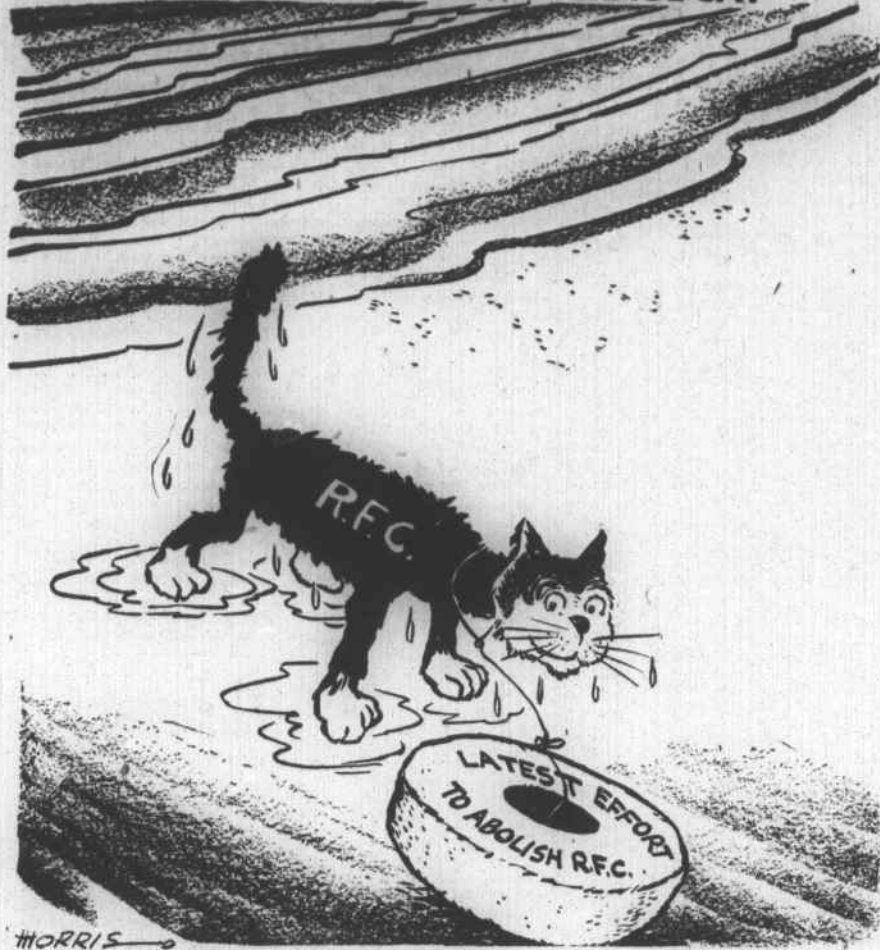


Carteret County News-Times

MORE LIVES THAN THE AVERAGE CAT



Freed Political Victim Tells How Red Prisons Spawn Madness, Death

By William L. Ryan First of two articles

Rome. (AP)—What does it mean to be a political prisoner in a Soviet prison?

Creeping insanity. Maddening boredom. Life in perpetual semi-darkness. Nocturnal screams of attempted suicides. Foul conditions. Sudden searches. Long sieges of sleepless questioning. Physical and mental breakdown. Babbling confessions.

Claudio De Mohr, an Italian diplomat, was a prisoner for six years. He was taken into custody by the Russians in Bulgaria, along with 11 other Italians, in 1944. In September 1950, he was released with 10 others. The 12th, a woman, did not stand up long under the treatment. She died in 1945.

De Mohr, in his office in the Chigi Palace, Italy's Foreign Ministry, gave this description of life in a Moscow prison:

Lefortovo prison, one of a number of Moscow prisons, has 225 cells. Three prisoners are confined in each cell. It was there that the diplomats spent most of their six-year nightmare. In 1950 they were moved to Byturka, the biggest of the prisons, which houses 20,000 and in the final months to notorious Lubyanka, where Soviet police boss Lavrenty Beria has his office. It is the most dreaded of all.

Clothing as Part of Torture The diplomats were captured in the summer and were wearing light clothing. They never got any other, even in the bitterest days of the Moscow winters.

Lefortovo has four tiers of cells. The diplomats were placed, three to a cell, in widely separated parts of the prison.

Each cell is about six feet wide, 10 feet long. Each contains three board beds and a cotton blanket. The arrangement leaves a space of about two feet between the side-wall bunks. A prisoner can make about six steps forward and back, his only exercise.

The big windows of the prison are boarded, shutting out the light. The cell is always semi-dark. Light comes from an electric bulb set deep in the wall so the prisoners cannot get at it. The light, giving a dim red glow, is on at all times. Even if there had been something to read, it would have been too dark.

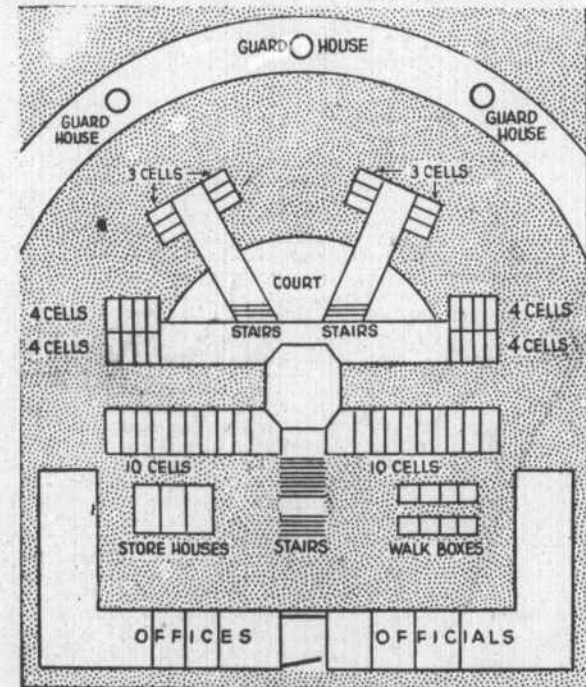
For aid there is a small vent, half open most of the time. The prisoners are not allowed to approach it. For heat — for the first two years there was none at all — there is a small covered pipe running from cell to cell and giving off maddeningly little warmth. The floor is asphalt and constantly covered with dust.

The big wooden cell door is lined with metal, inside and outside. Even an accidental glimpse of any other prisoner is made impossible.

The Guard System A sentinel sits in the center of the cellblock. When a prisoner must leave his cell for any reason, the guard in front of the cell signals to the sentinel. If no other prisoner is out of his cell at that time, the head guard raises a white flag, meaning the coast is clear and the prisoner may be brought out. A red flag means the prisoner must wait — somebody else is out.

When the prisoner is brought out of the cell, any common criminal who might be about, working at chores forbidden political prisoners, must immediately turn and stand with his face to the wall until given the clear signal.

Regulations call for a 10-minute



How cells are arranged in a typical Red prison.

walk every day in a "walk box" in the courtyard. Sometimes, however, there are no walks for weeks. But the walk is worth little. The walk boxes are closed off so that the prisoner cannot see any other.

The walk box is about the size of a small kitchen.

Exercise is Prohibited The prisoner is forbidden to do setting-up exercises on his own.

A guard explained: exercises use up energy. Energy needs food. Food is insufficient to permit it. A prisoner caught in an attempt to do setting-up exercises will be punished severely.

There are any number of minor infractions calling for severe punishment, often in the awful "kartsa." This is a cell in the cellar of the prison. It is less than six feet square, with a low ceiling which forbids standing upright. Always terribly cold, the cell is like a tomb. Its only furniture is a board upon which the prisoner may crouch to try to sleep, but he must keep moving to keep from freezing.

A 7 a.m. each morning in the

kartsa, the prisoner gets a piece of bread about the size of a cigar package, and a glass of warm water. At 5 p.m. he gets another glass of warm water.

The minimum confinement in the kartsa is three days and three nights in winter; five days and five nights in summer. De Mohr had three sentences in the kartsa, one for tapping a message on the wall to the next cell, the others for being stubborn in an interrogation. They stripped him of all but shirt and underwear in the kartsa and the cold was almost unbearable.

Because of suicide attempts, prisoners are compelled to sleep flat on their backs, hands above their heads, blankets covering only the lower part of the body. When a prisoner moves in his sleep, the guard raps furiously on the food box at the cell door, waking everybody, and the prisoner must resume the required position.

Depending upon the guard, the prisoner can be punished for changing his position in his sleep. Women guards, says De Mohr, are the worst of all.

In The Good Old Days

THIRTY-THREE YEARS AGO Beaufort was to vote for a mayor and five commissioners this week.

A luxury tax went into effect on May 1. Among the articles being taxed, and their taxes, were movies, 5 per cent, slot machines, 5 per cent, furs, 10 per cent, cigars and cigarettes, 10 per cent, and automobiles, 5 per cent.

Guthrie and Company, Beaufort, were offering men's suits for \$12.50.

TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO Miss Odessa Hill, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Hill, and Mr. John B. Thaxton were married recently at the home of bride's parents.

Paving had started on the Lennoxville road.

At a fashion show of the Beau-

fort Community club, prizes were awarded Miss Clyde Duncan for the best afternoon dress, Mrs. M. Leslie Davis for the best sports dress for women, Margery Humphrey, first prize for the best dress for small girls, and Laura Mace, second prize for small girl's dress.

TEN YEARS AGO The Federal government had taken over 835 acres of the Hoffman tract on Bogue Banks for coastal defense purposes.

Gasoline rationing was to start next week.

Beaufort town commissioners passed an ordinance making it unlawful for unlicensed dogs to be allowed to run loose on the streets, and also for hogs or pigs to be kept inside the town limits.

FIVE YEARS AGO Running for commissioner in

ON THE HOUSE

BY DAVID G. BAREUTHER

(Third in a Series on Finishing Attics)

A FLOOR installed in finishing an attic can either make, or almost break your house.

It can add rigidity to the framework of a house—when it's properly laid. It can induce vibration enough to loosen and crack plaster — if it's poorly planned improperly laid.

All attics aren't intended for living space. However, if ceiling joists are heavy enough and headroom is sufficient far enough under the pitch of the roof to allow for room widths, you may be able to go ahead with an improvement that will enlarge your house both in livability and value.

Most unused attics have no floors at all. A few boards usually form a catwalk left by the builders directly under the ridgepole. This gives you a good chance for an inspection. You can plan your wiring extensions and heating and plumbing lines needed before laying the floor.

IN PLANNING for rigidity, take a look at the joist spans. If any of them reach more than 8 feet, it's a safe bet you need bridging. This arrangement of cross-crosses should be midway in the span. You can buy metal bridging, but in the case of an attic you'll find it simpler to



Diagonally laid subflooring adds rigidity. Nails driven on slant pull boards snugly together. Bridging (cross pieces) between joists tends to prevent springy floors.

install pieces of 1 by 3s between the joists as you see them in the cellar. With two nails at each end, these will distribute the weight on the floor by preventing joists from swaying under pressure.

The best floors comprise a subfloor and a finish floor. This wasn't done generally before 1900, but it has been found that a subfloor reduces nail movement and hence reduces squeaking. The use of heavy plywoods has been changing this practice somewhat for attics, but rough subfloors still are usually used. They provide a working surface until the rooms are ready for the finishing touches.

Four general subflooring materials are plain boards surfaced-four-sides (S4S), dressed and matched lumber (tongue and grooved), end-matched tongued and grooved, and the plywoods, such as plyscord.

CHEAPEST is S4S plain, random lengths, available in widths from 4 inches up. It's not a good idea to use boards more than 6 inches wide. Expansion and contraction increases too much in greater widths. This can cause squeaking and other troubles. In estimating the amount you need, measure the square feet and add 20 per cent for waste.

You can get the greatest stiffness by running the subflooring diagonally. But right angle laying is common and more economical.

Eightpenny finishing nails are driven diagonally to pull each board snugly against its neighbor. Two nails are used for each board at each joist. All board ends must be sawed to fall squarely on the center of a joist and these ends must be staggered so that no two joists will fall adjacent on the same joist.

PLYWOODS are being used more because of the popularity of asphalt tile and rubber, vinyl and cork tiles. Permanently flat surfaces are provided which prevent any movement between resilient tiles. This type of flooring can be cemented directly to plywood. In fact, the Kente manufacturers recommend quarter-inch plywood to be applied over any single wood floor with boards not over 4 inches wide.

It used to be that asphalt tile was not recommended for wood floors, but reserved for concrete where it would wear as long as the concrete. But underlayments have been developed making the use of resilient tile practicable even on rough wood floors. The only restriction now made by the Kente engineers is not to lay asphalt tile over wood that is in contact with the earth.

Cork tile and rubber tile, which are more resilient and produce even quieter floors, are supposed to be laid over well seasoned tongued and grooved lumber no more than three inches wide, or preferably over plywood. When over boards, these tiles are laid on felt, butt-edged and not overlapped. All nails, in either boards or plywood, are driven flush so there will be no danger of their showing up on the polished surface.

(NEXT: Dormers and Ventilation)

Sou'easter

BY CAPTAIN HENRY

Robert Safrit asked some time back how John Lashley can hold two jobs, town clerk of Morehead City and clerk of court. I don't know, I guess one's an appointive position and the other elective. If Robert's awful curious, maybe John will run over here to the sawmill and explain it to him.

in a swivet to get Harkless off, delay his serving his time, etc. They actually succeeded, but the wind shifted here on the local level, and Harkless went off. He'll be back before long.

More people who were in Scott's camp two years ago showed up wearing Umstead buttons at his clam bake Saturday night. I don't believe a one changed his politics, they're just fence-sitters. Then there were a few Olive spies around, checking up on what the Umsteaders were upto.

Mrs. Louis Rice and daughter Lucille will move into the home at Ann and Craven formerly owned by Miss Lily Fales. The James Allgords are hoping to get into their new home in Hancock park before many days pass.

Miss Georgina Yeatman is very interested in the Earle Webb property on Bogue sound. The sale was, almost concluded several weeks ago but a title tangle messed things up.

They tell me the state has given Harkless Wooten a job. Cook, no less, for the inmates of the prison. That's a far jump — from cook at the Dunes club to cook for jailbirds. Incidentally, some of the boys, Dunes club members, who have no business messing in certain things that they mess in, were

Another holder of Scott's "Country Squire" citation is Earl Davis of Harkers Island.

My wife asked me the other day when I thought beauty parlors would put in television. Since I'm not very well acquainted with beauty parlor operators, I'd hesitate to predict. However, TV would be worth trying. Then maybe we'd find out if the gals would rather go to the beauty shop to gossip or if they would be just as willing to be entertained otherwise.

Morehead City were Vernon Guthrie, John E. Glover, James W. Lewis, John W. Rodgers, Charles N. Bennett, Thomas E. Wade, D. G. Bell, Bernard Leary, and the four present members of the board, Walter M. Lewis, S. C. Holloway, W. P. Freeman and W. L. Derrickson.

Rotarians of district 188 and members of the North Carolina Bird club were holding conventions at Atlantic Beach this weekend.

Tommy Eure was elected president of the Beaufort school student council. Other officers were Jimmy Piner, vice-president, Helen Paul, secretary, and Blanche Saunders, treasurer.

Patrolman Bruce Edwards of the Morehead City police force spotted several weeks ago a grey Buick going through Morehead City. Bruce took off after the Buick, which he must have thought was speeding, and pulled up aside of it, siren squalling. This'll kill ya. The driver of the Buick, Marshall Ayscue, deputy sheriff and ABC officer, glared at Patrolman Edwards and kept going.

The other day me and two oth-

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY

REV. HUGH IVAN EVANS, born May 6, 1887, at Delaware, Ohio, son of a farmer. Distinguished clergyman, Dr. Evans was elected moderator of the Presbyterian Church in the U. S. A. for 1950-51 to lead its more than two million members. A graduate of Wooster college and Princeton Theological Seminary, he has filled many pulpits in Ohio and has been a Dayton pastor since 1923.

THEY MAKE NEW STAMPS

By Syd Kronish

TO COMMEMORATE the 175th anniversary of Marquis de LaFayette in America, the U. S. will issue a new stamp. It will be placed on sale at Georgetown, S. C., on June 13, 1952. Here LaFayette landed on June 13, 1777.

The blue stamp has a portrait of LaFayette in an oval frame. The American flag is at the left and the French tri-color at the right. Beneath the French flag is an artist's



conception of the landing party rowing ashore. The denomination, 3 cents, appears in each lower corner of the stamp.

Stamp collectors desiring first day cancellations may send not more than 10 addressed envelopes to the Postmaster, Georgetown, S. C., together with money order remittance to cover the cost of the stamps to be affixed. The outside envelope should be endorsed "First Day Covers."

SAUDI ARABIA will soon issue a new series of stamps in five denominations to commemorate the opening of the Saudi Government railroad. These stamps are the first by that country to be engraved in the U. S.

The stamps, all of the same design, contrast the old and the new in Saudi Arabia. Illustrated on the stamps is a Bedouin on a camel waving to an engineer on an approaching train. The half quirsh is brown, one q green, 3 q purple, 10 q red and 20 q blue.

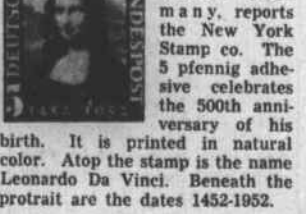
LUXEMBOURG has issued two new series of stamps to coincide with Centiflux, the International Exhibition of the Centenary of Luxembourg stamps, reports Roman Fournelle of St. Louis. The



2 franc and 4 franc for regular postage show the design of the first Luxembourg stamp—a portrait of William III. The air mail series consists of five stamps. They depict, side by side, the first William stamp and the latest stamp which bears a portrait of the Grand Duchess Charlotte.

A REVOLUTIONARY change may soon take place in postage stamp catalogues. The illustrations of foreign stamps may appear in their original colors instead of the usual black and white. The U. S. Treasury Department has issued that colored pictures of "demonetized" foreign stamps may be lawfully printed and published in the U. S. if there is no fraudulent intent. A demonetized stamp is one not valid for postage within the country which issued it. Of course, this ruling does not apply to illustrations of U. S. stamps. These must still be made in black and white only.

LEONARDO DA VINCI'S famous portrait, Mona Lisa, appears in full beauty on a new stamp from Western Germany, reports the New York Stamp co. The 5 pfennig adhesive celebrates the 500th anniversary of his birth. It is printed in natural color. Atop the stamp is the name Leonardo Da Vinci. Beneath the portrait are the dates 1452-1952.



er waterfront intelligentsia (don't bother to pronounce it) were watching Roy Harbour work on a boat. Important conversation was in progress about some people working and some people not... for instance, Roy working and the other three trying to tell him how. "Well, that's the trouble with Beaufort," Roy calmly observed, "one person out of every four always wants to work."

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