

Schellenberg, Walter

(1910--1952), Head of the Third Reich's espionage services. Schellenberg joined the Nazi Party and the SS in 1933 and the head office of the Security Service (SD) in 1934. In September 1939 he organized the creation of the Reich Security Main Office (*Reichssicherheitshauptamt*, RSHA) through the combination of the SD and the Security Police (SIPO). At that point, he took over direct control of the RSHA section that dealt with anti-German secret agents active in Germany and in Nazi-occupied countries.

Schellenberg was promoted in November 1939, after successfully kidnapping two British agents in the Netherlands. He was then made responsible to prepare the SIPO for an invasion of Great Britain. When that plan was dissolved, Schellenberg was put in charge of foreign intelligence. In this capacity, he set up information centers in all the European capitals.

In mid-1942 Schellenberg took part in Operation Zeppelin, in which Soviet prisoners of war were retrained as anti-Communists and parachuted into Soviet territory in order to fight the anti-Nazi Partisans. However, most of the parachutists were caught and executed. In 1944 Schellenberg became chief of the merged SS and Wehrmacht intelligence services.

After the war Schellenberg was tried and sentenced to prison. He was released early due to health problems.