



INFIRMARY COURTYARD

The infirmary courtyard, located behind the Chapel, is a meeting place between all the different yards and the workshops, places where links with the exterior Resistance are woven.

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.

- **Tribute to Duprillot**

Arriving at Eysses on October 23, 1943, Barthélemy Duprillot, administrative internee, kills himself during the battle called "Three Glories," on December 10, 1943, from fear of being handed over to the Germans. Several clichés, taken in secret, immortalize the funeral ceremony and the patriotic honors rendered by his comrades.

- **Links with the Outside Resistance via the Workshops**

When the massive convoys of condemned resisters arrive at Eysses in October 1943, contact is made by the leaders of the inmates with the outside Resistance and principally with Gérard Bouvard of the Libération movement. The guards engaged in the Resistance (National Front of Guards) serve as liaison officers. The first report addressed by the Committee Director of the inmates is taken out of the prison by the guard Blondel, who delivers it to Patat, an Alsatian railway man; others follow, written in invisible ink and camouflaged in a fake lighter taken out by Gaston Dumas, resister and head foreman of the penitentiary. Relations did not continue as merely an exchange of notes and a few weeks after their arrival, Gérard Bouvard is presented to the finance administrator as the merchant of wood and articles for woodworking machines; after his accreditation as official furnisher of the penitentiary, he is then introduced to the head foreman of carpentry, Gaston Dumas. Gérard Bouvard shows his ability to confer directly with the two delegates of the inmates, Stéphane Fuchs and Henri Auzias, thanks to the complicity of the finance administrator and a few guards, in a garret above the carpentry workshop of the prison. The relations between the inmates and the outside resistance are therefore established very rapidly; the demands of the inmates pertain immediately to supplies but equally to assistance in realizing a plan of escape, notably with the introduction of weapons to the prison.