

Appendix C

NAZI LEADERS AND DEPARTMENTS OF THE SS

The SS was not a single agency. It was made up of many different departments that were meant to control every aspect of life under German rule. The Main office of the SS, the RSHA, was directed by Reinhard Heydrich. With orders from Heinrich Himmler and using his own expert organizational talents, Heydrich created this enormous organization in 1938.

Agencies: *Gestapo*—Secret State Police
 SD Inland—Secret Intelligence Service (within Germany)
 SD Foreign—Secret Intelligence (occupied countries)
 Kripo—Criminal Police
 Ideology
 Organization and Law

Each of these departments had several sub-departments. SD Foreign, for example, included the *Einsatzgruppen* (mobile killing units). The *Gestapo*'s 15 sub-departments included: "Enemies" with a series of sub-categories: Communism, Sabotage, Liberalism, Assassinations. The next department, Department IV, was "Sects" and included Catholicism, Protestantism, Freemasonry, and Department IV B 4—Evacuations and Jews, headed by Adolf Eichmann.

Included in the RSHA was the administration of the death camps (not concentration camps) and the various national security and secret service organizations. The SS had grown to an enormous size with a bureaucracy that was almost unmanageable.

Separate from the RSHA were the divisions of the *Waffen SS*, the armed forces of the SS that fought in the war. These included the "Death's Head Division" and the "Adolf Hitler Division." The *Waffen SS* were crack troops, trained to fight to the death. There were height requirements for joining these divisions, and each person who enlisted had to produce written proof of his "Aryan" ancestry.

The SS was a rival of the *Wehrmacht*, the regular army. The SS troops were indoctrinated with Nazi ideas and usually were merciless when they dealt with "enemies of the *Reich*," especially Jews. The *Wehrmacht*, although they cooperated with the *Einsatzgruppen*, tended to be less brutal when they were given tasks involving Jews.

At the Nuremberg Trials, the SD, the SS and the Gestapo were three organizations accused of war crimes and crimes against humanity. By 1941, the SS had more than four million members.

LIST OF NAZI LEADERS

1. **Adolf Eichmann:** Chief of “Evacuation and Jews” sector of the RSHA (Main SS Office). Responsible for organizing and directing trains and deciding who would be on them. He escaped in 1945, was caught, tried and hanged in Jerusalem in 1961.
2. **Hans Frank:** Governor General of occupied Poland. Executed at Nuremberg in 1945.
3. **Paul Josef Goebbels:** Minister of Propaganda. Responsible for instigating and probably planning the events of the *Kristallnacht*. He committed suicide in Berlin in 1945.
4. **Hermann Goering:** Deputy *Fuehrer*. Second most powerful man in the Third *Reich*; director of the civil service, business and industry administration, and Field Marshall in charge of the Air Force. He committed suicide in his cell after being condemned to death by the International Military Tribunal at Nuremberg in 1945.
5. **Reinhard Heydrich:** Chief of the Main Office of the SS. Responsible only to Himmler and Hitler, he organized and put into action the “Final Solution.” He was assassinated by Czech patriots in 1942.
6. **Heinrich Himmler:** Leader of the SS and Chief of German Police. Responsible only to Hitler, Himmler’s forces, which included the dreaded *Gestapo* (Secret State Police), organized, administered and directed the murder of the Jews. He committed suicide after his capture in 1945.
7. **Rudolph Hoess:** Commandant of Auschwitz. He organized the three enormous camps at Auschwitz and supervised the gassing and murder of more than two million Jews. Hoess was executed at Auschwitz in 1947, hung on a gallows in the camp he had administered.
8. **Josef Mengele:** Physician in charge of the “selections” at Auschwitz. Mengele and his staff determined whether people would live or die. If people seemed strong enough for labor or somehow fit into a horrible medical experiment, Mengele allowed them to live for a period of time. Not only did he make such selections upon the arrival of the Jews, but also regularly checked prisoners in their barracks to eliminate those who were no longer “useful.” Mengele escaped in 1945 and was given refuge in South America. In 1985, it was discovered that he had drowned in 1979.