

## Otto Hofmann (1896 - 1982)

Head of the SS Race- and Settlement Main Office



Hofmann occupied a leading position from 1940 until 1943 in the various Germanization policies involving the territories of Poland and the Soviet Union. He was responsible for “racial testing,” as a result of which various ethnic groups were driven from their land and replaced by Germans from different countries; for the abduction of Polish children to Germany; and for “SS-genealogical preservation” (*SS-Sippenpflege*). At the Wannsee Conference, Hofmann demanded emphatically that people of “mixed blood” (*Mischlinge*) be sterilized.

Born in Innsbruck, the son of a businessman. High school education. Volunteered for military service in August 1914, and in March 1917 was promoted to second lieutenant. In June 1917, he became a prisoner of war in Russia, escaped and returned to Germany where he was trained as a pilot. Demobilized in 1919. From 1920 to 1925 he worked in the wholesale wine business, thereafter as a self-employed wine salesman. Joined the Nazi Party (NSDAP) in 1923, the SS in April 1931, and from 1933 on was a full-time SS leader. In April 1943, he was appointed commander of the SS Main Sector Southwest and Senior SS and Police leader in Württemberg, Baden and the Alsace. He was also commander of the prisoners of war within Defense Sector V (Southeast). During the trial of the Main Office for Race and Settlement in March 1948 he was sentenced to 25 years imprisonment for crimes against humanity and war crimes. Amnestied in 1954 and released from Landsberg penitentiary. Thereafter business clerk in Württemberg.

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