

Record Series #: 1121-128
Name: *Trapped in Georgia, My Life*
Dates: No date
Extent/Size: 1 legal folder (0.1 cubic feet)
Language: English

Name of Creator(s):
Unknown

Scope & Content:

Trapped in Georgia, My Life is a handwritten unfinished manuscript recounting the life of a prisoner held in the Chatham County prison system. The author states that names have been changed to protect the innocent. The author begins on October 31, 1949, detailing his whereabouts and how he was arrested for an unknown crime that he did not do. He eventually was convicted for twenty years for the assault and rape of a woman. The author was sent into labor on a chain gang, and details his experiences in this prison, which is most likely the Brown Prison Farm in Chatham County, Georgia.

The author states that he wanted to write this book because no one is talking about the conditions in the prison and the public should know. He often witnessed the assault of fellow prisoners from guards. The overall living conditions in the prison were not of a humane livable standard and the chain gangs were often forced to work on ditches behind the Municipal Abattoir. The book ends at chapter 8.

System of Arrangement & Ordering:

Trapped in Georgia, My Life is arranged by title.

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Record Series 1121-128, *Trapped in Georgia, My Life*

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Access Points:

Chatham County (Ga.)

Chain gangs

Forced labor

Jails

Judicial Error

Prison violence

Prisons

Sponsors/Funding:

Chatham County, Georgia, Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax (SPLOST) funding.

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Record Series 1121-128, *Trapped in Georgia, My Life*

Inventory:

This item has been digitized and attached at the end of this document.

Box Number

Folder Number

Description

Box 1121-000-0005

Folder 1121-128-0001

Trapped in Georgia, My Life, handwritten unpublished manuscript, unknown author, no date

Trinidad
Geography

Myrtle

My Book is little
Traped in Georgia

The
truth about whats
happine behind
these prison walls
in chatham county

the names were changed
To protect the
insent

I

Chapter I

I

my story began own.
The date of october. 31. 1949. in this city of
Savannah ca. I left home this mornins
about eleven oclock and walked up on
the corner of henry and west broad.
at this club I was to meet my friend
ho worked with me. There were a club
own this corner and he shored up
about twelve. so we had a couple
bottles of beer and walked down
to the pool room which was in the
same block. we shot sever games of
pool. then went back to the club.
and about this time it was about
6.00. clock after noon he had to take
his wife to meeting so he left me
at a Quater to seven. the owner
of this club. had asked me to go
out to lincoln inn with him to help
him behind the bar he was giving a
dance out there. his wife called
him about 7.00. clock. the clock was over
the phone. he told me that he wood
go out about 8.30. or nine. So I stuck
around. why I was standing out
side when a fellow I knew he said to
me come walk up town with me

about the show and if I see any of the boys who owe me I will go out with you ok. I said it might change my luck and so we went down up there but he didnt. see any of them so we started back. own our way back we was stoped by two plain close dicks. they asked my friend where did he work s^uperetiny he said. then they asked me. I were a painter I told them. and then they asked me where were you at 7. to night own the coroner of henry and west broad. they told the other guy to go. they told me to get in they carried me all the way back past henry and west broad. I asked them to stop hear and aske the owner they said to me if I wanted to prove that I wasen the guy they ~~were~~ wer looking for I wood get the chainece So they booked me own invastagion I were in gail five dys before I knew what they had me for.

on the date of november the forth they brought in a girl a white girl lined up about nine guys with my self they told her to walk down the isle and see if she saw him I still dont kno whats happing. She walk up and down the isle about three times and said to them I dont see him they told her to make sure. but she still said I dont see him. then they told all of them to go back in side. but me. they taken me. and her. in a little room. alone. and told her to look me up and down. and that she did. but the rezults were the same. She shook her head. they told her to make sure. She referd to them. she were sure already. So they told her mother to take her back home and bring her back in a few days maby she could make up her mind she referd to them again my mind is already made up I am sure he is not the one. So they lock me back up later they sent for me again but this time it was differn four bulls handcult me to a chear

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and beat me with a rubber horse about an hour and a half they beat me until I past out brought me too and told me if I didn't tell them I did this that they were going to carry me out in the semetary and kill me now I knew this wasn't any thing for them to do but I still had no ideal what they were talking about, this was all unbelieve I have picked up papers in new york and saw where these things happen to other peoples but never me, I live to clean I am from the city of nine million peoples I have never been arrested in my life this must be a joke I said to them. they give anser to me we are going to get you twenty years, so they sent me back down stairs later my lawer came down and I showed him how they had beaten me up and he said he wood see to it that they woodnt. hit me any more so he did and then they tried to deny beeting me. the to that arrested me didnt. have any thing to

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do with it in the mean while this girl left town and that left me locked up for three weeks before they could try me but they went and got her and carried me to trial sh then said I look like the man so they turned me over to Superiol court I had five wedneses but they went even noticed,

Chāpler. Three

The next thing I kno I was in the county jail. The head jailer walked in and said to one of the other jailers lock him up in a cell and dont let him see any body. and so I staid locked up jest as he orded but a couple of the key turners taken a liking to me one by the name. Joe, he gave me books to read, and he often told me I dont believe you are guilty. he was verry nice to me

he Give me cigaretts every Time
he brought my lunch around.
They woodnt. let me see any body
after I was locked up for two
weeks. they decided to let me see
my people. my mother came
down, how are you buber I feel
horrible. mom, mom you dont believe
I did this. do you. I know you didnt.
and you pray and God will deliver
you. we changed lawyers. we got
lawer tinburg and Aron crabbish
he said he was going to put you own
the ground. then at that time the
jailer walked up all night times
up. well dont you forget to pray we
will see you again. the I was
getting a little more popular
they asked me did I want to go
own the ~~four~~ third floor where
the rest of them were. yes I
wood. ok come own out. up hear
I meet some guys I meet in
the Street. before I was nab.
there were were Three more
other Guys I meet ho were
songsters and I did gain my

Self. So we got together it was a great experience for me it was hard for me to believe I was going to get any time so I just made my self at home it werent long before Cort rooled around. So own the date of January 31. I was carried to Court. in the Court house first I was questioned by some Sheriff then in the Court room they carried me. They had a little trouble finding one of my wedne ness but he finely shord up he was the first carried to stand. do you swear to tell the hold truth nothing but the truth So help you God I do were you with this defender on the night of oct. 31. yes tell me narman what time did you leave him a quarter to seven. how did you know it were a quarter to seven well a clock up over the wall where we were. how long had xp been with him. all day. how well do you know him. we work

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together. have you ever know
him to be in any trouble like
this before. No how long have you
known him every. Since he came
from newyork. one more thing
tell me what kind of close were
be wearing the same he have
own now exsept the coat. thats
all. Guss hargo take the stand
Gus tell me how well this boy since
he were a kid. that boy didn do
this he couldn have I seen him at
seren own the corner of duffy lain
And west broad. I asked him had
he been home he said no he had
on the same close he got own
now. I called mr. brass the next
morning and told him he had the
wrong boy because I seen this
boy at seren. mr. brass kno me
we uster work togethew what
about mr. brass. the judge asked
well. your arner sr. this man did
call me telling me some somethi-
ng. but I didnt. pay to much
Atachan to it. because they were
both nigers. how well do you

Slary withen. the lae
 kno this man, we did work together
 out to the lumber mill together
 have you ever caught this man in A
 lie. no. tell me Guss were this boy
 wearing A CAP No. Sr. he never wore
 any hat. thats all. Mr Sheers take
 the stand. raise your righthand you
 SWEAR to tell the hold truth nothing
 but the truth So help you God, I do.
 tell me Mr Sheers how well do you
 kno this boy well he have don some
 work for me and he be in my place
 A lots. do you have any posinal
 likes toward this boy kno I have
 no personal feeling for either of
 them. Well were this boy in your
 place own this night. of Oct. 31. yes
 he was he was going out to my
 Club with me I was giving A
 dance out there he was going
 to waight tables for me. what
 time you last seen this boy. well
 to be exact @ darter to seven. when
 I left to take my wife to meeting
 and when did you see him next
 about seven thirty. when I got back.

That's All. have The young lady
Take The stand. your Arner Sr
We have another lady who has
Some more evidence baring to
this case. well have her take
the stand. do you swear to
tell the hold truth so help you
God. I do. tell me where do
you live I live on Gorden St
near Lincoln. well tell us what
you kno about this case. well
this night. I was going out in
my back yard to throw out
some ashes. I heard some
scuffling. I had A flash light so I
went to the door to see what it
was and when I shined the
light. Some fellow jumped up and
ran. did you get A look at him
No. it was dark. and then my
lawyer went forth to Question her
tell me madam you say it was
dark. in your back yard would you
say that this was my client who
it was so dark you couldn't see
your hand before your face and I
wouldn't want to be wrong and

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Cause som one to geet
 a lots of time for something
 he didn do. I really dont kno
 if he was white or colered. thank
 you no further questions. well have
 the young lady take the stand.
 and at this time I felt Satisfide
 that I was going free not knowing
 all the time they were fraiming
 me. So the case went own.

Chapter Four

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Now you realize This is A
 Searous matter. Young lady. I do
 now go own and tell us how
 this happen. well I was coming
 fro a friend girls house about
 seven oclock when some man
 Grabed me and pulled me in
 the lair and he told me if I
 didnt. let ~~me~~ him have me he
 was going to kill me then he
 pulled me in this garage I beg
 him to please let me go and he
 told me to shut up he tumbled
 with my dress and tore it off me
 then he toze my paintes off then
 tried to force his way in me. and
 at this time this lady Shined the
 light own us and he jumped up
 and rain. well did he get. - no sr.
 thats all. and then they called me
 and asked medid I have any thing
 to say. yes. I said well, told the
 judge the histery of my life but
 it didnt. do any good. And when
 I left the stand my Aterney
 taken the stand. So he Coped A
 pleade to the Court. And told

them that he made every
thing continued in their behalf
to keep down any scandal own
either side, the court or the
girl. So please go light own
him as possible! The boy has
never been arrested before
and at this time I was
really scared because I
knew what was going own
Then the judge turned around in
his chair about three time and
then it happen for me lights went
out own the world. he gave me
20. years in prison for a salt
and atemp rape. then the Sheriff
Grabed me and carried me out
they left me in a room by my
self. un hand culfed if I had
known what I wa going in for I
wood have left night then but
this was all like a dream to me
I didnt. nealy kno what was
nealy going down until I made
about two years. all my life I
tried been good. and then this
they keep me in the County Jail

About Six months, and one day
 two mens came in with over-
 ols, and an old straw hat own
 and a Chew of tobacco in his
 mouth, and then they started
 calling names and mine was
 in the bunch. I never will
 forget this day I was so
 scuard. until my hart was in
 my mouth, they loded us up in
 the black marier and carried
 us away. The first thing happer
 when we got there they had a
 German Chief. named Mr. Satter
 when I got around to him he
 started to work own me, my
 lawer had told my mother that
 my time was cut from twenty
 to five to ten, and I only knew
 what they told me. So when he
 asked me, how much time you
 got boy, I said five to ten. So
 you starting of telling lies
 and he went own like a lunk
 tick. and when he got threw
 they carried us to 7 bedding
 which once were an old aire

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plain hanger. the Guys Spitting
all over the floor no Sealing in it
It wasn't fit for a dog to live in.
but this was my home for twenty
years. If no changes, and that's
the way it seems and all of
this for some crime I didn't
Commit, So I tried to pull my
nerve together but I couldn't it
jest didn't. Seem to be so, this
place had about two hundred
men. About twenty five of them
was sick one had ben opera-
ted, own for the pendix and his
Guts was hanging out and
he was stanking. I tell you
this was pitiful and no one
will do any thing about it
and about twelve the men
came in. It was own a
Saturday, and they dont work
all day. So we staid locked
up in the beilding, about two
or three hours, and then they
open the door to give us that
stuff they called dinner. when
I got in the mess Hall I saw

every thing. there were some
rusty pans on the table with
some cold beef in them which
had been there for an hour or
two. flies had all most taken it
they ran some cabbages on
it that had been dipped in
water. and some corn bread that
a dog wouldn't eat you either
eat that or starve. but I
just couldn't stomach it so
I asked to get out I went out
at the soda box and bought a
pop. why I was standing hear
two or three of these hoodies
came around to get a look at
me. a con named hick bottom
which was a number one
snitcher for this crooked county
started asking me questions
this guy was as rotten as they
come he had broke two fello-
ws. legs. trying to escape
but I had heard all about
these nats before I came
hear so I just listen at this
crap he was talking until I

Got a part of it and then I just walked off and trouble really started when Monday nooded around that morning they put me in a young Shell Shoked hoogies gards called earl the boys had nicked named the gang the jet, and it was a perfect name for it I went out that day in a canell about wase deep we was thowing out lillies. with a fork he hooped and hollowd all day and I madethat day but it was hard, the next day when he started we was cutting midway and he had us trine to lift some logs that was inposible he jumped own me because I wasn't able to pick them up he beat me with a stick all over my head and back but he wasnt main enought to do it by his self the other two gards held they guns own me why he did this, and this went

own all day and when I came in I went in the mess hall I tried to eat some of that slop but I couldn't I went to bed that night and tried to make out what had I done to these people that made them hate me so all I could make out of it was slavery withen the law, here I was with twenty years in prison for a crime I didn't do and no one would try to help me, so I finally dropped off to sleep.

chapter fore

the next morning I woke up I was so sore where he had beaten me, the day before until I couldn't even turn over so I jest laid there and the chief came in and asked what's wrong with you boy I told him I was sick he said I know what wrong put his -- in the hool, mr. jay and let him stay there until he get better I am telling you it was really hard for me they kep me in the hool for three weeks and when they let me out I went to work again and tried to make it but it was the same he beat and knocked down me so one day he threw a brick and hit me side the head and it cut the skin and when my mother came out that Sunday I showd it to her, and told her to go down to the court house and tell the warden she was

tied of coming out hear
and every time she came out
either I was in the hole or
that beece had beaten him my
boy is no criminal you people
here all ready lied down him
and put him in this place
now I am tied of this and
if yo dont stop him I am
going to see some one ho will
well we ant going to trans-
form him we have a lot of
breaks out there if he will
cooperate with the gards. he
isnt a snitcher. he is only
staying hear because I beg
him to stay. I dont want any
thing to happen to my boy
well. he said no one is going
to bother the boy. and the
next day before we left
the yard the warden showd
up he gave the gard down
the country before me and
told him to work me over
behind my back. So when he
got to work that day he

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he started own me bright
and early he beet me all
day trying to make me tell
him ho pushed me up, to tell
the warden about him bea-
ting me, and when he
finely left me alone I trie
to go down the best way I
could and why I was
working along I went to God
and asked him to give me
strength and he did so I
I made it up in my mind
not to let that man hit me
any more so he had sevel
other fellows he got his
kicks own he uster make
them work all day and
wood n.t. Give them any
thing to eat such as it
was we had surp and
bread and one slice of
bolony, and some times
it had skipes in it the
corn bread was sou r
the people of Society are
wondering why more men

are criminals they should
 such these places like
 this these peoples are
 making harden criminals
 of these men and young
 boys. I have seen this man
 Cripple boys and they had
 to send them away, we had
 a little corner in the camp
 where we had church own
 Sunday so I jornd them
 some of them was going
 straight and the rest
 was crucked living under
 false ~~per~~pretence but I
 really needed God bad
 because he ~~we~~ was the
 only one could help me
 so I didnt. hesitate to call
 on him every day but god
 didnt. put me hear these
 erfe harted people put me
 hear, it got so every time
 I wood see him beat some
 guy it wood ball me some
 was good boys and some
 was rotten and filthy but

they was. Sinners and God
loved sinners so much he
gave his only son so why
shoulden I love them they
wood curse me out but I
still wooden get mad with
them because God had said
bless them who curse you. I
prayed hard that God wood
change things for me. So in the
year of 1953. they brought a
fellow back from an acape
his name was Arthur byron
he was about 38. years old and
had been gone for seven years
so they put him in my gang
you wooden want to meet a better
guy then him. about the second
day after he was hear we
made friends and the best of
friends. I mean any man that
will lay down for Jesus is my
friend. I never will forget one
morning we was setting down
the truck going to work and
he was testifying about Christ
and I said to my self that's

Chapter Six

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my friend. So all that day we talked, and he was telling me what a lousy trick his wife pulled on him. Soale knocked off and own the way in, he said to me. I want to tell you something.

When we get in, ok. So we reached the camp, the gard shuck us down for nifes and whepons

So we went in and after sapor we was settin down talking he asked me to write a letter to his neace for him, and I said ok, well tell her to come out Sunday I want her to do something for me well tell her I am doing Allright, and close it. Say Arthur, tell me are she marriade, no she was but her and her husben has Seperaded yeh, I wood like to meet her, well you can, well we got back the Scripture, and we came to an agreement about this old man who was so hard and he said less go in fasting and praying that God will move him, allright I said whendo we start lets do it

every Monday all right. And we made another agreement that if he should hit one of us he would haffer hit the both of us. but he never borthed either of us. So we went own fasting and praying but he continued beating the other fellows one day two boys was fighting and one of the fellows named Duke he didnt. like he jumped own him and bent his thumb back in broke it and about ten minute his finger and hand was swollen but he made him work right own. So Arthur asked me do you suppose the publick know what these peoples are doing. Shore they dont care. well idont beliv they know. well I pray that he wont hit me because I want take it not living neither will I. So about three weeks later that morning they gainged that same fellow own the yard he told them he wasent able to work own that hand and they told him ant nothing wrong with yo nigger get am the

truck, The poor fellow was ~~is~~
more scared of this brute than his
hand was hurting but they beat
him with sticks and kicked him
the man who was sposed to be the
chief. Jest stood there and watched
it. so they threw him own the truck
and made him go to work so all day
that old beast beat own the poor
fellow all day. meny things happen
hear if people could see this they
wooden believe it. Slavy within the
law a third of the men that are
hear were picked up and framed or
given time own they back neccard for
something they have already been
purnished for. Society shood look in
to this more carefullly and see how
they young mens are been made
criminals out of. working in the nain
putting a man in the hool when he is
sick. without seeing a doctor. So I
decided to write a book own this
because I dnt believe the publick
kno whats Hopping. we have some
men who have some men hear who
has ben hear for ten years. no needs

treatment from a ~~psych~~ physiologist
its obvious the most of these cases these
people have hear need analasylin
but all they do is put ~~to~~ them hear
and the warden we have hear is one
of the worst you ever seen he never
come around and talk to the men
and he is also the cherman of
the board so every time a fellow go
up he will turn him down. there hasen
been twenty men hear. made porold
doing the past five years I have
ben hear. and I dont kno how I
will be able to stand this I have
jest about went my limit but only
because of my mother I wonder
how you people feel out their
good I kno because its not you but
I Am hear suffering hear for twenty
years for a ~~en~~ crime I didnt comitt.
there are many men lifes have been
ruined because of these blank
harted people. only god knows that
I am telling the truth about this
and I have turned my hodd hart
to him and I kno he will change
things for I remember one day

this same brutest haxted man
earl, ho was our gard arthur
and I was praying so hard
this man fell out. one day, and we
had to bring him in and he
stayed sick for two weeks and
thats the only thing brought him
down. So arther said to me, alston
lets not pray for the man to die
lets jest pray that god will
change him from his wicked ways
any thing you say. and about
six months god will move him,
so that finel day came they
give him a drage line so he
gave up the gance and there
were peace for awhile the other
man got the gang named paige
he drove his men like animas also
about a year later the worst
thing had ever hear that I had
to exprence, I never will forget this
one night I dreamed a boy got
killed and another got shot up
bad and I knew all both of them
one named beans the others
named noyer the next night I

Chapter Seven

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told the both of them about it and they told me they wasn't going any where. Well one day two weeks later we was going to work we all was in a line walking down a canal bank when all of a sudden two boys broke from the line and taken of across the woods page the boss holled and went running and shooting he shot twice and missed both times the other gard who were across the ditch threw his gun up and shot both of them he stopped one of them but the other keep running and about this time page had his gun loded and this boy that was hit were crawling on hi hands and knees he were out of his head So page threw his gun up and blew his brains out the poor boy couldn't have gone any where his leg had ben broken but he killed him in cold blood. and nand own out in the woods after the other one. he shot again and then called one of his stupagions

come own and get this. -----
then he called to the other guard
you got the nest of them yes they
are all right you get him yeh!
one of them is finished so we
went out there where the live
one was, there he was lying
own the ground holing please
Some body help me dont let me
die so the other guard taken out
his pistol and told him to shut
up and cocked the hammer own
him, but we talked him out of it
they both had give n out of shells
so we taken them and carried
them back to the truck. so they
carried us in the belding and told
us there wood be a man coming
out and asked us how did this
happen, and we must tell how
did these boys get shot, so he
went around the yard bragging
about this all day, but his mind
woodn't. let him nest, how I
kno it was eating him I had a
gitar and I could play it potty
good, and I was singing a song

31
lord send my child home to
me. it was getting him so bad
until he wanted to tell me to stop
but he was afraid so he just
stood there and looked at me and
I keep saying, finally this man
came out to ask questions. he
first asked all of us together
how did this happen were these
boys trying to run. well yes of course
we all agreed. oh, I am going to
call you one at the time so he
went in the office and wrote
down on paper what he wanted
these boys was shot tried to
escape. is this true he asked
one at the time. if this is true
I hear. so each man died
and then they locked us up in
the building we were to be
locked up for 3 days until they
were tried that was to make
it legal. I was setting down
thinking over what had happen
and not only that but all of the
lowdown things they do and
get away with them. I asked

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my friend arthur do you think
that the people in the streets
kno whats happine. well alston the
point is they dont care you see
we are the little guys and they
think we are the worst guys in
the world. but alston you are
Crazy if I were in your shoes
all the shot GUNS they got couldn
keep me hear I wouldn make no
time for something I didnt. do you
see alston I killed a man in
self defence but you ant don nothing
But let me stop for every time
I thank of you I get mad. well
arthur I dont feel that way I beli-
eve god will change things. yes
but did god put you hear. no but
he said he will deliver us. yes but
alston you do kno the bible tells
us if we are caught up in the way
of the areserys agree with them
quickly. and they will take you
before the councler and put you
in prison and you are to stay there
untl you have paid the utimos
face. but what have you don

thats why I say you crazy. you
See alston these peoples ant
Givine no porold look at elles
Now tell me ho have any better
record then ellis. Seven years and
never ben punished. yes but I
going to make it ~~going~~ God is
Gona help me I hope so alston
well I thank I go lay down ok
I thank I'll do the same. well I
laid down but I coulden sleep
and that night it came one of
the worst storms you ever saw
the hold bilding was Shaking
So the next morning came and
about ten the gards came and
Got two of the boys for a widnes
s. but they were Cearful not to
get any one who wood tell the
truth they got a guy named
Jack. and Taylor. they went to
Coart. and Taylor told the coart
that the boys threw a shorie at
one of the gards but it was a
lie. we all knew it was but we
wasnt at coart but that
evening it came out in the

paper. So when I saw this in the paper I rushed to Arthur and showed this to him but Arthur was very sincere. He just said I believe Cap. Louis knew them boys was going to run he was set for this when it happened. So the killing had died down, but not Bos Paige his mind wouldn't let him go he had a pick after me for something that happened six months ago. What it was we were working around an abitoriar cleaning some ditches. About four o'clock that evening my buddy was working side by side his name was Lonnie Mak. Well it was about six guys around there on this side of this house. A guy named Black who had life, came back where we were he tried to fool a cig. but he were nervous so he threw the sharte down and got up own the fence right side me. I threw mud all over him, but he got away. About three minuts later the first thing he did when he came around there was ask.

me. Alston what happen to that
boy. What boy are someone gone
I haven seen any one. you a lie
you seen him. then him and the
other Gard had a few words
now you let him get away he
asked the other Gard. he were
with you. you a lie he was
with you. or forget it go call
the dogs. ok so he went and
a hour later he was hear
with the dogs, but there were
no trace. of him. So we mocked
of and went in. and later
that night I was talking with
another fellow. he was telling me
that I should have told him. but
I jest told him. What kind of
fellow you think I am. I didn't come
here to watch no convict. to keep
him from running away and besides I
am no snitcher the only way I will
tell a man something is he will be
trying to find his way to God then
I have something to tell him but
other then that. not me. So he troubled
me no more. then I laid down. Stea-

ring at these filthy beds and the floor, paper all over the place, and the dirty smell wood make you sick I wants to cry but couldn, I jest laid thear wondering how do people feel nowing they have lied down a man, but it wasen long before I droped of to sleep. then morning came ready for work, again I was, but this was a puty bad day for me, we got to work about seven oclock, and nothing I seemed to do pleased the bos, but it didn matter, God was pleased with me because I was insen, a fellow call shine was working in front of me was marking of a line to go by and he was getting it crocket and I was trying to keep it straight, so I got a little vexed so I said to him I am getting tired of trying to keep this ditch straight and you keep screwing it up, he jumped, stank and so did I, but it led to no rilents, then the boss came up and said to me why cant you keep this ditch straight, then I blew up sure anuff how can I keep it straight

When these guys keep crookeding it
ook he said ho do you thank you are
kolling at. Now dont you come out
hear ----- with me this morning you
black basterd, you are no more
christian then my ---, but thank god
I was able to control my self. So
I jest praid and asked God to
forgive him for he didnt. kno what
he was saying and from that day
own he keep right own riding me
he didnt. kno god was going to stop
him, there were many days I wanted
to tell him what god said about
any man ho wood harm one of his
least ones it was he had a
mill stone tied about his neck and
~~be~~ cast. in the sea, but he was
to ignet to be told any thing so
he jest noched pwn. and he began
getting sich he was having some
sort of spells then every time I got
a chance I wood nub it in own him
with the word of god and he had
to take it, because it was gods
word. and not min, I had never ben
punished since I wer hear, and he

wanted to put me in the hool but
I wouldnt do any thing every thing
he thought I wood do I jest made a
ber of him. he wood curse at me
all day and I wouldn even open
my mouth. but he declaid he was
gonna make it as hard for me as
he could, the poor fellow didnt kno
that God was own my side, and
God said. whom I bless no man can
curse, later he went own a vacation
and. cap. lous got the gang he was
a quiet man. he put my friend in
another gang. and tuck me out of
the ditch in put me own the bank
naking. he wood trust me any
where. it was almost like being
free, I never will forget. he tried to
pick me one day. he called me up
to him and asked me alston whats
the matter with you and paige
he dont seem to like you. I almost
told him jest what was own
my mind, and that was no. gerra-
a. boogie like no negro, but I jest
Smiled and said I didnt. kno he
disliked me. yes he told me that

He never would have thought you
would have seen that boy getting
away and not tell him. He said
that he wouldn't never have any
confidence in you. The same applies
to him and not him as a hole but
all men. I was picked up an insent
man. never ben arrested before in my
life and given twenty years how
do you thank I feel. I kno its hard
alston but its. nothing I can do about
it. yes I kno. and to my self even
if he could he wouldn't. he said
to me I told paige he shouldn
hold that against you because I
would have don the same thing if
it was me after all he must
realize he is getting paid to wat-
ch. these men in not you. I said to
him "dont hafte realise it let him
wait for me to tell him any thing
exept repent for the kingdom of God
is at hand. he said I dont blame
you. but deep down withen I knew
he didnt. mean it,.

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Chapter Eight

the next day we went to work and that day we all had it bad at working hard all day when twelve oclock came there were nothing fit to eat the corn bread was sour and the bogofona had skipers in it. and those that had some money bought something from the store but the rest of them worked own and when we knocked of and gotten in, it was the same. we went in the mess hall and the place were covered with flies all in the food so nothing were fit to eat it wasn't fit to feed a bunch of men who work as hard as these men worked, they was feeding sardines ~~mens~~ three times a day some days so every one gotten up and left the mess hall, and went back to the belding there were about seven ho staid in there and ate that slop they were flunkis ho didnt want to loose they soft spot

but they didn't. kno they were going to loose something more important. So the boys got sturned up that night you or any one els could blaim them the poor guys was hungry these people were starving all of us to death and no one wood do anything about it, but that night they went around and caught every one of those rats who ate that slop with all those flies in it and beat them down in they blood the gards had to take them out of the belding with us if not the mob wood have did them in so they got together to plain a strike all they wanted were food the chief came out and tried to quiet them down but no dice, they cursed him out and raised hell all night so they had taken all of the snitchers outside and the next morning they put bunks against the door and that ment no one go out, so they filled all of the fire cans of water and wet they tours for they had got

every cop in town to force us ~~down~~
out! So the warden came down and
asked the fellows what was wrong
they told him they only wanted
something to eat. and they didn't
want any sardines, he told them
they ~~to~~ could come out and go
to work if they wanted to that he
wouldn't promise them nothing
but plenty of hell if they didn't.
Come out and he were a very
nasty man to be a warden
that was the first time any of
us ever saw him to talk to him
before the boys went own to
tell him yes and we are tied
of every time we get sick they
put us in the hold and tell us
ant nothing wrong with us you
people want even call a doctor
for us when we get sick, another
man were the hie shirt were
told him burns you can avoid
all of this all you haffer do is
feed those men, he didn't say
any thing back at the shirt he
were so guilty he jest walked

With his head down they called
the Governor and asked if he
must order the cops to open fire
on the prisoners, but the Governor
told him no, we held out to
about ten thirty after Arthur
and I got together and tried
to talk some sense into them
they had planned to set fire to
the building but we talked them
out of it for that were suicide
for they would pick them off
one by one so they asked who
would go out first so Arthur
said I go first, and I went
second, they made us back
out and they surrounded us
and then they picked out the
fellows who started the broil it
was about seven teen so they
put the rest of them back in
the building and loaded up the
ones they keep out side and
carried them to a place called
beuffet it was a rock quarry
they were kept there, so that day
they fed us pretty good but it

only for a few days the third day some guy came out drunk and the Chief were with him he asked us. Whats wrong with you nigers have you gone crazy all of you could have gotten killed one of the cons did the talking he said. I tell you whats wrong with them and I dont care if you send me and it dont matter whear you send me all I want is something to eat and thats what wrong with the rest of them they are jest starved half to death look at my face I hatter put two golf balls in my jaw to share. I haven had any thing to eat since I been hear, do you thank any body wood lock a bunch of men up and dont feed them. So the boys cursed him out and quit talking to him I said to arthur. you kno something this is slavery withen the law why you say that allright I will out line it to you and its not a theory its facts and basics facts

Now these people got one of
the sweetest racket in the union
they get some poor class white woman
to say a negro grabbed her and
tried to rape her, they even paint
their faces and plant nobby
and get some other white person
to say he is the one and they
beat the poor guy half to death
I can clearie that statement
because they did me like this
only I didn't know what they was
beating me for so I couldn't tell
them any thing, they even pick
up guys up and give them time
own they back record, and they
do all this private work for these
people such as cleaning of they
yards and private property and
swimmings pools, we are sopose
to fix county roads and state hiway
and look how much money they get
for each one of us a day nine
dollars that's why we can't make
no porold, and you know it don't
take that much to feed us and
by cloos, its nothing but a racket,

Chapter nine

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