

Document on Corporal Punishment

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Wirtschafts- Verwaltungshauptamt Oranienburg, den 4. April 1942.
Amtegruppe D
- Konzentrationslager -
D I/1 / Az.: 14 a 3 /Ot./ U..

Betreff: Prügelstrafen.

An die
Lagerkommandanten der
Konzentrationslager
Du., Sah., Du., Kau., Flo., Neu., Au., Gr.-Ro., Mats.,
Pic., Stu., Arb., Rav. und Kommandant Kriegsgef.-Lager Lublin.

Einschreiben.

Der Reichsführer - H und Chef der Deutschen Polizei hat angeordnet, daß bei seinen Verfügungen von Prügelstrafen (sowohl bei männlichen als auch bei weiblichen Schutz- oder Vorbeugungshäftlingen), wenn das Wort " verschärft " hinzugesetzt ist, der Strafvollzug auf das unbekleidete Gesicht zu erfolgen hat.

In allen anderen Fällen bleibt es bei dem bisherigen vom Reichsführer - H angeordneten Vollzug.

Der Chef des Zentralamtes
Nebelentz
H - Obersturmbannführer

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As a form of punishment, prisoners were regularly beaten with truncheons or whips. They received between 5 and 50 blows or lashes. The prisoners were tied to a trestle and beaten on the back or on the buttocks. They had to count the blows aloud. If the victim lost count, the SS guards would often start over. The beatings even continued if a prisoner lost consciousness. The beatings resulted in open sores on the prisoners' buttocks and backs, and sometimes even their kidneys were damaged.

(BA (Berlin))

Flogging Trestle



Flogging trestle from Auschwitz concentration camp. A similar trestle was in use at Neuengamme. Prisoners were tied to such trestles with their heads hanging down and their buttocks pointing up.

Foto: KZ-Gedenkstätte Auschwitz. (APMO)

Drawing of Crouching Prisoners



Pen drawing by Ragnar Sørensen from 1945. As a form of punishment, prisoners were taken to the camp gate and forced to remain in a crouching position for hours. This was referred to in the camp as the "Saxon Salute" ("Sachsengruß"). Ragnar Sørensen, a former prisoner from Norway, was imprisoned in Neuengamme in March and April 1945.