

## Stauffenberg, Claus Count Schenk Von

(1907--1944), Key figure in the German assassination plot against Adolf Hitler.

A career soldier, Stauffenberg was at first fascinated by National Socialism. However, after the terribly destructive *Kristallnacht* pogrom of November 1938, he began to question Hitler's persecution of German Jewry. His disgust for Hitler's treatment of Jews and Slavs grew after the German invasion of the Soviet Union in 1941. In April 1943 Stauffenberg was badly wounded while serving as a lieutenant colonel in Africa. During his recovery, he came to the conclusion that Hitler needed to be done away with.

In October 1943 Stauffenberg was appointed chief of staff at the General Army Office. In that position, Stauffenberg was able to bring together many of Hitler's opponents and plan a coup. After being promoted to colonel and placed on the staff of the Reserve Army commander Friedrich Fromm, Stauffenberg decided that the time was now right to eliminate the *Fuehrer*. On July 20, 1944 Stauffenberg brought a briefcase with a time bomb into Hitler's command barracks of the "*Wolfsschanze*" (in east Prussia) where Fromm was supposed to be meeting Hitler. Since Stauffenberg left the room and flew to Berlin before the bomb exploded, he did not know that the assassination bid failed. Stauffenberg and his co-conspirators were arrested and promptly executed.