

## **In Remembrance of Interned Jews from Jena and the “RAW Jena” Subcamp**

In the early 1940s, there were nine rail cars converted into temporary housing (1) not far from here. Jewish inhabitants of Jena had to live there by order of the municipality until they were deported in 1942/43. None of them survived the ghettos and camps in the occupied Eastern Europe.

From the year 1940, the repair workshop of the state railway company of the German Reich (Reichsbahnausbesserungswerk - RAW) built a barrack camp on the opposite side of the road which had initially been intended for German workers from Volhynia. In 1942, Russian forced labourers were housed in the camp. Upon an instruction issued by the department of transport of the German Reich (Reichsverkehrsministerium), the state railway company of the German Reich (Deutsche Reichsbahn) had the camp developed into one of the approx. 140 subcamps of the Buchenwald concentration camp in the autumn of 1944. Solid barracks were built with the consent of Reich governor and local construction authority. SS men, an electric fence and watchtowers secured the subcamp (2). Yet, passers-by could see inside, and the camp was known to many townspeople in Jena. More than 1,000 prisoners had to repair rail cars in twelve-hour shifts at the nearby RAW (3) – hard forced labour in a war that had long been lost from a military point of view. Nearly half of the prisoners were from the Soviet Union, a quarter of them were from Poland, and about 130 were French. Two Russian prisoners were executed at the roll call ground after a failed attempt to escape on January 6<sup>th</sup>, 1945.

In the early April of 1945, the camp was made subject to forced eviction. On their torturous way to today's Litoměřice via the subcamp in Colditz many prisoners fell victim to the blows and shots of the SS men. Others died of exhaustion.

This memorial plaque was made upon a resolution passed by the town council of Jena and set up in the year 2014.