

The Forced Labour Camps were one of the first forms of mass extra-judicial persecution in Czechoslovakia after the assumption by the communists in February 1948. The law which officially caused their establishment was carried on 25th October 1948 and it started to operate on 17th November 1948. The first camps were prepared before the law started to operate but their function started only by the end of 1948. The first camp started to operate in Kladno - Dřín and the second one was opened in Dolní Jiřetín and it is the theme of this work.

The Forced Labour Camp in Dolní Jiřetín was established by the ministerial order from 7th December 1948. By this time there was a commander and eleven guards started to work. The location was prepared several weeks ago by the employees of SHD (the Mine - company in the north Bohemia).

The first people were sent there by the end of December 1948 but only a small number. Many more people came after the camp moved from the place nb. 43 to place nb. 24 at the end of January 1949. Both these camps arose during the second world war and their technical state wasn't very good. The intemees started to work for SHD. They were gradually sent to the mines Quido, Centrum, Zdeněk Nejedlý, Prezident Beneš and workshops in Komořany. Beside Quido and workshops in Komořany they were opencast mines. Quido was underground mine and it seemed to be the hardest destination for the intemees. During the time of its existence majority of them worked mostly on the mine called President Beneš. The intemees were mostly used as auxiliary workers and as unqualified workers. They were paid for this work (officially they got the same amount of money as the ordinary workers) but their salaries were reduced by extraordinary items so it's a question how much they really got.