

Bormann, Martin

(1900--?1945), Nazi leader and trusted aide to Hitler. In 1942 Bormann was appointed head of the Nazi Party, and in 1943 became Hitler's personal secretary. Bormann wielded tremendous power, for he controlled who could see the *Fuehrer*. For years after the war, there were rumors that Bormann had escaped to South America. At the trials of war criminals at Nuremberg, he was tried in absentia and sentenced to death. However, it is now generally accepted that he died in Berlin a few days after Hitler's death, during the Soviet bombardment of that city.