

## Employment of Prisoners at the Oranienburg “Protective Custody Camp” near Berlin (April 1, 1933)

### Abstract

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Most concentration camp inmates were political opponents, so-called enemies of the race, common criminals, homosexuals, or “asocials” whom the Nazi leadership would not tolerate in the new German national community [*Volksgemeinschaft*]. The goal was not to rehabilitate prisoners, but rather to punish them by means of daily humiliation, arbitrary violence, and forced labor. Additionally, camps were supposed to have a deterrent effect on the rest of the population. The surveillance, torture, and exploitation of inmates was carried out by special SS units, the so-called SS Death’s Head Units [*Totenkopfverbände* or SSV] under the leadership of Theodor Eicke.

### Source

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Source: Labor deployment of prisoners in the Oranienburg concentration camp. Unknown photographer. bpk-Bildagentur, image number 30013849. For rights inquiries, please contact Art Resource at [requests@artres.com](mailto:requests@artres.com) (North America) or bpk-Bildagentur at [kontakt@bpk-bildagentur.de](mailto:kontakt@bpk-bildagentur.de) (for all other countries).

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Recommended Citation: Employment of Prisoners at the Oranienburg “Protective Custody Camp” near Berlin (April 1, 1933), published in: German History in Documents and Images,

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<https://germanhistorydocs.org/en/nazi-germany-1933-1945/ghdi:image-1918> [July 03, 2024].