

Defendant ERNST KEALTENBRUNNER

Kealtenbrunner, an Austrian by birth, was one of the early members of the National Socialist Party in Austria. He joined the Austrian branch of both the Party and the SS in 1932 and was made SS Hauptsturmfuehrer. Taking an active part in the Party, he functioned as a Gauredner (Gau-speaker) and was appointed legal advisor to SS Abschnitt VIII in Austria. In 1933 he became leader of SS Standarte 37 at Linz. In the following years he continued to participate in Nazi Party activities against the Austrian State and was imprisoned and expelled from the legal profession for such activities. After the invasion of Austria in March 1938, in recognition of his activities on behalf of the National Socialist cause, he was promoted to leadership of the SS District Austria, and, by appointment of the defendant Seyss-Inquert, State Secretary for Security in Austria in charge of the Austrian police. At the same time, the defendant was elected to the Reichstag. In September 1938, he was appointed SS Gruppenfuehrer and head of SS District "Donau." As head of the Austrian police, the defendant, through mass arrests, purged the police of all members not thoroughly Nazified and organized a terror wave against political opponents and Jews throughout Austria. The incorporation of Austria into the Reich and the complete coordination of Austrian public life with the tenets of Nazism were substantially advanced through the ruthless practices initiated by the defendant and the executive organs under his control. In 1939, as a reward for his activities, the defendant received the Golden Party Badge and in 1941 was made Lieutenant General of the Police and Higher SS and Police Leader under Reich Governors of Vienna and Lower and Upper Danube. In January 1943,

the defendant was appointed successor to Reinhard Heydrich as head of the Reichssicherheitshauptamt (the Reich Main Security Office) ^{and} /Chef der Sicherheitspolizei und des SD (Chief of the Security Police and Security Service). Subsequently he was given the title of SS Obergruppenführer and General of the Police.

As head of the Reichssicherheitshauptamt (Reich Main Security Office) the defendant was a member of the supreme command of the SS, responsible directly and solely to Heinrich Himmler as Reichsführer SS and Chief of the German Police, and subsequently Minister of the Interior. He had final authority over and bore ultimate responsibility for the activities of all the departments and services comprising the Reichssicherheitshauptamt, including the Sicherheitspolizei (Sipo or Security Police) of which the Gestapo (Secret State Police) and the Reichskriminalpolizei (Kripo or Criminal Police) were parts, the Sicherheitsdienst (SD or Security Service), and various sabotage and military intelligence services which, after July 1944, were incorporated in the Reichssicherheitshauptamt. He exercised his authority personally, through the chiefs of the departments of Reichssicherheitshauptamt, through regional Höhere SS und Polizeiführer (Higher SS and Police Leaders) and through regional commanders or inspectors of the Sicherheitspolizei and SD. The powers of his office extended through Germany and all matters falling under the jurisdiction of the Reichssicherheitshauptamt were free from control or interference by any civilian or military agency. As the responsible head of the Reichssicherheitshauptamt the defendant is chargeable with all criminal activities of the Sicherheitspolizei and SD directed toward the suppression and elimination of tendencies, groups and

individuals deemed hostile to the Nazi regime or otherwise undesirable, the criminal activities of Higher SS and Police Leaders and regional commanders and inspectors of the Sicherheitspolizei and SD, and the criminal activities of all branches and departments of the Reichssicherheitshauptamt, including persecution, imprisonment without trial and internment in concentration camps on political, racial, religious and ideological grounds, torture and murder of prisoners both inside and outside of concentration camps, the unlawful seizure and execution of hostages and mass reprisals against the population of occupied territories, the maltreatment of prisoners of war, and the maltreatment and execution of captured fliers, parachute troops and commandos.