

Prisoners during Roll Call at the Oranienburg “Protective Custody Camp” Near Berlin (April 1, 1933)

Abstract

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 SSTV] under the leadership of Theodor Eicke.

Source



Source: In the “protective custody camp,” Oranienburg near Berlin – prisoners at roll call, lined up in front of their guards. Unknown photographer.

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