

Auerswald, Heinz

(b. 1908), German governor of the Warsaw Ghetto from March 1941 to November 1942. Auerswald enlisted in the SS in mid-1933, but only joined the Nazi Party in the late 1930s. He fulfilled his army service by working for the regular German police.

After World War II broke out, Auerswald was sent to Warsaw with the police. He was soon relocated to the German civil administration that was set up to run the city, and was put in charge of ethnic German (*Volksdeutsche*) affairs. In March 1941 he was given the job of running the Warsaw Ghetto. In this post Auerswald was responsible for a population of over 400,000 Jews. His main goal was to turn the ghetto into an efficient and productive moneymaker for the German war economy by taking advantage of Jewish slave labor. In addition, he wanted to stop the spread of epidemics, and to that end he made the ghetto boundaries even smaller and imposed the death penalty on any Jew found outside the ghetto (who, presumably, could be carrying infectious diseases).

After the mass deportations from the ghetto in the summer of 1942, Auerswald was appointed district administrator in the Ostrow area. In January 1943 he was drafted into the army. He was never convicted of war crimes.