

## The highest-ranking Nazi who simply disappeared...

Written by Andy Owen



Heinrich Müller was a Nazi bad boy.

A very bad boy. In actual fact, one of the worst.

He was born in Munich on April 28th, 1900.

He saw action as a pilot in World War I and won the Iron Cross for his bravery.

After the war, he joined the police in Munich. He rose through the ranks quickly, and gained a reputation as a skilled anti-communist investigator who got results...

... his way...

Predictably, he – and his methods – got noticed, notably by two key figures – Heinrich Himmler and Reinhard Heydrich, leaders of Hitler's SS.

After Hitler's rise to power in 1933, they were creating a national political police, the Geheime Staatspolizei (Gestapo).

Muller was a perfect fit.



### **Müller with Reinhard Heydrich and Heinrich Himmler**

Müller was invited to join the SS in 1934 and soon made his mark. He was utterly dedicated to his duties and carried them out with military discipline.

In September 1939, Müller was given the job he craved – Head of The Gestapo.

He held that role throughout WWII.

He played a key role in orchestrating the Holocaust with his overseeing of the arrests, deportation and extermination of European Jews.

Müller's influence was evident in many other key issues in WWII.

He helped plan the phoney Polish attack on Gleiwitz radio station in 1939 (to justify Germany's attack on Poland).



He also signed the heinous 'Bullet Order' in March 1944, authorising the shooting of escaped prisoners of war.

In July 1944, after the unsuccessful assassination attempt on Hitler, he personally supervised the torture of the officers involved - and for this, Hitler bestowed upon him, the rare military decoration of the Knight's Cross to the War Service Cross with Swords in October 1944.

Müller was also a key figure in many security and counter-espionage operations.

His most notable success was the origination and development of a highly effective double-cross network that fed disinformation to the Soviet intelligence services between 1942 and 1945.

This network proved extremely successful in sending sensitive political and military information to Moscow. Müller's Gestapo team was able to capture a number of these agents and "turn" them. The Russians had no idea.

Codenamed Rote Kapelle (Red Orchestra), it was among the greatest setbacks to Soviet intelligence during the war.

So, that's a brief picture of Heinrich Müller, before and during WWII.

But, from May 1st 1945 - when he was last seen, there has been nothing.

He simply *disappeared*.

Historical records will have you believe he died in the nightmare that was Berlin, trying to escape, with the Russians a few hundred yards away.

I simply don't believe it. He was much too smart for that.

He was last seen alive on the evening of May 1st 1945, the day after Hitler and Eva Braun had committed suicide.

The last death throes of an evil regime were taking place and Berlin was being devastated. Russian troops were advancing quickly towards the centre of Berlin.



Eyewitnesses said they saw him at the Chancellery during the final hours before Berlin fell. He was with a group of people, including Hans Baur, Hitler's pilot.

They were old friends.



Hans Baur

Baur said the group had decided to make a break out of Berlin before the Russians captured them.

And they were finalising the plan.

Baur asked Müller if he was joining them.

Müller told Baur he was not going to leave with the breakout group that night, but didn't give any more details about his plans.

But what he also said, was interesting and, I think, illuminating:

Müller said: *"We know the Russian methods exactly. I haven't the faintest intention of being taken prisoner by the Russians."*

As the group broke up to make their escape plans, Baur and Müller embraced.

Müller was last seen with his personal radio operator Christian A. Scholz, who out of loyalty stayed with Müller.

They were both never seen again.

Scholz's body was also never found.

Predictably, soon after the war, the Russians and the Americans went looking for Müller. The West Germans, along with the CIA and British MI5 and MI6, were searching too. They interviewed hundreds of people.

Information reached U.S. Army Intelligence that Gestapo Müller had taken the assumed name Schwartz or Schwatzer and had gone south from Berlin with another Gestapo official Christian A. Scholz.

But no traces of either man were ever found.

The final CIA's Counter-Intelligence (CI) report in fact, ended on a note of scepticism.

*"No one appears to have tried very hard to find Müller immediately after the war, while the trail was still hot, either in the West or the East."*

*The presumption is that Allied officials searching for Müller soon stumbled over the holdings of his effects and the burial record and considered this sufficient proof that he was dead”.*

There is little room for doubt, however, that the Soviet and Czech services circulated rumours to the effect that Müller had escaped to the West. These rumours were apparently floated to counter the stories that the Soviets had sheltered him.

But, in the end, despite detailed and pretty heavy investigations by all of the intelligence networks, they could not find even a trace of him.

The files on Müller slowly gathered dust.

Then in 1957, something happened that brought Muller back into focus again, when a particular prisoner of war was released by the Russians.

His name was Heinz Pannwitz – and he served under Müller during the war. He was once the commander of the “Sonderkommando Rote Kapelle”, the Gestapo counter-intelligence group.



The Russians had captured Pannwitz soon after the fall of Berlin.

Pannwitz told the Bundesnachrichtendienst (The German Secret Service) that a Soviet interrogator had told him that Müller was dead.

The Soviet interrogator had told Pannwitz that Müller’s body had been found in a subway shaft a few blocks from the Chancellery with a bullet through the head.

Müller’s military identity card was said to be on his body.

Pannwitz was unconvinced and initially thought that the Soviets had really captured Müller to take advantage of the knowledge he possessed - and they put out the story as a cover.

But, the more he thought about that, the more he doubted it.

He knew Müller's dislike – hatred, even – of the Russians. He would have died rather than help them, Pannwitz concluded.

In fact, he dismissed as "nonsense" to CIA interrogators the idea that Müller worked for the Soviets.

The files on Müller went back on the shelf.

Then in 2013, a certain Johannes Tuchel, who was the person in charge of the 'Memorial to German Resistance' said that he had discovered facts that suggested that Müller's body was found in August 1945 and was buried in a mass grave.

This information came from a person named Walter Lueders.

He was a member of the Volkssturm (civilian fighters). Lueders was on burial duty in the summer of 1945 and buried hundreds of bodies.

Lueders said that the body was found in the garden of the Reich Chancellery with a large wound in the back - and the head and face burned beyond recognition.



### **The Reich Chancellery Gardens**

The body was wearing an SS General's uniform.

In one of the pockets, was Müller's military ID with his photo, but no medals or decorations.

They moved the body with many others, to an old Jewish Cemetery on Grosse Hamburgerstrasse in the Soviet Sector, where it was placed in one of three mass graves.

Unsurprisingly, Tuchel's revelation that Müller was buried in a Jewish cemetery, was met with revulsion by international Jewish leaders.

This story was delivered in such a way as to suggest a final resolution to one of the most enduring mysteries of the Nazi era.

It was said to discredit all the rumours and decades of reported sightings of the secret police chief in Latin America after the war.

"Yes", they said. "Time to close the file on Heinrich Müller. Clearly he died in the garden of the Reich Chancellery. End of..."

Not in my book...

In fact, I think it's very unlikely.

It's just another fairy story, to add to the one told to Pannwitz by the Russians – and the many other dubious tales, including the other body with ID, a suicide claim, him working for the Russians, the Americans and the British.

I'm convinced Müller escaped. And he probably took Scholz with him.

Müller was a despicable man, but he was also very smart. And he was a survivor. He had to have been, to stay as Head of The Gestapo for that long.

In addition, Heinrich Müller was very organised and supremely well connected.

He would have had a plan. A solid plan. I'm convinced about it.

Let's face it. He had plenty of time to set something up, as defeat for the Third Reich was pretty much a certainty, the moment a bridgehead was established after D-Day.

And once the Russians started circling Berlin, he would have activated his plan of escape, which could have included the convenient placing of mutilated dead bodies with his ID in their pockets.

Remember his quote to Baur *"We know the Russian methods exactly. I haven't the faintest intention of being taken prisoner by the Russians."*

There was no way he was going to fall into their clutches.

That's why the two reports of his body being found in uniform with military ID are nonsense.

That's the last thing Müller would have done...

Baur was surprised when Müller said he wasn't leaving with their party on the evening of May 1st 1945.

But I believe that Müller had his own reason for remaining behind in the Chancellery – and that was to activate his escape plan.

Almost certainly to include Scholz.

How do I think he escaped? I really have no idea.

To get out of the nightmare of Berlin on May 1st, would have taken a lot of planning and courage.

It was total carnage around the Reich Chancellery.

The Russians were killing anything that moved.



But I'm pretty sure he did.

And, to me, the obvious and favourite destination would have been South America.

As we now know, many other leading Nazis escaped to South America using the 'Ratlines'- a system of escape routes for Nazis and other fascists fleeing Europe in the aftermath of WWII.

These included 'The Angel of Death' concentration camp doctor Josef Mengele, mobile gas-chamber architect Walther Rauff, Franz Stangl, the Commandant of Sobibor and Treblinka -and Adolf Eichmann.

All of them and many more, aided and abetted by the Vatican.

I think Muller joined them there. And, in fact, when Adolf Eichmann was captured in the 1960's, he told his captors that Müller was still alive.

To this day, no concrete evidence on the whereabouts of Heinrich Müller has ever been found. Or Scholz for that matter.

It's one of the top mysteries of WWII. The other one, of course, is what happened to Martin Bormann.

Heinrich Müller and Martin Bormann – are the two highest profile members of the Nazi regime whose fates still remain a mystery.

They probably always will.

I believe both of them survived.

Read about Bormann, here...<https://glintoflight.com/world-war-2/>