

NAZI SPECIAL COURTS IN THE "REICHSGAU SUDETENLAND",
1940 – 1945, AND THEIR JURISDICTION

Freia Anders-Baudisch

This article is based on an examination of the jurisdiction of the Nazi Special Courts at Eger (Cheb), Leitmeritz (Litoměřice), and Troppau (Opava), which functioned in the so-called *Reichsgau Sudetenland* between 1940 and 1945. They conducted mainly trials pertaining to the law against insidious anti-state activities, the decree on extraordinary measures concerning radio broadcasts, the ban on contacts with PoWs, the decree on wartime economy and the decree against "anti-social elements". Apart from describing difficulties and conflicts arising as a consequence of installing the Nazi legal system in occupied territory, the author singles out the Eger court to furnish quantitative data and representative verdicts, thus demonstrating possible connections between the sanctions routinely applied, progressive changes, the social position of the convicts and the composition of the judiciary. Apparently, the Eger court may serve as a dependable model for the development of the institution of the Special Courts as a quasi-legal instrument for enforcing Nazi perceptions of society and racial hierarchy using the means of traditional bureaucracy, contributing as it did, the further into the war the more, to the realisation of the hegemonial ambitions of the German Reich and to jurisdiction becoming more and more arbitrary.