

## The Prisoners' Barracks: Organisational Structures and Camp Rules

In order to manage the prisoners' barracks (the so-called "protective custody camp") with a comparatively small number of staff, the SS relied on tight organisational structures. Several times a day, the prisoners had to muster in file for roll-calls. Life at the camp was governed by a large number of rules which were almost impossible to abide by. Obedience and submission were required at all times. Prisoners who stood out were beaten or punished in other ways.

The SS delegated many tasks to select prisoners. The highest-ranking among these "prisoner functionaries" was the "camp elder" (*Lagerältester*). He was assisted by the camp clerk (*Lagerschreiber*), who kept the camp statistics. The block elders (*Blockälteste*) were in charge of keeping order in the prisoners' quarters and reported to the SS block leaders (*Blockführer*), while the *Kapos* reported to the SS commando leaders (*Kommandoführer*) during work detail.