

Gustav Wüpper (1893-1958)



Occupation: deckhand and skipper, Schutzpolizist

1919: Schutzmann; member of SPD and „Reichsbanner“ (protection alliance of the democratic republic)

1933: Degradation because of his SPD membership

1937: NSDAP (member number. 4.485.322)

1938: Request for transfer to Vienna; duties in air-raid protection; promotion to station lieutenant

10/1941: Assigned to Boryslaw (Galicia) as head of the Schupo. On the way there, in Zaleszczyki, the Schupos not only cordoned a shooting - under his command and with him in front, they actively participate in the murder of 800 Jews

27-29.11.1941: " Invalids action". Gestapo and Schupo Boryslaw shoot 800 sick and old Jews in the forest near Tustanowice

1941-44: Head of the Schupo in mass exterminations led by the Sipo; carrying out many smaller murder actions in Boryslaw on his own

1943/44: Hunt for hidden Jews with great zeal

After the war: preliminary proceedings by the Hamburg public prosecutor's office (11/1958); after receiving the indictment suicide in custody

Gustav Wüpper's path from a social democratic dock worker to a commander in the mass murder of Jews is not an unique case - but the special zeal with which he himself acted as a murderer of defenceless people is. Of course he knew it was injustice and a crime. Like many others, during executions he got drunk to unconsciousness and then tearfully turned the blame - it was not he who was to blame, but the victims who put him in this situation. After a mass shooting in 1943

"he was so completely drunk that I fetched him from the john, put him on the divan and took off his boots. Wüpper just said: "Those damned Jews."

Testimony of the Schupo Franz Wolmerstorfer, 20.3.1958, quoted by Geldmacher, p. 160

Sources: Sandkühler, „Endlösung“ in Galizien; Geldmacher, Wir als Wiener; Friedman, Schutzpolizei Boryslaw