

Wilhelm Kritzinger (1890 - 1947)

Reich Chancellery
Permanent Secretary (Ministerialdirektor)



Next to the Chief of the Reich Chancellery, Lammers, Kritzinger was the number two man in this position. He therefore knew about all anti-Jewish measures, and within his capacity as a Reich Chancellery official dealt extensively with "Jewish problems." Thus, in 1939/40, he assisted in drafting ordinances against "despoilers of the people" (*Volksschädlinge*), and also in the draft of the 11th Ordinance to the Reich Citizenship Law on the basis of which the German Jews were deprived of their property prior to their deportation. In 1942/43, as state secretary, he busied himself with the draft of ordinances designed to delimit the right of appeal for Jews in legal matters. When he was questioned in court after 1945, Kritzinger admitted to having been a participant at the Wannsee Conference and acknowledged its criminal nature.

Born as son of a clergyman in Grünfier (Netze District). High School diploma in 1908. Study of law. Fought in the frontlines 1914–1918, became a reserve lieutenant. In 1921 examination as an assistant judge (*Assessor*). Thereafter he worked as an assistant in the Reich Ministry of Justice. In 1925/26, senior councilor (*Landgerichtsrat*) in the Prussian Ministry of Commerce, and in 1926 return to the Reich Ministry of Justice. Joined the Nazi Party on January 1, 1938. Transferred to the Reich Chancellery in February 1938 where he served as the director of Section B with the rank of permanent secretary (*Ministerialdirektor*). At the beginning of 1942, undersecretary of state (*Unterstaatssekretär*), and at the end of the same year state secretary (*Staatssekretär*). Fled from Berlin in 1945, and in May 1945 became state secretary (*Staatssekretär*) in the Dönitz Government in Flensburg. Subsequently interned in Bruchsal, released in April 1946 but rearrested in December. Was found unfit to stay in prison on account of ill health.

Foto: Persönlichkeiten der Verwaltung, Stuttgart 1981

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