



DISCOVERY OF SITES

The Detention Centre is located in Eysses one of the oldest neighborhoods in Villeneuve-sur-Lot (Lot-et-Garonne): the former Benedictine abbey, which occupies part is indeed itself built on the ruins of a Gallo-Roman *EXCISUM* (built probably in 58 BC).

This abbey sold as national property during the Revolution, in 1803 became one of the first open houses in prison in France. It welcomes sentenced to long terms until 1895. On June 2, 1895 it was converted into correctional colony for juvenile offenders. The decree of December 31, 1927, in an effort to erase as much as possible the criminal nature of this institution, transforms the name to the approved school. Eysses continues to welcome the pupils until September 1940, when the institution receives political prisoners, before becoming in 1943 a strategic place of repression: the largest concentration of political prisoners (resistant) from all over France.

Authors : AERI team - Meghan Briggs (translations).

Sources : Amicale des anciens détenus patriotes de la centrale d'Eysses, *L'insurrection d'Eysses*, éditions sociales, 1974. Corinne Jaladieu, *La prison politique sous Vichy. L'exemple des centrales d'Eysses et de Rennes*, L'Harmattan, 2007. Site Internet de l'Amicale des anciens détenus patriotes de la centrale d'Eysses.