H13 MECHELEN / MALINES (B)

A camp was set up for Roma and Sinti in the village of Elewijt, on the outskirts of the Belgian city of Mechelen/Malines. Following the Germany invasion of Belgium in 1940, the old army barracks in Mechelen/Malines was used as a prison and detention camp for political prisoners, and also for Jews, Roma and Sinti. In 1944, 352 French and Belgian Sinti and Roma were deported from Dossin Barracks to Auschwitz-Birkenau. Only 31 of them survived. However, the families in the Elewijt Camp were not deported to Auschwitz.



1910 1944 1951

Did you know

... that most Roma and Sinti from France and Belgium were not deported to concentration camps?
... that the memorial opened in Dossin Barracks in 2012 includes an exhibition on the fate of the 352 deportees?

Your task

What does this photo tell you about the conditions under which the mourning ceremony had to be held? Compare the living conditions in this camp with what you know about other camps.

About the photo

Belgian Roma families at a funeral meal in the Elewijt Camp on the outskirts of Mechelen/Malines in 1944. Dossin Barracks Memorial Site in Mechelen/Malines, Belgium.

https://www.romasintigenocide.eu/en/h