

Imperial War Museum  
Department of Sound Records

Accession No 7403/2

SCHINDLER

Ruth Goeth

Copyright Thames Television : Unrestricted

Access Code : B

SCHINDLER

INTERVIEW - RUTH GOETH

SLATE 28/1

Q: Ruth, how did you meet  
Amca first of all?

RUTH: Pardon?

Q: How did you meet Amca  
when - at first?

RUTH: I was working in Krakow with  
...

Q: As a ... handler,  
weren't you - in the factory.

RUTH: No. It - it was called  
(NAME) ... and - but I left  
there and went to another place to work and the  
girl who came after me was always sick and - and  
didn't work. So one day, it was about eight weeks  
or three weeks after I was no more there, they  
called me - made a phone call and asked me if I  
had some time for them. They had to make some  
business with that: Hauptsturmführer Goeth and they  
had to come out and the boss didn't want to go  
alone, you see, he wanted a girl with him, and so  
we wanted - he didn't make it so - so formal, and  
um well I did him the favour and said alright,  
I'll have time for you and I will go with you there.  
And that was the first time I went out there and  
I met him, and well he was a very good-looking man  
and I flirted with him - not just for the business  
we had but because - well, I liked him. And later  
on it was a big feast, some other people came and  
it was very late when we left there, and um then I

SLATE 28/1 - RUTH GOETH CONT'D

2.

RUTH: (CONT'D).. didn't hear anything, at least we had our business. He um promised to give us the people we needed and after three weeks or of fourteen days or so, I guess in the meantime he was somehow away in some business affairs, he made a phone call to me. And so it started.

Q: Eventually you moved into the house with him.

RUTH: Yes.

Q: What was the house like that you lived in in *Plaszów* ?

RUTH: I had a small flat like here; two rooms and a kitchen and - but it didn't take - two or three days I was out there.

Q: What was the house like in *Plaszów* that you lived...

RUTH: Yes.

Q: ...in the camp, how was that house?

RUTH: I live in *Plaszów*

Q: Yes, the house that you lived with Commandant *Goeth*, what kind of house was that?

RUTH: It was a little villa.... you know what it means? Alright. Downstairs a big living-room and sleeping room and upstairs some guest room and a ..*sport* room and - and something like that, not any too big, a dinner room.

Q: What was the *sport* ... room..  
what - what..?

RUTH: Oh it was just our things for  
riding and um - what do you call it ..

Q: A desk?

RUTH: Desk for playing playing  
... tennis and so on.

Q: Was *Amon* . fond of table-  
tennis?

RUTH: No, no, he never did. It was  
just some room where all these things were standing.  
Nobody used it.

Q: How was the house decorated,  
what was the furniture like?

RUTH: Oh .. furniture. I guess  
partly of the furnitures were made in (NAME)  
you know?

Q: In the workshop?

RUTH: Workshop - where - which the  
Jews had there.

Q: Do you think it had (TALKING  
TOGETHER)..

RUTH: Yes, yes. It - it was not  
very luxury, you see. No. It was a nice living-  
room with big chairs and - and a piano and things  
like that. (NAME) ... I don't know what you call  
it ....

Q: Our chimney, yes. A fire -  
there would be a fire ...?

RUTH: Yes, yes, yes.

Q: There used to be quite a lot  
of guests coming to the house?

RUTH: Of course, of course. Many,  
many people came, partly - on duty.

Q: Other S.S. officers and ...  
What kind of food would be available living there  
in the war time - what sort of food would you get  
there?

RUTH: The food comes in from - we  
had - for all these people, twenty thousand or -  
I don't know how much. And there, the food for  
us came.

Q: What sort of food would there  
be for the officers and for you and for the  
Commandant?

RUTH: The normal.

Q: Were there difficulties getting  
food during 1944, when the Russian.....?

RUTH: Oh we - we bought a lot on  
the black market too.

Q: Tell me what was the daily  
routine, as you remember it, for the Commandant,  
for Amou .... ?

RUTH: Oh he - he got up in the morning and went to his office, and came home for dinner. And then he went back and came home for supper.

Q: The routine of any other person in other words. Did he ever talk to you about what he did during his office hours?

RUTH: Pardon?

Q: Did he ever talk to you about what his work was, what it involved?

RUTH: Sometimes, sometimes.

Q: As far as you know, what did he actually do during those working hours there?

RUTH: All these people worked for tailors and - and (NAME) ... people who work with um (NAME) .... you know, you understand?

Q: Furs.

RUTH: Furs, and shoes and - and ....

Q: So what was Amou's job as the Commandant with these people, what did he do?

RUTH: Organising .. You see, when he came to Krakow he was before in the Lublin and er came to Krakow to the Scherner  
(SPEAKING GERMAN)

Q: The - the S.S. Police Chief Scherner?

RUTH: Yes.

Q: He worked for Scherner  
didn't he?

RUTH: He worked for Scherner  
and Scherner er said to him, well I don't know  
what to do with you, I can give you a job in an  
office here. That was not his - he was not a - a  
guy who liked to sit behind desk and make office  
work. Or I can give the job out there. There was  
a ghetto, and this ghetto er authority (NAME) ....

Q: Was demolished?

RUTH: Yes. And should become a  
camp, and so he had to organise all these things,  
build these barracks and it was very difficult to  
get all these things, you see, you need for all  
the (NAME) ... the (NAME) .... we called it.

Q: Requisitions maybe.

RUTH: Yes, and so you didn't get  
these things and you had to um ...

CUT

7403/1

SLATE 29 TAKE 1

7.

RUTH GOETH CONT'D

Q: Frau Goeth, you were telling me of some of the problems that Amon had at the beginning.

RUTH: Oh well because he had no material and so he had to get in contact with many people or to get it privately, you see. And then all these ... invitations, he would drink and have a good time and - and then they were in a good mood, and so alright you can have wood and electric cables and - and whatever it was wanted, his needs. And so it was a hard job, anyway. Before he didn't have anything to do with Jews, it was just this camp in Krakow.

Q: What was the atmosphere like for you, you were a young woman living inside a labour camp, how - how was it?

RUTH: You see .... I always had the feeling that all this was wrong, but I couldn't do anything. I couldn't do anything against it. I didn't make these (NAME) ... what do you call it - these laws, you see. I couldn't - I didn't make ... And sometimes in every - in every partnership there are crisis and so and then sometimes I'd said I'd go. I don't want to see it any longer and so .. I remember both of the maids I had, they came and - and were asking please stay with us - stay with us. You are always helping and what are we going to do without you? It was not the reason why I stayed. Well, ...

Q: What was your feeling for  
Amon



7403/1

29/1 - RUTH GOETH CONT'D

8.

RUTH: I loved him. I told you, he was a very good-looking man and he had very - everybody liked him. All his friends had charm and - and was helpful and ...

Q: But you were aware, because your Jewish maid told you, that sometimes he wasn't using his charm on the prisoners?

RUTH: No. Really not.

Q: How was he with prisoners?

RUTH: Oh he had some prisoners which he - who he liked. Prisoners who worked directly with him and so - and .. he had a good.. sadness too, you know what I mean?

Q: Relationship with them.

RUTH: Good relationship to them. And all these others - my goodness - twenty thousand people. If you don't know anybody and everybody ...

Q: Let's move on for a moment and talk about Schindler. What was the impression that Schindler gave when you first met him. What kind of man did he appear to be?

RUTH: Oh he was a very nice man. He had - he had a certain charm too. *He needed* er our Jews and he had a (NOT CLEAR) .. camp and he was nice to the prisoners, because everybody wanted to go to Schindler - I told you so.

Q: Why did everyone want to go to..

7403/1

29/1 - RUTH GOETH CONT'D

9.

RUTH: Pardon? It was his idea  
- the more I do for the people, the more they do  
for me, you see.

Q: Why do you think so many  
people wanted to go to Schindler and away from  
Amou's camp?

RUTH: It was the best place for  
them. They had the most freedom there. Schindler  
- well, he closed his eyes and as long as you work  
everything is alright.

Q: What would happen at Schindler's  
camp if you didn't work?

RUTH: Pardon?

Q: You said if he - if he - you  
know he closed his eyes. If you worked it was fine,  
you could anything else. What happened at Schindler's  
camp if you didn't work?

RUTH: If you didn't work? He always  
worked.

Q: No, not Schindler, but the  
Jews. If they didn't work at Schindler's camp,  
what would happen to them do you think?

RUTH: Oh no, no, no, no. He  
expected them to work. The work had to be done.

Q: How did Amou think  
of Schindler, what was - what was his...?

RUTH: They were very good friends.

Q: Could you say that again for  
me ..... ..

.....

RUTH: There was nothing - nothing  
between them. They worked hand in hand. He  
wanted a favour, alright.

Q: Did Amos ever  
talk to you about Schindler?

RUTH: No, because there wasn't  
anything to talk. It was a .. very good er  
relation.

Q: How did this relationship  
show itself?

RUTH: Pardon?

Q: How did the relationship,  
the friendship...

RUTH: Yes.

Q: ....show itself between the  
two men?

RUTH: Well, when Schindler came  
to - to all these officers' feasts and he came  
and it wasn't that - that .. we would have had  
any night, big feasts - no. Sometimes he came  
for an evening or for a nightcap or a .. And we  
sat together for an hour or two hours and talked  
and talked about political things and - not always

7403/1

29/1 -RUTH GOETH CONT'D

11.

RUTH: (CONT'D).. about prisoners and camps.  
This camp - it was then nobody could do anything  
against it.

Q: When you talked about  
politics, *Amon* and Schindler and your-  
self, what was said?

RUTH: Sometimes we heard London...  
B.B.C. and so on.

Q: You say - sorry to stop you,  
you're saying that *Amon* listend to the  
B.B.C.?

RUTH: Yes, yes.

Q: An S.S. Camp Commander?

RUTH: Yes, yes, yes. We did it.  
We did it.

Q: What did you talk about  
after you heard the B.B.C. broadcast?

RUTH: Well we - they were not  
convinced that we would um be the big um ...  
(NAME) ... They had had their doubts and  
they heard it and so they believed it.

Q: Did Schindler give the  
impression, - because you moved to *Plas26w*  
in 1943 when the war was still going quite  
favourably with Germany, did you get the sense  
that Schindler was a good Nazi?

7403/1

29/1 - RUTH GOETH CONT'D

12.

RUTH:                    We all were good Nazis in  
this sense. We couldn't be anything else.

Q:                        But I don't ...

RUTH:                    We had to believe in - in  
all these things. What should - what could we  
have done? Nothing. Couldn't do anything  
against it.

CUT

7403/1

SLATE 30/1 - RUTH GOETH CONT'D

13.

Q: Was Oscar Schindler a frequent visitor to *Plaszów* ?

RUTH: Oh yes.

Q: What did he come to the camp for?

RUTH: Just for talking. It was not always business, my goodness.

Q: Did he bring gifts ...?

RUTH: To have a drink and then - to talk.

Q: Did he ever bring gifts with him?

RUTH: No. No.

Q: I've heard that he was one of the main suppliers of brandy and drink for the parties?

RUTH: No. I don't think so.

Q: Where did all the drink come from - for the parties?

RUTH: From the black market.

Q: But *Amor* couldn't go out on the black market himself, he was a senior S.S. officer, it wouldn't be good.

RUTH: We in - we drank wine, no whisky no hard stuff, and he got a lot of wine from Vienna, from his own father.

Q: There used to be quite a lot of drinking at these parties, people have told me.

RUTH: Yes. Yes, but ... normally, you see, if you would make a party it would be the same. A few bottles of wine and vodka. Vodka - and this - and this vodka was a Polish drink and they got the vodka from the black - black market and it was not difficult to get it. You could buy as much what size you wanted.

Q: Do you think people drank more than normal at these parties?

RUTH: No, no. Sometimes um .. one or the other was really drunk. But not so much. There were women there too.

Q: Describe to me a typical party that you remember at the house. Could you do that for me?

RUTH: Why, I told you, there was about ten or fifteen persons, or twenty, and then they had their band- a little band. The (NOT CLEAR) ... well there was some dancing and some drinking, some laughing and some fun and it was all.

Q: And Schindler used to come quite often to these parties, didn't he?

RUTH: Yes. But not - not ....  
Once in a month or ...

Q: Did Madritsch ever come?

RUTH: Oh yes.

7403/1

30/1 RUTH GOETH CONT'D

15.

Q: Tell me what *Amon*  
thought of the Jews?

RUTH: He thought of the Jews like  
us. He didn't like them.... with quite a few  
exceptions, you see.

Q: Do you know why he didn't like  
Jews?

RUTH: Um ... we - we were brought  
up with this (GERMAN)

Q: Belief.

RUTH: With this belief. And in - in  
Vienna it was no better than in Berlin also.  
Nobody liked the Jews.. I can remember when I was  
a little girl of about eighteen years old or so,  
I was with a *cousin* in a Polish um cafe, they lived  
in Poland and just on the border, and it was..  
*Katowitz* ... and we went - we had a coffee,  
and some students were there and so one of these  
students were sitting at our table came in and  
sat at our table, and without any reason they  
*hit (?) him and* there was a big crush or  
what you call it .. just because he was a Jew.  
In Poland, you see.

Q: You were living with a man  
who hated Jews.

RUTH: He didn't hate them. That's  
too much.

Q: Let me put it a different  
way. You yourself have said that ....



RUTH: You think Schindler liked Jews? He loves them - oh no. No. He was what I said, he was a lovable opportunist and he needed them, so he worked with them. But he didn't take them on his heart and ... He had these good and reliable people there and worked good with them, and Goeth - we always - you see - I mean he was merely for all these people. He had his nice people too and liked them and worked good with them. And ... had a certain respect for them. For instance there was a good doctor there.

Q: Who was shot as a collaborator after the war.

RUTH: Pardon?

Q: The - the good doctor Gross

RUTH: Yes.

Q: ...was shot as a collaborator after the war?

RUTH: Yes. And he was a very nice man, and (NAME) ... liked him very much. When anybody was sick we never took the S.S. out, Dr Gross came.

Q: Let me ask you about sick people. How were they treated in the camp?

RUTH: I never came in the camp. I never have seen anything from the inside of the camp. I always were in this house. They didn't like to leave Plaszow - too. They didn't want to go away from there.

Q: You saw the stone quarry,  
because that was close to your house, wasn't it?

RUTH: Pardon?

Q: The stone quarry - the -  
what's the stone ...?

RUTH: (GERMAN)..

Q: The (GERMAN) was close to  
your house.

RUTH: Yes, yes.

Q: You used to see the people  
working?

RUTH: Yes.

Q: What did it look like?

RUTH: Well... they worked like  
anybody else would work in a (GERMAN) .. they  
had their certain hours for working and ... when  
it was finished they went in their camp.

Q: The difference was that some  
people died in this stone quarry though, didn't  
they?

RUTH: I don't know. I don't know.

Q: *Plaszów* was different  
from some of the labour camps, because there were  
children there. There were families...

RUTH: Yes.

Q: There were old people.

RUTH: Yes.

Q: What did you think, living there, the life - quite a privileged life, with your friend the Commandant, with these families and old people and children there, did you see them as people? How did you see them?

RUTH: I never see any old people and I never saw any children. I just saw - I remember one afternoon, there came a train...um.. um... a big car and this car was full of children and ... they went somewhere and I had a girlfriend there that - the wife of um Mr. (NAME) ,.... and I said, oh, look at that. They are bringing the children somewhere - and I was down, you see and and .. it went to my heart somehow, and he had (NOT CLEAR) ... the children (NOT CLEAR) and she said, they're Jews.

CUT

Q: Frau Goeth, there was an occasion you told me about when Schindler and *Amou* got drunk - drunk together, can you tell me about that story again?

RUTH: Oh well, yes - yes .. um but I wasn't there, I just - they evidently always laughed about it as ... I guess it's - they made um .. it was the factory was ... the house was standing and they made - what you call it ...

Q: Celebration?

RUTH: Celebration.

Q: Tell me about the celebration that happened when the factory was built. I know you weren't there, but tell me what *Amou* told you how it happened?

RUTH: They just sprang, for the fun of it, through the closed window.

Q: What I'd like you to do is tell me that story again.....

....

RUTH: They got drunk together.

Q: Tell me about the time the factory was open and they had ....?

RUTH: I don't know anything about it because I wasn't there at this time, you see.

Q: Okay, not to worry about that.  
Show me how - can you tell me an example of how  
Schindler and Amon friendship showed  
itself?

RUTH: An example - it's hard to  
say, it's such a long time, you see. And ... well,  
..... they just had good relations together.  
That was all...

Q: What...

RUTH: ..I can't tell you anything  
special - special.

Q: What was the basis of the  
friendship between these two men; one was a  
businessman, one was an S.S. officer - what - what..

RUTH: The Schindler needs him um  
Amon: .... because he needed the Jews. And he  
gave him as much as he could - many as he could.

Q; What did you call - you had  
a pet name for Amon .... didn't you?

RUTH: Mory(?)... everybody called  
him so whenever ... Mory(?)... everybody. At home  
it was - and his friends and - and everybody.

Q: What kind of man was your  
friend Amon Goeth?

RUTH: Oh I told you, he was very  
charming and for his friends and - they all liked  
him and he was helpful and ... and if they had  
any wishes they came to him and ....

Q: You told me that you were friendly with the two maids in the house, that they trusted you, they liked you and they asked for your protection: what did they need protection from?

RUTH: Well you see sometimes they didn't do this, or they forget - alright they always ..... said it's alright. When something happened I always was the one who said, oh please no, excuse them and understand that it happened this way and that way and - I was kind of a - of guardings.. guardian angel for them, you see...

Q: I don't understand why you had to be a guardian angel for them, what were you protecting them from?

RUTH: They got - they got hard punishment when something went wrong- to another place or at - in the camp or so. Or they - they have little wishes too, you see. One of these maids, her name was Suzannah (NAME) ... at the time, her mother was very ill and she was dying, and so she came and - and said can I go to the clinic, can I go to my mother, and I always said alright kid go, go - we do it alone here. And she could stay a night there or so and nobody knew it. You see they - they didn't take any - any (NOT CLEAR) ... for personal things.

Q: In 1944 Amon was arrested by the S.S. - wasn't he - why?

Q: I told you, it was a big affair between Frank ... and um (GERMAN) ....  
..... General Governor  
and er....

Q: He was caught in the middle of an internal dispute between the S.S and the General (NAME) .... you were saying, yes?

RUTH: No um ... the (GERMAN) .... was um - went away and another came - another one came, and all this people who were working with him um they tried to get rid of them, and find anything.

Q: What did they find against Amom - ?

RUTH: He had - he had a lot of money. He had a publishing house in Vienna, and he brought a lot of money from Vienna to buy our things, ice - refrigerator and things like that, and so they thought we took it from Jewish money, you see. And later on I - when I talked to that man who made these (GERMAN) ...

Q: Charges.

RUTH: Charges. He said, oh well I never knew he was a kind of millionaire - he's a kind of millionaire. And we - we're wrong at this. But it was forbidden to bring any money to Poland. It was - everybody did it or it was forbidden to bring any German money to er Germany, to Polish money to Germany. It was forbidden too. Everybody did it.

Q: They also found a lot of cigarettes and a lot of money in his apartment in Vienna, didn't they?

7403/2

31/1 - RUTH GOETH CONT'D

23.

RUTH: I don't know.

Q: No? Okay. How did *Amor*  
react .....

CUT



Q: Frau Goeth, how did *Amon* react to his arrest?

RUTH: Sour. He didn't have so much opportunity to talk with him - about it, and he was in jail and he - I was in - I had to go to *Katowice* for a few weeks..weeks, to um just that I couldn't get in contact with him, you see. Later on I came back and I got the permission to see him once in a while. And ....

Q: You had made precautions, the two of you, in case something like that happened, hadn't you?

RUTH: I beg your pardon?

Q: You had made some arrangements in case something like that happened, hadn't you?

RUTH: No.

Q: Tell me about why you went to *Brinnlitz* when *Amon* was released.

RUTH: I don't know why. We just had to go somewhere.

Q: You told me last time we met that the Schindler's kept some of your personal possessions....?

RUTH: Yes, yes.

Q: That's what I was - I was talking about ...

RUTH: That's right, yes.

7403/2

31/1 - RUTH GOETH CONT'D

25.

Q: Alright, I'm going to ask you the question again. Tell me why you went to Brinnlitz after Amou was released.

RUTH: Because we had some of our personal things...

Q: Can you say .....  
Why did you go to Brinnlitz? .....

....

RUTH: We went to Brinnlitz because we had some of our personal things there, and needed them. We didn't have anything. So the suitcase and things like that were in Brinnlitz that was one of the reasons. And it was all so topsy-turvy, you see. That was a good place to go.

Q: Did Amou hope that Schindler would give him a job?

RUTH: No, no, no. No.

Q: Tell me about why you thought - well why Amou thought or you thought Schindler - the Schindlers were good people to look after your precious possessions?

RUTH: He was a friend of ours, and he had enough so what should I do with our things? It was self evident that we gave him a few suitcases that was away from Krakow. We didn't expect some personal things, but the whole situation was critical, you see. The Russians came nearer and nearer so we were no more convinced er that we would stay forever there. We knew somehow that some day we should have to go out.

7403/2

26.

31/1 - RUTH GOETH CONT'D

Q: What was it that were in these suitcases - what was Schindler looking after?

RUTH: Oh just uniforms and - and ... boots and towels and something like that. Normal things. Nothing precious, you see. No jewellery, nothing. No furs or nothing.

Q: The photographs you showed me from your life in *Plaszów* it looked like they were taken in the summer because it was nice and warm...

RUTH: Yes.

Q: Tell me about that summer, was it 1943 or 1944?

RUTH: I guess it was 1944... was the last summer there.

Q: What are your memories of the last summer in *Plaszów* ?

RUTH: No good, because we started to pack suitcases and so and gave this away and that away and I bought some - something to - my parents. But just dresses and ...

Q: It looked like it was very warm that summer because you were able to sunbathe..

RUTH: Yes.

Q: Tell me about that kind of camp life.

RUTH: It was like - like winter too - it was always the same. They worked and.... I - I told you, I never have seen this camp from the inside. I never went to any one of these barracks. All the people I knew I knew from my own house. They came and didn't have to bring this and they had to bring that and I was in kitchen - saw them and said alright go in the kitchen, have some coffee and get something to eat and so on. They were people with whom we always had to do, the men from the stable and so on, and would drive the (GERMAN) ... who drove the (GERMAN) and so on.

Q: *Amor* used to enjoy riding, didn't he?

RUTH: Yes.

Q: Tell me about ...

RUTH: He enjoyed it.

Q: Tell me about the riding horses there.

RUTH; Oh sometimes - er some days or so we were ten or twelve people and went out with the horses for hours, for - for an afternoon - had something to eat later on and something to drink and ... that was a feast. But it wasn't that, so ... everytime we just were drinking and - and making big celebrations were really not ...

Q: An officer shot himself at  
one of these parties, didn't he?

RUTH: Pardon?

Q: Someone shot himself at one  
of these parties, didn't he? An S.S. officer.

RUTH: What did he..?

Q: That ... *the Rosners* told me,  
that - that after one of these parties an S.S.  
officer went out onto the balcony and shot himself.  
Do you remember that?

RUTH: No. No. That's - that's  
wrong. No. Did you talk to *the Rosners* ?

....

CUT

Q: Frau Goeth, you told me that the servants used to come to you asking for protection, can I ask you once more what they needed protection from?

RUTH: Well it was - they were all very small things. Somebody came and said, oh, I want to go to Schindler, my - my husband is there. Can you ask. So I said alright I'll try. Things like that - the small things, or - it was so, you see, when I was a few out - few months, Madritsch, no not Madritsch - Titsch came to me and said, you be careful. In - in this camp goes the saying 'the dear Lord has sent us an angel'. Me.

Q: The reason people told me they needed an angel, the reason they told me that you were that angel was because the man you were living with was a brutal killer. What do you think about that?

RUTH: No he wasn't a brutal killer. No. Not - no more than other people - other S.S. people was, it's no more. He didn't - it's just for the fun of it, you see. He wasn't a brutal killer. And - and his - official things in the camp - I don't know anything about it. I just had my small four walls round and had to do with people who came and ...

Q: Did Helen Hirsch ever tell you that Amon ..... used to beat her up?

RUTH: Pardon?

Q: Did Helen Hirsch ever tell you that Amon used to beat her up?

RUTH:                   Helen Hirsch           it was  
one of my maids. Yes, yes. And I went between.

Q:                       Why did Amon       beat her  
up?

RUTH:                   I don't - I can't almost  
say it. I thought about it, but I don't know.  
She did something - asked for some..something -  
to go to. I don't know. I don't know.

Q:                       He used to beat her up  
frequently though, didn't he?

RUTH:                   No. No, no. It was just  
once. Just once, and it was down in the kitchen.  
And I was there, and I went between it.

Q:                       What would you have said if  
she told me that she was completely terrified of  
him? She thought that at any moment during the  
year and a half that she worked for him that he  
would kill her?

RUTH:                   She told you so? Oh no, no.  
lena (Helen) No, no. I was there - I was there,  
and they both of these maids knew that I was  
helping them - didn't they tell you that?

Q:                       They all told me that you  
helped them, but that the reason they needed your  
help was because of the way       Amon would  
treat them.

RUTH:                   Yes. Nobody treated er the  
personnel very good.

Q: What did *Amou* think about Jews?

RUTH: He felt that what every - what all the S.S. felt about Jews.

Q: And what was that?

RUTH: You see they're - they're just to work. He didn't kill them just for the fun of it, you see. And it was not a camp where people, for instance like - like Auschwitz.

Q: But there were a lot of bodies that were dug up at *Plaszow* where did they come from?

RUTH: I don't know. I don't know. There - there were some occasions when he said, oh tomorrow ... Sometimes I went to *Katowice* saw my parents and so tomorrow can go - you can go to *Katowice* and see your parents - bring them something to eat or so and - alright? So I went to *Katowice*

Q: He sent you away on the day that there were going to be executions?

RUTH: Maybe. Maybe. Maybe. I never saw anything.

Q: Did you ever hear anything?

RUTH: No.

Q: You lived approximately 300 metres at the very most from a hill where executions took place very frequently and you didn't hear anything?



RUTH: No. No. Really not.

Q: Did Amor have any regrets about what he'd done?

RUTH: Maybe - maybe. After the war. You see, when he was no more there and er his (GERMAN) ... what do you call it?

Q: Substitute.

RUTH: Yes. So many people came to me and said, oh where's the Commander? One - when will he be back?

Q: When he was tried in Poland, he was unusual, as I understand it, because he was one of the very few S.S. officers to express no regrets for what he'd done.

RUTH: I never heard anything about that, you see.

Q: Do you have any regrets about that period?

RUTH: Yes. Yes. Really. I never did anything. I never harmed anything. After all - all these years, not one came and said he has done this or that. Nobody - nobody. On the contrary, in (NAME) ... were many Jews in '45 or so, they all knew me and once I talked with one of these girls and - a woman and I said, oh, I'm afraid, and she said, you are afraid? What are you afraid for? You don't have any reason to be afraid. We don't want you anything. If we wanted you something, you could have - you could go through the North Pole or - we would find you. We don't want you anything. You have no reason to

Q: They wanted *Amou*  
though, didn't they?

RUTH: Yes, and they found him.

Q: Why did they want *Amou* ?

RUTH: He did .... he killed some  
Jews too, not really. Such camp it is no ..  
not amusing. It's not amusing - really not. I  
stayed often in - in the kitchen with my maids and  
always said to them if I could do anything I would.  
I would - to all of you say go home, but I can't  
do anything.

Q: How was it being in love with  
a man who you knew was killing people?

RUTH: I never saw so much of it.

Q: But you knew it was going on?

RUTH: *From others*. He didn't kill  
so much. On the contrary, I tell you he had some  
people he really liked and - and when I said this  
happened and that happened, for instance, one of  
our *men* in the stable *who was a very good rider*  
some staff who were - what you call it ... He ..  
he *slapped him...*, what I say in German.  
Then I told him (NOT CLEAR) ... I think this and  
that had happened. Then he *personally*  
with some wine and something to eat to him and  
said alright. It was not on my ...

Q: Everyone has said to me that  
your influence on *Amou* .... was very good, that  
when *Amou* .... was with you and a Jew came he  
was always kind to people and you made him very  
good to them. Why, when you weren't there, did  
*Amou* do some of the things that he did?

RUTH: Oh I - he liked me - he  
loved me.

Q: No, why did he sometimes be  
very brutal with the prisoners?

RUTH: It was the way the - we *treated*  
this people.

Q: Could he have been different?

RUTH: Of course he could have been  
different.

Q: How?

RUTH; I told you, he could be nice  
to people - Dr. *Gross* and - and ...

Q: Okay.

RUTH: Some people he liked.

CUT