak English very well. So this other fellow, who
12 was about five six and must have weighed about 240
13 pounds, and had shoulders and a chest like a bull
14 elephant, a very impressive man, and he had a massive
15 hat -- where he got this hat, I will never know.
16 He was carrying -- all the time he was interpreting
17 for the other man, he was swinging this club with
18 one hand and in the other hand he was swinging what
19 looked like a cartridge belt from the Army, one
20 of these thick, webbed belts with the heavy buckle
21 on it, and he was swinging that in his other hand.

22 The tall Puerto Rican was complaining that
23 his ulcers were bothering him, so I gave him what
24 ulcer medication we had in this medicine chest. He
25 took the pills and became very vehement. The interpre-

2 thing the man said, including all the obscenities,
3 and it was quite apparent that this ulcer medication
4 that I gave him was not adequate at all, that this
5 was the same crap that they always gave him and the
6 stuff he got in Sing Sing was much better, so I
7 had to apologize for my lack of better supplies, but
8 that was all I could do at the moment.

9 Q Did you see any firearms?

10 A None at all.

11 Q Did you have occasion to go back to Attica
12 on Friday, September 10?

13 A Yes.

14 Q Tell us the circumstances of what happened.

15 A I was operating about two-thirty in the
16 afternoon and one of the nurses came in and said that
17 they had gotten a call from the Sheriff's Office
18 saying that the prisoners wanted a doctor and they
19 wouldn't accept anybody but me back in. So when I
20 got through, I drove back over, getting there pro-
21 bably about four o'clock or so.

22 I again went up to the offices and I was
23 met by the various people. Mr. Dunbar said they had
24 heard rumors that there had been violence perpetuated
25 on the hostages.

2 rumors?

3 A Well, he told me that they had heard these
4 things. He said that one of the things they had
5 heard was -- I don't know if that was when the castra-
6 tion rumor came out or not, I'm not certain about
7 that, but one of the things I know is he said that
8 he heard that six or eight of the hostages were put
9 into a prison toilet and that mattresses and wood
10 were stacked up against the cell door and ignited
11 and he said there were also rumors of other things.

12 I said, Well, I related -- find it diffi-
13 cult to believe, after what I had seen the night
14 before, because I was very impressed that the security
15 guards that had been assigned to protect the hos-
16 tages were very much concerned that no harm should
17 come to them, and they seemed to be dedicated to the
18 task.

19 When I went back in the second time to
20 give these injections and medications and things,
21 the previous night, they were very solicitous. They
22 helped the men sit up and they would guide the water
23 to his hand. He was blindfolded, of course, so they
24 would hold the glass in his hand and help him to
25 drink and ask him if there was anything else they

1 could do, and this sort of thing.

307

2 When I heard this rumor, I asked him how
3 he knew this and he said, "Well, we just learned these
4 things. We have ways."

5 He wouldn't tell me how he knew about
6 them.

7 I said I found it very difficult to believe
8 and that despite his warnings I felt that it would be
9 safe for me to go back in if I got the same assurance
10 that I got the night before.

11 So, we went back down to the gate in A-
12 block and again the same guide came forth when we cal-
13 led for him, and he came up and Mr. Dunbar spoke to
14 him and said that we are concerned, really, about
15 the doctor's safety and, the guide said, "You don't
16 have to worry about the doctor. He's beautiful.
17 All the men think he is beautiful and there is no
18 problems."

19 And so, I went in and had no problems. It
20 was a surprising thing, the reaction that I got. It
21 was quite apparent that the night before they had
22 been quite impressive people -- I'm not sure why. I
23 don't think I did anything really great medically,
24 but the fact that I came in apparently meant a great
25 deal to them because they seemed to be very solicitous

1 and just seemed to fall all over themselves try- 308
2 ing to help me in any way that they could, and seemed
3 to be very grateful for the fact that I was there.
4

5 I went over and saw the hostages again,
6 and this was quite a dramatic difference from the
7 night before. This was now in the late afternoon and
8 had been a bright, sunny, even hot, day, and they had
9 constructed a shelter over the hostages, kind of a
10 bunch of sticks and wood and so forth and taken a
11 bunch of sheets and put the sheets over it to make
12 a shalter for them so they wouldn't get burned in the
13 sun.

14 About four o'clock that morning, the
15 hostages had been momentarily frightened because
16 they were shaken awake and they didn't know what
17 happened to them.

18 What happened was they brought in about
19 fifteen, twenty mattresses, which wasn't enough for
20 one for each man, but at least each man could get
21 half of his body, the upper half of his body, onto
22 a mattress, and by Friday afternoon their blindfolds
23 had been removed, perhaps an hour before I came in.

24 The protection they had from the sun was
25 now taken out, so they were warming themselves in
the pleasant afternoon sun.

2 just because they felt reasonably secure, they had
3 survived the terrors of the night and they were still
4 alive and it was a bright, sunny day and they had
5 been fed and they were offered food and cigarettes.

6 I don't know how many thousands of cartons
7 they had taken from the commissary. They were all
8 around the place. So the hostages were very much
9 relieved.

10 Some of their aches and pains had ceased
11 to bother them some. Tiny had given them all of the
12 pain medication and the antibiotics that I had pres-
13 cribed the night before, so they were coming along
14 very fine.

15 I spent quite a bit of time with them talk-
16 ing with them on one thing and another. I went back
17 over to the A-corner and saw maybe a couple of hundred
18 men that came up.

19 Q A couple of hundred inmates?

20 A Yes.

21 Q What was the nature of their complaints?

22 A The same sort of things, asthma, chronic
23 back aches. Enormous amounts of them wanted Darvan.
24 This was typical of the sort of things, rumors that
25 build up in an institution like this. They wanted

1 something for pain, and they didn't want 310

2 the Darvan. They said that the medical authorities in
3 the prison had gone around and taken all of the active
4 ingredients out of the Darvan capsules.
5

6 When Darvan was first made a few years ago,
7 the really active ingredient was in a little pellet
8 inside the capsule and it wasn't long before young-
9 sters and drug abusers of various types found out they
10 could take the capsule apart, get this little pea out
11 and if they dropped four or five of these they could
12 get quite a spectacular high and the prisoners, of
13 course, were well aware of this.

14 The manufacturer changed the process and
15 he makes this active ingredient in with the rest of
16 the drugs, the powder in the capsule, and the prisoners
17 felt that this meant that the medical people in the
18 hospital there had taken these pellets out of every
19 single capsule that they passed out, which, of course,
20 was not true.

21 I reassured them about that.

22 They looked a little doubtful, but they
23 agreed that I was right.

24 Q Did they complain to you about their medi-
25 cal treatment at Attica?

A Very much so. It was astounding to me how

1 vehement they were about it. The medical 311
2 officer that had been there the longest period of
3 time, they thoroughly damned him and the other one
4 they didn't have much respect for either. And they
5 felt that their medical care was completely inadequate.
6

7 Q Did they ask you to become the prison doc-
8 tor?

9 A Yes. Numerous ones approached me about
10 this. As a matter of fact, this was the night that
11 the observers or the -- yes, the observers came in
12 and I was coming back in through A-yard, and Mr. Eve
13 of Buffalo, who was sort of chairman of the observers,
14 called me over and introduced me to several of the
15 different observers from around the country. They
16 said that they didn't know exactly what had been doing
17 in there, but apparently it was pretty terrific be-
18 cause all the prisoners thought I was great.

19 Mr. Eve asked me if there was any possibility
20 if I could make a promise to take a job or even a
21 part-time job there after the riot was over. They
22 felt if they could tell this to the prisoners, it
23 might have some effect on the negotiations.

24 I don't accept this for any great -- as
25 any great accolade to my medical abilities or to my
personality. I think this was just the circumstances.

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It is exquisitely difficult to be a physician at an institution like this. Such a high percentage of the people that come on sick call are malingerers in the first place. Many of them come just to have a place to meet their friends from other yards. We have intercepted notes from time to time saying we will meet at sick call.

A lot of them would go on sick call just to change the boredom of their day. Instead of their usual routine, they would go on sick call.

Under conditions like this where men are dying of sheer boredom, I think they had quite adequate athletic facilities during the daytime, but there was nothing much for them to do at night, no recreation.

I think probably after their evening meal they were shut in, I think, from then until morning. It was an awful long period for them. They had no recreation at all and they became very bored.

Under these circumstances, human beings are very prone to discover lots of ills that under normal circumstances they would ignore, and for them to be a physician in a facility like this and try to meet all these different types of complaints it is almost impossible to keep everybody happy.

1 Q Did you find that to be the

313

2 case in dealing with the inmates in the yard; that
3 many had complaints that did not require medical
4 treatment?

5 A Yes. Many of them were psychological
6 complaints and when I see this sort of thing in a
7 private practice you can take the time to talk with
8 a patient and see him many times, and help him to
9 receive some insight into his problem. You have to
10 help him understand that the shortness of breath or
11 the feeling that his heart is pounding very hard or
12 he has difficulty in swallowing or all these different
13 complaints are psychological, and give him some in-
14 sight. But in an institution like this, with that
15 number of people, it's almost impossible to give this
16 time to each man.

17 I want to point out this side, that any-
18 body who is seriously ill there and had a real serious
19 illness was taken care of well. They had good physi-
20 cal facilities for medical care and they had terri-
21 fic reserve.

22 We saw a number of patients in Warsaw,
23 mostly in our eye, ear, nose and throat department,
24 which is quite exceptional, and they also drew on
25 the Meyer Memorial Hospital in Buffalo, which has better

1 physical security, so they could take people 314
2 for surgery or people who needed medical study and
3 keep them under physical restraint.

4 Q What else happened on Friday, Doctor?

5 Was there any threat that there was gassing
6 going on or any complaint that the police were trying
7 to get them?

8 A Well, maybe I will take it chronologically.

9 When I came in, I saw the hostages again
10 and as I said, they were coming along well and gotten
11 medication and gotten rid of some of their pains,
12 and I talked with them some.

13 At that time, they had now been given a
14 full quota of mattresses and at that time, I noticed
15 that some of them didn't have shoes, some of them didn't
16 have shirts, some of them were lacking this, that
17 and the other thing.

18 I said that I felt, one, they should have
19 these things and, two, in order to give them something
20 to do, I said, "Why don't you get organized now and
21 make your group cohesive and do something and draw
22 up a list of all the different things that you require?"

23 So they got busy and they drew up a list,
24 saying so and so needed shoes, and so and so needed
25 socks. They made up quite a list of things they would

1 like to have from the outside.

315

2 I said, "I will try to get these things
3 for you."

4 I checked it out with my guide and he said
5 this would be a good idea and he also suggested a
6 couple of things on his own.

7 One, he suggested that I get a supply of
8 lime, because they had open latrine trenches, of course,
9 for sanitation and he said we should have some lime
0 to control, one, the stench and two, improve the sani-
1 tation.

2 He also requested that we get thirty-nine
3 mattresses, because the mattresses that the hostages
4 were using were given up by prisoners and actually
5 several of the prisoners that night had slept on the
6 picnic tables or hard benches themselves having given
7 their mattresses to the hostages.

8 So, we made up quite a list and it was
9 about at this point that the observers came in and
0 they had again formed the phalanx and the television
1 lights were on and the talking began, and at this
2 point my guide had taken this list of items up to
3 the leaders' table, the negotiating table, for appro-
4 val.

5 I climbed up on a picnic table near the

1 hostages' compound and was looking over the 316

2 heads of the security guards to watch and listen to
3 the speakers. Then my guide came back and he said,
4 "I know you would like to listen to the speeches,"
5 but he said, "I would like to get this list in so that
6 we will get these things later tonight."

7 So, I said "Okay."

8 So we headed out for the DMZ and on the way
9 we told the men that we have to hurry through security
10 checks because the doctor wants to get back and hear
11 the speeches.

12 So, we got down to the DMZ and Mr. Dunbar
13 appears and we give him the list and I explained to
14 him the situation and told him that -- I gave him the
15 message that two of the correction officers that were
16 hostages had given me and they said that all of these
17 things are for us, but the things on the last page
18 we intended to share with our security guards, that
19 is, the security guards for the hostages' compound.

20 They have been sharing a lot of things with
21 us and we would like to share these with them, and on
22 the last page they had some things like coffee and
23 sugar and tea and various things like this that they
24 wanted to share with their buddies, which was rather
25 paradoxical, too, because at this time they would seem

1 to be perfectly aware that their own security 316-A
2 guard also posed a threat to them.

3 At that time, Mr. Dunbar presented a piece
4 of paper to my guide, which I did not read, but from
5 their discussion it was obvious that this was some-
6 thing about the condition where the rebels had been
7 coming into C-yard, which would have been over here,
8 and passing things in to their buddy prisoners who
9 were in A-block, and the secure areas of the prison,
0 and Mr. Dunbar said they couldn't tolerate this and
1 my guide explained to him that the things they were
2 passing were quite innocuous, like candy and cigarettes
3 and so forth. And it wouldn't do any harm.

4 Mr. Dunbar kept insisting that it could
5 not be tolerated and my guide said, "Well, there is
6 no way we can control our brothers this well, and if
7 they want to go and give these things to their bud-
8 dies, there is no way we can stop them."

9 He said whatever you do, just don't shoot.
0 We don't know what will happen. Just don't shoot.

1 Mr. Dunbar argued and finally my guide
2 turned away and walked away and said over his shoul-
3 ders "Just don't shoot."

4 And we went back in, and that was when
5 we encountered the observers coming out and just when

1 Mr. Eve was talking to me about the

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2 possibility of my working there, suddenly there was
3 a shout of prisoners on the catwalk near Times Square --
4 there were a lot of them up on the catwalks, and sud-
5 denly there was a lot of running around, screaming
6 and shouting, and they hollered down that they were
7 tear gassing our brothers in C-block.

8
9 So, there was a lot of shouting and excite-
10 ment and I suggested to my guide that he tell the
11 guides that were with the observers to get them over
12 there in a hurry.

13 They were going out to inspect A and C
14 block anyway. I said, if they are going there, you
15 must as well rush them over to C-block and find out
16 if this was true or not, and they did.

17 They hurried them over there and, of course,
18 there was no truth to the rumor. It was just a mis-
19 understanding that happened under the circumstances.

20 I went back to the compound again and saw
21 some more prisoners of various types and saw the hos-
22 tages again, but this time they were quite secure
23 and were doing quite well.

24 After the observers left, there was a lot
25 of speech-making. It sounded like a political rally
and they were making speeches about "We are in this to-

1 into the yard or negotiators?

319

2 A This was on Saturday.

3 Q Well, on Friday after you left the yard,
4 did you report to Mr. Oswald?

5 A Yes.

6 Q Now, on Friday, did you feel threatened
7 at all when you were in the yard?

8 A No.

9 Q What did you report to Commissioner Oswald
10 on Friday night when you left the yard?

11 A At that time, I told him that the rumors
12 I had heard of atrocities and so forth were, of course,
13 false; that prisoners were being treated extremely
14 well. They had been fed. They even got one hot meal
15 that had been arranged for them, and they were quite
16 cheerful at that time.

17 They felt that the hostages had then heard
18 the official demands that the prisoners had asked for,
19 and they thought that most of them could reasonably
20 be granted, and they seemed to think that negotiations
21 would probably work out.

22 Q Now, did you return to the yard on Satur-
23 day?

24 A Yes. Before I left on Friday, the prisoners
25 had asked if I would come back on Saturday, and I said

1 I would.

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2 There was really no need for me to go back
3 and see the hostages, because they were doing fine,
4 but there were a couple of prisoners, most of them
5 didn't need help either, but there were a couple of
6 them that did.

7 There was one young fellow that developed
8 quite an infection of his leg and I was treating it
9 with antibiotics. I was trying to get him to put hot
10 soaks on it and I wanted to go back and check on these
11 people anyway.

12 So, I went back Saturday, but I got stuck,
13 with some emergency surgery, and again I didn't get
14 there until late Saturday afternoon.

15 The scene -- the scene between Thursday and
16 Friday had changed drastically and the change from
17 Friday to Saturday was again very drastic.

18 Q In what way?

19 A By this time, I had developed a very blase
20 attitude about the whole thing and I waltzed in with-
21 out a thought in the world for my own safety because
22 I felt that I had been so accepted and they had been
23 in there on Friday, and I couldn't conceive of any-
24 thing happening.

25 Unfortunately, I didn't ask for the same

1 guide when I went down to the DMZ as I had 321
2 before. I just called down and said I was there, so
3 the fellow took me and he apparently, the other man
4 was a lieutenant. This man was probably a corporal
5 or a buck sergeant, but he didn't have the same es-
6 teem. He didn't have the same qualities.

7 We got down to the first check point in a
8 tunnel, and they had a couple of extra men on the crew
9 and the frisking was extremely thorough.

10 They were really rough and went over me
11 like they thought I was hiding diamonds in various body
12 orifices, or something, but they really did a job.

13 I went through the yard, and when I got
14 over to the A tunnel and went through that, I went
15 through the same rigamarole. They hollered and shouted
16 commands about and back and forth when you could do
17 that or not, and they held me in this tunnel for quite
18 a while before they opened the door and led me into
19 D-yard.

20 I came into the yard and after spending a
21 little time it was obvious there was a great deal
22 more tension.

23 The prisoners were really up tight. I
24 saw a number of people that had acute psychic or
25 hysterical reactions of various types. There was one

1 husky one, black male, that came up, and he 322

2 was carrying a cross that was probably about twenty
3 inches or so in length that he apparently had obtained
4 from the chapel, and he was shouting about black power
5 and about God and they were all going to die, and
6 all sorts of hysterical gibberish.

7 I saw two people that had epileptic-form
8 seizures. These are seizures like epilepsy where they
9 had convulsions, but neither of these men had any
10 history of epilepsy previously.

11 I had a couple of men that had sort of
12 catatonic seizures, which is a hysterical reaction.
13 They just turn completely rigid. Every body muscle
14 is taut, like this, and you know it is not a true
15 seizure of some kind, it is merely an hysterical reac-
16 tion.

17 You treat them the same way. You sedate
18 them so they quiet down and get some sleep and then
19 they are all right.

20 There was a great deal of argumentation
21 between the prisoners. Sometimes they threatened
22 fisticuffs, and some other prisoners had to come over
23 and separate them and knock them down.

24 Q Did you come to a conclusion as to what
25 was contributing to this change in atmosphere? Just

1 time, or was there something else?

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2 A Well, there was a sequence, and entire se-
3 quence of events. I saw all these different men, and
4 saw the hostages again, who still were doing fine, but
5 they were getting a little bit up tight, and before I
6 had gone in, I had gone up to the offices again, and
7 they had told me that it was funny, on Friday when I
8 went in, the situation in the offices were quite
9 tense; they were worried because they had heard about
10 the atrocities on the hostages and the yard itself was
11 very, quite relaxed. It was almost festive.

12 All the prisoners had built little fires
13 and were cooking things for themselves. They erected
14 shelters in the sun and they sat around smoking. It
15 was like a picnic.

16 Saturday was quite the reverse. In the
17 Superintendent's offices, they were quite chipper and
18 quite happy. They said they had drawn up this list
19 of twenty-eight points that they thought were very
20 good and they thought the prisoners should accept it.

21 They were very hopeful that they were going
22 to resolve a lot of things on Saturday night. Then
23 I get in the yard, and that's up tighter than a drum.

24 So, the position had reversed completely.

25 When I told the hostages that they had drawn

1 up these twenty-eight points, a couple of
2 them said that it was somewhat paradoxical, that
3 they, who had the most at stake, had no voice in the
4 arbitrations, and feeling pretty powerful at the time,
5 I said, "Well, maybe I can arrange with the rebels to
6 let one of the negotiators or one of the officials
7 down here to talk to you so you can make your desires
8 known."

9 At this point, my original guide showed
10 up in the compound and he said, "Look, Doc, if you
11 are talking about bringing in a prison official or a
12 correction officer in here," he said -- or correc-
13 tion officer, he said, "just forget it, because if we
14 get him, we keep him."

15 That afternoon, incidentally, they let out
16 one of the hostages with a supposed heart attack.
17 Actually, he didn't have one, but he did have some
18 pain. Tiny sort of built it up to help him get out,
19 I suspect.

20 When I came in and went over to the hostages,
21 they were very adamant and they said that if anybody
22 else gets out of here, they don't get out unless we
23 get somebody to take their place.

24 So, if one of the hostages became ill, they
25 claimed they would not let him out unless another cor-

1 rection officer came over to take his

325

2 place.

3 So, my guide -- my ex-guide made that re-
4 mark and I said, "Well, I guess that blows that idea,"
5 so I said, supposing they wrote up their comments
6 and I took the note out to let the officials know how
7 they feel about it.

8 So, he thought about that for a bit and he
9 decided it would be a good idea. He suggested to the
10 two senior correction officers there that they draw
11 up such a list and that I could take it out. So, they
12 drew up this list and he took it over to the negotia-
13 ting table for the prison officials, or the prisoners'
14 officials, to review it.

15 I sort of waited around.

16 Another evidence of the increased security
17 at this time was the negotiating table again had this
18 semi-circle of men around it with locked arms, and
19 this they had not done except when outside observers
20 were in previously, but on Saturday they had this addi-
21 tional security for their own leaders.

22 So, shortly after this, I was asked to come
23 over to the leaders' table, and I was taken up to this
24 ring of men -- it opened and another man took charge
25 of me and led me from the ring to the table itself.

1 They were picnic tables. The negotiators 326

2 were sitting there talking to each other, and I sat
3 on the near side of the picnic table behind.

4 I couldn't quite make out all the discussion,
5 but I sat there for five minutes, then somebody turned
6 around and said, "Okay, Doctor, you can go now."

7 Q When you are talking about the negotiators,
8 you are talking about the inmate negotiators?

9 A Yes.

10 Just the inmates. They didn't say anything
11 about the note, so I just got up and walked to the
12 perimeter of the circle. That opened, and my other
13 security guard took me again and I started walking
14 away from the semi-circle.

15 At this point, one of the leaders hollered
16 out, "Doctor Hanson," and came toward me. He came out
17 through this little semi-circle of men and he came
18 out to me and said, "What was it you wished to speak
19 to me about?"

20 I said, "Well, I didn't express a desire
21 to speak to you." I said I was just told that there
22 was a note that somebody might want me to take out.

23 And he erupted into a tirade that I couldn't
24 exactly follow. He started talking about the people
25 on the outside better realize that they meant what

1 they were talking about, unless they were 327
2 treated like men, he couldn't be responsible for any-
3 thing that happened. He went on and on for a minute
4 or so, and when he finally paused for breath, I said,
5 "I'm sorry, I'm afraid you don't understand." I said,
6 "This is not of my concern, really." I said, "I was
7 just told I should wait; that you might have a note
8 that you wanted me to take out," and he pecked me on
9 the chest and he said, "Doctor, it's you that don't
10 understand." And then he went on into another tirade
11 which I didn't make much sense of, and it wasn't ger-
12 mane to our situation at all.

13 So, this was quite frightening, because
14 when you are in a tense situation, you don't like to
15 be dealing with somebody who is quite irrational. So,
16 I retired as quietly and quickly as possible to my
17 aid station and hoped he didn't pay any attention to me.

18 So, I saw some more people and then was
19 ready to go out with Tiny to the hospital to get some
20 more medication.

21 So, I made a listing out of some men whose
22 records I wanted to look up. There was one young
23 fellow with sickle-cell anemia that had some eye prob-
24 lems, and I wanted to check his records, and so forth.

25 When I told my guide that I was ready to go

1 out, he said, "Well, we have to check on 328
2 this.

3 I said, who does he call? And he said, the
4 same leader that I just had my difficulties with, and
5 he came over.

6 I explained to him what the list was, but
7 he had to review it and looked at it and he said, "Nitro-
8 glycerine, I know what that is, that's for the heart."
9 Then he came to a rather long medication, eminepherin
10 (phonetic); he said, "What's that for?"

11 I said, "That's something that's used for
12 asthmatics."

13 He went through the whole list like this
14 and then he finally gave it to me and I said, "Well,
15 is it all right to go and get these things?"

16 And he said, "No. You are not going out.
17 You are not leaving here." This mounted into another
18 discussion, and after a while I just gave up and I
19 said, "Well, if you don't permit me to leave, you'd
20 better send Tiny out for these things." Then he
21 went over to Tiny and he talked with some other leaders
22 and Tiny they permitted finally to go out.

23 I was under the impression that they didn't
24 mean -- he was just keeping me there for a while, but
25 I got the impression I was going to stay there per-

1 manently, which I didn't approve of at all. 329

2 Then he came over to me after he got
3 finished talking with Tiny and he said, "Now, Doctor,
4 I hope you realize there is nothing personal in this."

5 I just kind of nodded my head and went
6 away. Then about, oh, twenty, thirty minutes later, a
7 television cameraman from Buffalo, a Black, came in
8 and he had been sort of going in and out talking with
9 the prisoners' leaders and talking --

10 Q Dr. Hanson, could you hold for one second
11 while the reporter changes his tape?

12 He has just given me a signal. Off the
13 record.

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16 (Continued on page 330.)
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