

RUMANIAINDUSTRYFactoriesThe Foundry Section Of Factory "Malaxa."

SOURCE ISTANBUL: A refugee of foreign origin who left Rumania in 1952. He had worked as "specialist chamotteur" in the factory from 1949 to 1952.

DATE OF OBSERVATION: 1952.

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"This department is composed of 40 workers with five master furnace technicians under the direction of engineer BERLIAN Alexandru. Our group was responsible for the maintenance of furnaces, handling the metal, malleability of materials, and loading, unloading and cooling the liquid metal from the container.

"Until 1950, this process of removing and cooling charges of liquid metal was done at cold temperature, thus resulting in a diminution of production. Moreover, Rumanian silicate was used with a resistance capacity of 1350 degrees, as higher temperatures produced fissures. Later silica was mixed with Czechoslovakian magnesite and this composition brought about better results. But the work was still done at cold temperature. In 1951, it was decided to do the process without stopping the furnaces, by employing magnesite mixed with water and oil. The metal was removed and cooled by workers attired in asbestos and masks, with furnaces kept at 1,500 degrees. This procedure produced a resistance that made it possible to go for six months without cracks appearing.

"Although according to law we were supposed to work an eight-hour day, generally we worked ten hours, the supplementary work being paid. Thus, for the first extra hour worked the worker received 50 per cent of his basic salary, and for each additional hour 100 per cent. Bonuses were paid between 50 and 90 per cent of the basic pay. Hours of work for our group were between 0700 and 1500 hours with a recreation period of ten minutes for lunch.

(Over)

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"Until 1951, the norms so favored the workers that they exceeded it by 200 to 250 per cent and, in return, they received a correspondent salary and bonuses. By 1951 the norms had been doubled.

"As my work was listed in the heavy category, I received a bread ration of 750 grams and a half kilogram of inferior milk. The quality of meals in the canteen was very bad; 25 grams of horse meat was served each person once a week, while the rest of the time the meal was limited to potatoes, and beans.

"Socialist competitions were organized and inspired by the personnel department with the sole purpose of exploiting the helpless, badly paid workers."

EVAL. COMMENT: Report is somewhat general, but contains many intimate facts of interest. Consistent with available information. See item no. 4305/52.