



THE INFIRMARY

With the influx of resistant in October 1943, daily life and to improve the health situation Eysses. Political prisoners are able to occupy the key positions, such as prison infirmary led by Dr. Paul Weil. The building takes on strategic importance including being a meeting point between inmates of different playgrounds. Georges Dunois resistant incarcerated Eysses, manages to bring in a central transmitter which is then hidden in the infirmary in the local dentist.

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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.

- **Health status and role of nursing**

The Vichy regime inherits a poorly maintained prison estate, in which the hygiene rapidly becomes deplorable due to overcrowding. The nourishment, already insufficient before the war, is compounded by shortages. Tuberculosis, malnourishment, cold temperatures and bad treatment are again accentuated during the black years. The situation at Eysses corresponds to an average situation: 7 to 8 deaths per month and two cases of typhus in 1942. The situation improves in 1943 when, with the mass arrival of resisters, the alimentary solidarity is put in place. It is carefully organized thanks to the complicity of the financial administrator and the mobilization of country people from Villeneuve. Political prisoners come to occupy key positions, such as the penitentiary hospital led by Paul Weil. By the end of 1943, the infirmary becomes a sort of free parlor between sick inmates and their families, which permits the establishment of links with the outside world, notably with the outflow of secret letters.

- **A Secret Radio in the Dentist's Office**

Multiple little facilities extracted from the prison's direction by the inmates favor the struggle for the conquest of liberty. All relaxation of pressure, all softening of internal surveillance is utilized by the inmates, in particular to establish contact with the Resistance outside. One of the inmates, Georges Dunois, leader of the movement Le Coq in Lyon, succeeds in having a radio delivered to him in detached pieces among other harmless objects. Fifteen days later, the receptor functions. Edouard Aubert, one of the men in charge of the infirmary, assures its safety and utilization. First of all, it is hidden in the dentist's office, which is unoccupied and closed under lock and key. Then, he knows multiple potential hiding spots in the anticipation of searches. At night, the inmates, Claude Leroy and Joseph Stern among others, take it out and pick up emissions. The news of free France, the emissions from London and from Moscow are, the next day, reported to everyone.