

## Pruetzmann, Hans-Adolf

(1901-1945), SS officer. Born in East Prussia, Pruetzmann joined the Nazi Party in 1929 and the SS in 1930. He quickly shot up through the SS's ranks: in 1934 he was promoted to the rank of *SS-Gruppenfuehrer*; he became a senator in Hamburg in 1938; and soon thereafter was named Higher SS and Police Leader in the Nordsee district of Germany. In April 1941 Pruetzmann was promoted once again, this time to the rank of lieutenant-general in the police.

On June 22, 1941, the day that the German army invaded the Soviet Union, Pruetzmann was named Higher SS and Police Leader for the areas occupied by the German Army Group North, including the Baltic States (Lithuania, Latvia, and Estonia) and the area between their eastern borders and Leningrad. On October 31, 1941, he was moved to the Southern Command (Ukraine) region. Two years later, in October 1943, he was also appointed Higher SS and Police Leader for all of *Reichskommissariat* Ukraine.

In late 1944 Pruetzmann was put in charge of various special assignments. He was also named commander in chief of Croatia. At the end of the war he was captured by the British; he subsequently took his own life.