

Veessenmayer, Edmund

(1904-1977), German diplomat in the Balkan region during World War II. Veessenmayer joined the Nazi Party in 1925. By the end of the war he had reached the rank of *Brigadefuehrer* in the ss. In 1932 Veessenmayer joined the diplomatic service and was sent to serve in the Balkans. He became a prominent member of economic circles and had a lot of important friends in high places.

At the beginning of 1941 Veessenmayer was attached to the German diplomatic staff in Zagreb, Croatia. He played a role in the persecution and murder of Croatian and Serbian Jewry.

In 1944 Veessenmayer was sent as the Reich plenipotentiary (representative) to Hungary, where he worked very hard at furthering the Final Solution in conjunction with SS officer Adolf Eichmann. In fact, Veessenmayer acted as diplomatic camouflage for Eichmann's murderous activities.

After the war Veessenmayer was convicted of war crimes and sentenced to 20 years in prison. However, in 1951 he was released by the United States High Commissioner in Germany.