

Stroop, Juergen

(1895--1951), Higher SS and Police Leader responsible for crushing the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising. Stroop joined the Nazi Party and SS in 1932. He quickly rose through the ranks, and by 1939 was commander of a police unit. When Germany invaded the Soviet Union in 1941, Stroop volunteered for combat. After being wounded, he moved to the police in the occupied Soviet Union, where he focused on persecuting the population, especially local Partisans.

In April 1943 Stroop was sent to Warsaw to participate in the liquidation of the ghetto – he took over as commander when the ghetto's Jews launched an uprising. Stroop treated the action against the uprising as if it were a military campaign. He brought in massive amounts of troops and sent reports to Nazi headquarters daily. On May 16 Stroop ended the "Great Operation" by destroying the main Warsaw synagogue. According to his final report, 56,065 Jews had been caught, of which 13,929 were exterminated and 5,000--6,000 killed in the bombing and burning.

After Warsaw, Stroop left for Greece, where he served as Higher SS and Police Leader, and supervised the deportation of Greek Jews to Auschwitz. After the war, he was tried and condemned by two different courts. Stroop was hanged in Warsaw in 1951.