

## Columbia Haus

Concentration camp located in Berlin, used mainly to hold prisoners under interrogation at the Gestapo headquarters. Columbia Haus was only in use for the first few years of the Nazi regime in Germany.

In mid-1933 the prisoner cells at the *Gestapo* headquarters could only hold about 50 people at a time. At that point, the *Gestapo* began using Columbia Haus, a concentration camp set up by the SS, to hold its prisoners while under investigation. Soon the concentration camp became infamous for the torture methods used there.

Columbia Haus was taken over by the Inspectorate of Concentration Camps in 1934. In January 1935 it was taken under the direct administration of the *Gestapo*.

In late 1935 the *Gestapo* decided to increase the size of the prisoner cells at its headquarters. Around the same time, the SS dissolved all the concentration camps it had been using to persecute enemies of the state during the first few years of Nazi power, except Dachau, and in their place, began building larger camps. Thus, Columbia Haus was no longer needed by the *Gestapo*, and was shut down on November 5, 1935.