

## Dr. Rudolf Lange (1910 – 1945)

Commander of the Security Police and Security Service (KdS)



For quite a long time Lange belonged to those Secret State Police officials of the “intermediate level” who made the functioning of the terror apparatus possible. When under Heydrich’s command the “Special Units” (*Einsatzgruppen*) of the Security Police and Security Service were formed in order to murder the Jews in the Soviet Union, Lange was called into action as well. As chief of staff of his outfit, “Special Unit A,” which moved behind the German Army into the Baltic region, he also led for a while “Special Command 2” which by December 1941 had murdered roughly 60,000 Latvian Jews as well as Jews from other countries deported to Latvia. Lange himself commanded killing operations at the outskirts of Riga. At the Wannsee Conference he was the “experienced practitioner” of mass executions.

Born in Weisswasser, the son of a railway construction supervisor. Study of law. Member of the Secret State Police in Halle in 1933, and doctor of law at the University of Jena. In 1936, member of the Secret State Police Office in Berlin. Joined the Nazi Party (NSDAP) and the SS in 1937. With the Secret State Police in Vienna in 1938 and in Stuttgart in 1939. In 1940, he headed the Secret State Police in Weimar and Erfurt, and in September 1940 was deputy for the Head of the Secret State Police in Berlin. In December 1941, Commander of Security Police and Security Service in Latvia, and as of January 1945 Commander of the Security Police and Security Service in the Warta region (*Warthegau*). Committed suicide in Poznan in February 1945.

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