

## Arrival and Registration at the Camp

The SS would beat and harass newly arrived prisoners to demonstrate what was in store for them at the camp. The new prisoners often had to stand to attention on the parade ground for long periods of time. A higher-ranking SS officer would hold a speech studded with threats. The "welcome ceremony" over, the prisoners were herded off to the storerooms, where they had to hand over their clothes and other possessions. Then they had to shower, were disinfected and had to undergo the especially humiliating ordeal of having all their hair, including pubic hair, shaved off. The prisoners were then issued their concentration camp uniforms. They were also given a number which had to be sewn to their uniforms, as well as a metal tag on a cord which had to be worn around the neck and which also bore their prisoner's number. After being given the number, prisoners were never again called by their name, only by their number. Shortly after their arrival at the camp, prisoners were interrogated by the Political Department, a procedure which often included more torture. From 1942, most newly arrived prisoners were quarantined for their first few days at the camp.