

Blobel, Paul

(1894--1951), ss officer. Blobel joined the Nazi Party in 1931 and the SS in 1932. In 1934 he began serving in the SD. Blobel quickly rose through the ranks of the SS and was promoted to *SS-Standartenfuehrer* in January 1941.

In June 1941 Blobel was asked to come to the town of Pretzsch, where mobile killing units called *Einsatzgruppen* were being formed. These units were on their way to German-occupied territories in the Soviet Union. Blobel was made commander of *Einsatzkommando 4a* assigned to the Ukraine; his group carried out murderous *aktionen* all over the region. After the Germans occupied Kiev, Blobel's unit massacred the city's Jews in a two-day bloodbath at Babi Yar. In December Blobel's unit executed an *aktion* in Kharkov in which 21,685 Jews were murdered.

In January 1942 Blobel took a leave of absence for health reasons. After his recovery, the Reich Security Main Office (*Reichssicherheitshauptamt*, RSHA) put him in charge of *aktion 1005*, an operation to destroy all evidence of mass murder in Eastern Europe by burning the victims' corpses. In late 1944 Blobel took command of a unit that fought the Yugoslavian partisans.

After the war, Blobel was tried as a war criminal. He was hanged in June 1951.