

## Glucks, Richard

(1889--1945), SS officer who helped develop the Nazis' concentration camp system.

Glucks joined the Nazi Party after Hitler rose to national power in 1933. In 1936 he became deputy to Theodor EICKE, who at that time was Inspector of Concentration Camps. Soon after World War II broke out in September 1939, Glucks succeeded Eicke as inspector.

When Glucks took over the management of the concentration camps, their main purpose was to make use of slave laborers for the war effort. Under Glucks' direction, the number of concentration camps swelled, as did the number of concentration camp inmates. All prisoners, Jews and non-Jews alike, were made to do hard forced labor, and many died from disease, maltreatment, and starvation.

Glucks was a major contributor to the execution of the "Final Solution"—the destruction of European Jewry. He established Auschwitz, where millions of Jews were exterminated; was in charge of the construction of gas chambers; and helped develop the medical experiments program that was carried out in the concentration camps.

In 1942 Glucks was made responsible for a unit of the Economic-Administrative Main Office (*Wirtschafts-Verwaltungshauptamt*), which dealt with industrial companies regarding the use of concentration camp prisoners as slave laborers in their factories. Glucks committed suicide in May 1945