

Greiser, Arthur

(1897--1946), Governor of the Warthegau, a Polish region attached to the Reich after the invasion of Poland in 1939.

Greiser was one of the founders of the Steel Helmet nationalist organization of Danzig in 1924. In 1928 he joined the Nazi Party and the Storm Troopers (SA). After a while, he switched over to the SS. He held various positions in the Nazi Party in Danzig and was appointed president of its senate in 1934.

During the German invasion of Poland in 1939, Greiser became the head of the civil management in the Poznan district. By the next month, he was appointed governor of the Warthegau. Unlike other governors of Polish territories, Greiser managed to retain support for himself among Nazi leaders, and maintain a good relationship with Heinrich Himmler. As governor, Greiser wanted to rid his region of Poles and replace them with *Volksdeutsche* (ethnic Germans). He took away Polish property, placed Polish orphans with "Aryan" families, terrorized the clergy, and limited cultural and educational programs. From 1939--1945 he kicked out 630,000 Jews and Poles and replaced them with 537,000 ethnic Germans.

Greiser was tried by a Polish court in 1946. He was hanged in front of the Warthegau governor's mansion.