

Ludin, Hans Elard

(1905--1946), German ambassador to SLOVAKIA from 1941 to 1945. Ludin joined the Nazi Party 1930 and the Storm Troopers (SA) in 1931. He was one of several SA men who were not executed during the "Night of the Long Knives" in June 1934, and were then made Germany's ambassadors to its Eastern European allies and satellite countries during World War II.

Ludin did not have many responsibilities as ambassador to Slovakia, because before he took the position, a system had been set up whereby various SS officers served as advisors to the Slovak government. These advisors were the real "ambassadors" to Slovakia; they bypassed the embassy and reported right to the top of the Nazi hierarchy.

However, Ludin did fulfill one important task for Germany in February 1942: he passed a message to the Slovak government requesting 20,000 young, strong Jews for work in the east. The government cooperated, and in March, he again passed on a message, this time requesting the deportation of the remaining Slovak Jews. Ludin reported that the government agreed without any "pressure." Ludin also provided diplomatic support for the renewed deportations after the Slovak National Uprising was put down in 1944.

Ludin was tried and executed in 1946.