

## Pohl, Oswald

(1892-1951), Head of the SS Economic-Administrative Main Office (Wirtschafts-Verwaltungshauptamt, WVHA). Pohl joined the Nazi Party in 1926 and the SS in 1929. His talents as an organizer caught the eye of SS chief Heinrich Himmler, who made Pohl chief of administration in the SS Main Office in 1935.

In 1939 Pohl was appointed ministerial director of the Ministry of the Interior. In that position he quickly built up SS companies with the help of Nazi supporters from various German industries. In 1942 Pohl's activities were brought together under one new roof: the WVHA, which was responsible for the concentration camp inspectorate, and for the work projects of more than 500,000 concentration camp inmates, who were sometimes hired out to work for German companies. This made Pohl one of the most powerful and prominent men in the SS.

Pohl also came up with the idea of sending back to Germany all personal possessions of Jews who had been gassed - including hair, gold teeth, clothes, wedding rings and other jewelry, etc. - and using them or turning them into cash. This operation was all part of the SS emphasis on being efficient and financially independent of other countries.

After the war Pohl was arrested and sentenced to death. He was executed in 1951.