

The Daily Routine at the Camp

The prisoners were woken before dawn. Despite the jostling in the overcrowded quarters, prisoners were only given half an hour to perform their ablutions, make up their beds and drink their ration of substitute coffee or warm broth. After morning roll-call, prisoners were assigned to work commandos. Work went on for 10 to 12 hours a day, with a break at noon, during which the prisoners were given soup. During the winter months, the working days were slightly shortened. After evening roll-call, the prisoners received their evening meal. At 9 p.m. the lights were turned out and the prisoners went to sleep. Their nights were too short and brought them little rest, however. From 1943, the prisoners' sleep was often interrupted by air-raid alarms. During air-raid alerts, the SS forced the prisoners to run to the basements of the stone buildings in the dark, beating them all the way. In their little spare time in the evenings and on Sundays, prisoners tried to get their uniforms clean, socialise with other prisoners and trade items for food.