

Thadden, Eberhard Von

(1909--1964), German Foreign Office official who, from April 1943 to the end of World War II, was in charge of Jewish affairs and served as the intermediary between the Foreign Office and the SS.

Thadden joined the Nazi Party in 1933 and the SS in 1936. At that point, a question was raised about whether Thadden had a Jewish ancestor, but the problem was solved when his old family friend, Hermann Goering, testified that the ancestor in question was not Jewish, but rather the illegitimate son of a Russian noble. Thadden entered the Foreign Office in 1937. He then enlisted in the *Waffen-SS*, and was subsequently wounded in battle. In 1942 he returned to work for the Foreign Office in Greece, and in April 1943 he was appointed head of the Foreign Office's Jewish desk. In this capacity, he was involved in the deportation of Jews from all over Europe. He was particularly involved in the mass deportation of Hungarian Jewry during the summer of 1944.

In 1950 Thadden was indicted by a German court, but the charges were eventually dropped. The investigation into his crimes was reopened in 1958, but Thadden was killed in a car accident before he could be put on trial.