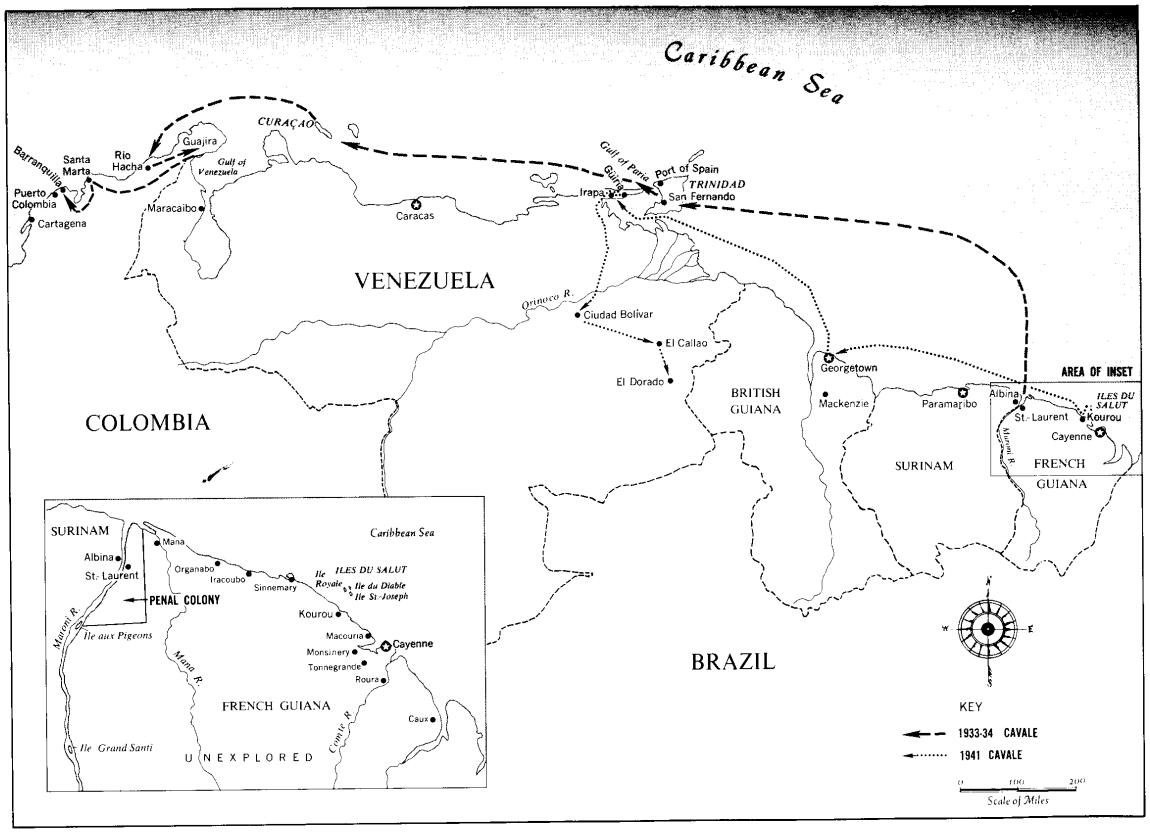
Caribbean Sea
CURAÇAO
Barranquilla
Santa Marta
Rio Hacha
Guajira
Gulf of Venezuela
Puerto Colombia
Cartagena
Maracaibo
Caracas
Gulf of Paria
Port of Spain
TRINIDAD
San Fernando
Irapa
VENEZUELA
Orinoco R.
Ciudad Bolivar
El Callao
El Dorado
COLOMBIA
BRITISH GUIANA
Georgetown
Mackenzie
Paramaribo
AREA OF INSET
Albina
St.-Laurent
ILES DU SALUT
Kourou
Cayenne
Maroni R.
SURINAM
FRENCH GUIANA
BRAZIL
SURINAM
Albina
St.-Laurent
PENAL COLONY
Maroni R.
Ile aux Pigeons
Ile Grand Santi
Mana
Mana R.
Organabo
Iracoubo
Sinnemary
Ile Royale
ILES DU SALUT
Ile du Diable
Ile St.-Joseph
Kourou
Macouria
Cayenne
Monsinery
Tonnegrande
Roura
FRENCH GUIANA
Comte R.
Caux
UNEXPLORED
Caribbean Sea
KEY
1933-34 CAVALE
1941 CAVALE
0 100 200
Scale of Miles

FIRST NOTEBOOK

The Descent into Hell

The Assizes

It was a knockout blow—a punch so overwhelming that I didn't get back on my feet for fourteen years. And to deliver a blow like that, they went to a lot of trouble.

It was the twenty-sixth of October, 1931. At eight o'clock in the morning they let me out of the cell I'd been occupying in the Conciergerie for a year. I was freshly shaved and carefully dressed. My suit was from a good tailor and gave me an air of elegance. A white shirt and pale-blue bow tie added the final touches.

I was twenty-five but looked twenty. The police were a little awed by my gentlemanly appearance and treated me with courtesy. They had even taken off my handcuffs. All six of us, the five policemen and I, were seated on two benches in a bare anteroom of the Palais de Justice de la Seine in Paris. The doors facing us led to the courtroom. Outside the weather was gray.

I was about to be tried for murder. My lawyer, Raymond Hubert, came over to greet me. "They have no real proof," he said. "I'm confident we'll be acquitted." I smiled at that we. He wasn't the defendant. I was. And if anybody went to jail, it wouldn't be him.

HV
8956
G8
C513
1970b

PAPILLON

by Henri Charrière

With an introduction by

JEAN-PIERRE CASTELNAU

Translated by JUNE P. WILSON *and* WALTER B. MICHAELS

19 70

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