

Stahlecker, Franz Walter (1900--1942)

SS officer and commander of an *Einsatzgruppe*

Stahlecker joined the Nazi Party in 1932. He then served in the police, and in 1934, became chief of police in the Wuerttemberg region. Soon he moved to the Security Service (SD) main office, and in 1938---after Germany annexed Austria---he became the SD chief of the Danube (Vienna) district. He kept this position even after he was promoted to the rank of *Standartenfuehrer* and became the Higher SS and Police Leader of the Protectorate of Bohemia and Moravia. In 1940 Stahlecker was sent to Norway to serve as Higher SS and Police Leader there; he was also promoted to *SS-Oberfuehrer*.

When Germany invaded the Soviet Union in June 1941, Stahlecker became a *Brigadefuehrer* in the SS and a major general in the police. He was appointed commanding officer of *Einsatzgruppe A*, which functioned in the Northern Command---an area consisting of the Baltic States and the region west of Leningrad. His killing unit massacred Jews and other Soviet citizens. In November 1941 Stahlecker was made Higher SS and Police Leader of Reichskommissariat Ostland, an area including Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, and Belorussia. He was killed on March 23, 1942 in a battle with Soviet Partisans.