

## Bousquet, Rene

(1909--1993), Chief of the French police during the period of Nazi occupation. Bousquet was responsible for the collaboration of the police in the rounding up of Jews and their dispatch to Drancy and other French transit camps. This included the infamous round up of some 12,000 Jews at the Velodrome d'Hiver stadium in Paris in July 1942. The Jews were deported from the French camps to Nazi camps, where most were murdered. It was Bousquet who negotiated with the SS and came to an agreement with them that the French authorities would hand over to them all foreign Jews. Bousquet was not an adherent of Nazi ideology; instead, he acted as an authoritarian, xenophobic, arrogant, and callous bureaucrat of the Vichy regime. His main concern was not deporting Jews, but expanding the role and enhancing the prestige of the French Police. Bousquet was tried as a collaborator in 1949, and was given a suspended sentence as a reward for acts of resistance. He then pursued a successful career in banking. In the late 1980s and early 1990s, Bousquet's actions were again the subject of a court inquiry and public debate. In June 1993, several months before his trial was to begin, Bousquet was shot to death in his apartment by Christian Didier, an unbalanced man. (For more on Vichy, see also France.)