

Novak, Franz

(b. 1913), One of Adolf Eichmann's helpers in the deportation of Jews to their deaths at extermination camps. Novak joined the Hitler Youth (*Hitlerjugend*) in 1929 and the Nazi Party in 1933. In July 1934 he was forced to flee his native Austria for Germany after participating in a Nazi coup in which the Austrian chancellor was assassinated.

After the *Anschluss* ---the annexing of Austria by Germany in 1938---Novak returned to Vienna to serve in the SS's Security Service (SD). He soon became an important staff member at the *Zentralstelle Fuer Juedische Auswanderung* (Central Office for Jewish Emigration), an office headed by Eichmann whose goal was to force the Jews within the Reich to emigrate. Later, Novak helped Eichmann establish similar offices in Berlin and Prague.

When Eichmann took over the Jewish affairs department in the Reich Security Main Office (*Reichssicherheitshauptamt*, RSHA), Novak was made responsible for the transportation sub-department; in this position, he was in charge of the trains that took Jews from ghettos and Western Europe to extermination and concentration camps. In 1944 he played a large part in the deportation of Hungarian Jewry.

Novak was finally arrested in 1961 and sentenced to jail, but on appeal he was acquitted and set free.