



PRESENTATION

The Eysses central prison in Villeneuve-sur-Lot profoundly marked the lives and destinies of the 1200 men, resisters of all origins and all opinions who were imprisoned there from 1943-1944 and there led an extraordinary combat for their dignity and liberty. Their engagement and their courage, supported by a solid organization, a solidarity without fault and a profound unity, permitted the writing of a unique page in the history of the French Resistance, a page that you are going to discover through the panoramic views of the central prison, and from numerous written, audio and video documents (more than 200), accompanied by explanatory texts.

Two courses of visit await you. Using the left menu and the map of the prison, follow the life of a resister at Eysses (course 1: "Discovery of Sites") until the collective escape attempt in February 1944 (course 2: "Insurrection").

This story starts in October 1943, when the Vichy authorities decide to concentrate all of the political prisoners of the Southern Zone in this prison, considered to be more "secure".

The film presented here is an excerpt from the documentary "Militia, film noir" directed by Alain Ferrari and released in 1997 (© Alain Ferrari - DR).

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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.