

SCHINDLER

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MRS. SCHINDLER  
MASTER

SLATES  
165-186

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J: The first question I'd like Mrs. Schindler to answer for us  
is how she met Oscar first of all.

F: The first question which you would kindly answer is: When did  
you first meet Oscar?

Mrs. S.: I first met Oscar in the year '27, it was November. ... interruption ...

F: Would you please answer the question how you met him, what were the  
circumstances, how did you feel at that time?

Mrs. S.: How I felt, I don't know to this day ... interruption ... ,  
(explanation that she has to wait until the question is finished, before  
starting to answer)

F: When, how and under what circumstances did you meet Oscar?

Mrs. S.: I met Oscar with his father (Herr Papa = honoring form of  
address to an elder who is related) in the house of my  
parents. At that time they had a service ... Now I do not know  
how you say it in German, agencia, no, I am no longer able to  
say it in German, they sold electromotors. They had an ... an  
agreement with a factory, they had... they were, did often...  
tell me, I can't speak German, Dios mio, (laughs) ofricieron  
(they offered), I do not know how to put it in German, offered.  
They offered electromotors and there I saw and talked to Oscar for  
the first time.

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J: Can she describe for me what, if she remembers, what kind of man, or what, he was kind of very young man, struck. What the man Oscar was like in those days they first met. What impressed her? Why she decided to marry him? And so on.

F: Do you still remember what kind of person Oscar was? What impressed you particularly? Why did you marry him later? Could you describe him?

Mrs. S.: Well, so I will describe him. (Laughs) Personality - really, I don't know, if he... Nobody seemed to me very impressive then. I myself had the personality (meaning that she saw herself in the center in those days, satisfied with herself.) (Laughs) And he talked to me, then he said if we couldn't meet, down there, there was a little ... like a vacation spot (Sommerfrische), that we could meet there. At that time I said, no, I am not interested in meeting him. Then, however, he came the next time and again to our house and again he offered that we could meet. <sup>en</sup> That I did agree to meet him.

J: Can she tell me a little more about her courtship with Oscar?

F: Could you tell a little bit more about how he courted you?

Mrs. S: Good. That I can tell. Herr Schindler was very sympathetic.

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He knew very well how to talk. He talked a lot, even if it was not the truth (laughs), I have to say, and if you don't like it, you don't have to take it (referring to the interviewer, who might not be pleased with this information...) but he understood how to talk, you know, he knew how to influence people.

J: She decided to marry him against her father's opposition. Why did she decide in fact to do that?

F: You married him against your father's opposition. Why did you decide this way?

Mrs. S.: We were as novios, as we, novios, ... Now I am again in Argentina, we were fiancées only for three month, then we got married.

J: Can she tell me a little bit about Oscar's work, the circumstances in which they lived, and what life was like then after they got married, before the war? If she can... back in her memory as much detail as she likes about that.

F: Could you describe - in as much detail as possible - the time after you got married? Before the war, what were the circumstances in which you lived, what did he work, how was your everyday life?

Mrs. S.: After the wedding and when... first he had to serve his military service, he was in the military for a long time, and I stayed at the house of my in-laws. The military

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service took one (I had trouble understanding, either one or one and a half) year, then he returned. He worked with his father, they worked together, they had a commercial travel (usually being sales representatives for larger firms) and a small plant producing agricultural equipment. That was, thus it continued, no...

J: Oscar at a certain point got involved with the Abwehr. Does she know any details about what that was all about, what he used to do for them and so on.

F: Could you describe details of Oscar's association with the Abwehr?

Mrs. S.: Unfortunately (strong form of regret, leider Gottes) I was involved too. Unfortunately, I worked with them, I was quite involved with the Abwehr. Oscar started to work for the German Abwehr in the year 36. Hm, hm. (affirm)... In the year 38, now I am not,... 38 or 39, I cannot tell exactly, he got arrested by Czech police, the Czechs, due to a German friend who reported him to the police. And was transferred to Bruenn (O.S.). But that was shortly before the invasion of... of Hitler into Czechoslovakia). into Sudetenland and after Hitler's invasion they had to release all the political prisoners...

J: I wonder if I can ask that question again and again I think Mrs. Schindler gave a very good answer. I'd like to hear it once more. About his work for the Abwehr and him being

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imprisoned and how he came to be free. In other words, if she can give us a little more detail about it all, if possible.

F: Mr. Blair has to pose the question once again. Could you possibly remember any details, what he worked for the Abwehr and later details about his release?

Mrs. S.: He worked for the Aussen (extern? Field?)... Aussendienst for the Abwehr, that is, ... I cannot translate it very well, in German, I really don't know, secret service, no, that is, Aussendienst, that is espionage department. The details, that he... that one had to be alert, he had to get plans, no, something, the strategic plans of... of the Czech military and such things. Unfortunately, at that time he talked with a German friend, a very close friend, about these matters, what he should do. Unfortunately, the German friend betrayed him. Thus he got arrested.

J: Could she tell me how he got arrested and sentenced to jail for the 20 years and how he came to be free?

F: Do you still remember the circumstances of the arrest, the sentence and later, how it was when he was released?

Mrs. S.: I very well remember the circumstances, because the... apartment was jammed with policemen. At the time my husband was at a hotel, which is, it was Hotel and Restaurant owned by one of his acquaintances. There he was at the moment when the police searched for him... there he was and from there he was taken away. And then transferred to Bruenn.

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The police came to my house. Unfortunately at that moment I did not know anything. And there they were ... was he transferred to Bruenn. I was allowed to talk to him after 14 days in Bruenn. There was no sentencing, he was just in custody. Into the custody (this is meant temporarily, I guess) came Hitler with his Wehrmacht. Therefore he had to be released.

Mr.J: What would have happened to Oscar if Hitler had not invaded?

F: What do you think had happened if Hitler had not invaded?

Mrs.S.: What had happened to him? He would have been shot.

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J: Let's go back to the question and this time give me his whole Abwehr carrer from the time it started until the time Hitler invaded.

F: If you could answer the whole question again, from beginning to end, Hitler's invasion.

Mrs.S.: Good, good, so we will begin. My husband worked for the German Abwehr. That was, I believe, has he started during 1927 or '26 I am not quite able to tell exactly any more. He has worked... and has, that is, in the Aussendienst he had to, say ... plans,

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strategic plans, no, and then other documents, all what there is when armament... that is when an army is going to war ... that is what the Germans wanted to own (lit: wanted to get into their possession). Unfortunately my husband had always too much trust in his friends. He had worked, he had the plans, that is, he had given... had delivered different things and he had a very good friend. He talked about these things with this good friend and also showed him the plans. And the man told him he is going to help the gentleman (meant is Oscar). The only thing with which the gentleman helped was, that he went to the Czech police and has given away my husband. Because he did ... that is, how do you say, a part ... a gratificacion, unfortunately that is spanish, how shall I put it in German, did get ... that was a relatively large sum of money. That is, he sold him (Oscar). At that time my husband was in ... his friend owned this hotel and restaurant where he used to frequent ... he was there ... there not only the police of Zwittau, in Zwittau, his hometown, the Zwittau police, there also came police which had been immediately informed and there they arrested him. After that .... I don't know anything about it, but ... did come into the apartment and searched it. Because they wanted the plans. I have no idea where the plans are. Then they left, then they returned and told me the plans are behind the closet. There they took the plans and that was all for the moment. I did not know anything further and, in addition, was not able to go to the police. They did not admit me.



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Only after 14 days was I able to go to Bruenn where he was in custody. There I talked to a gentleman, no, and the gentleman has ... the gentleman, the Czech, who was there, received me very kindly, had my husband called and we were allowed to talk but with distancia due to a barricade between us. Afterwards I went back and then, unfortunately I do not remember, went to the German border, in Sudetenland, the name of the place ... because there was a gentleman who knew, who had received the plans and everything. And talked to that gentleman, that he, my husband, was arrested and what one could do. Unfortunately the gentleman washed his hands of it, did say there is nothing to do, one has to wait. Then, my husband ... that was for 6 weeks that my husband remained in Bruenn. Everything about it, how shall I put it, was investigated ... (one) did research everything in order to know exactly, because it takes a long time before it goes to court. It would have taken a long time. But meanwhile Hitler came with his army and occupied Sudetenland. Thereupon all political prisoners had to be released - thus my husband was released too.

J: Can you say to Mrs. Schindler that that was an excellent answer and that was exactly the kind of answer that would be ideal.

F: Mrs. Schindler that was an excellent answer, that was exactly the way which is best for Mr. Blair.

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J: The next question I'd like to ask is her impression of what kind of Nazi Oscar was. How committed he was, why he joined the Nazi party, why he, what he believed in those days about it and what his motivations were as far as she can tell.

F: Mr. Blair would like to know, as far as you can tell, what kind of Nazi Oscar was. Insofar as he joined the party. What were his sentiments and opinions towards the party? So to speak: what was on his political agenda in those days?

Mrs.S.: Well, well. My husband was not at all a Nazi. He was not a Nazi at all. He did not have anything for the SS (going for the SS, support for the SS) and nothing for ... he, what he worked was for the Wehrmacht, for the german military, it had nothing to do with the Nazis. With the Nazis, he had to join. Other-wise he could not have existed and lived at all. But neither did he perform any function ... he never bothered, because... he was under the protection of the german Wehrmacht, not under SS, not under Hitler.

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Mrs.S.: My husband was a very smart business man, but it was also quite difficult, business, for a long time ... he then worked with his father, downstairs in the factory and the shop. Unfortunately

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( strong form = leider Gottes) there came a distancia, they did not get along with each other. My husband had to take up different work and that was how he got to the Abwehr. And as Abwehr is, (the way they are) one has to work mainly for the Abwehr ... for the secret service, there is nothing much left for other business. Only business about which one pretends that it is business, there is no more business.

J: When he went to Krakov did he talk at all to her what he was going to be doing there? What his ambitions were and so forth?

F: When your husband went to Krakov, did he tell you anything, did you know about ...

Mrs.S.: No,no,no. There is a lot of other things, Krakov is still far ahead.

J: Okay.

F: Would you like to tell...

Mrs.S.: Please, indeed. Then, when my husband was released from prison, he came back to Zwittau. Unfortunately we had no apartment, we had to live in his friend's hotel for some short time. Then the gentlemen from the Abwehr came, the officers, no, german Wehrmacht, not SS and not anything else. They helped us to an apartment, un-

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fortunately only for a short time, because the military, that is, the Abwehr, transferred Oscar to Meahrisch Ostrau. He then had to work in M.O.. And so it happened... first he went alone, until we got an apartment, then I could move, because M.O. was protectorat. It did not belong to Sudetenland or to the deutsche Reich, it had its own administration. He then had to work in the protectorat. It was already occupied by the german Wehrmacht, but the czechs had their own government and thus we got to M.O.. In M.O. we continued to work, that was contra Poland, in order to start the war with Poland. There he had to work, he then ... he had people in the polish area who served as middlemen, he was the boss, but there were people who served as middlemen. That was... I knew some, I did not know all of them. They came ... they then came to our apartment. There were also ... often there were meetings in the Plaza, Plaza Hotel, one of the finest hotels in M.O.. And others came to the apartment. All that was ... then polish uniforms were required ( ordered by the Wehrmacht). Then this and then that was required. Of that what they ... they were paid, these people who acquired and recruited and brought the things to our apartment. Unfortunately, if something had happened, they would have gotten no support whatsoever. We were free, no, and if something happens, nobody knows that you are the number, that you have the name, that you live. Without any support whatsoever, as the Abwehr is, as the secret service is, nothing more to say. Also, the polish Abwehr worked against us.

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Mrs.S.: In M.O. the counter espionage knew that Schindler is working for the Germans. Then one day, a burglary occurred .. wanted to get the papers. Unfortunately in that room, that was an afternoon around 5 o'clock, were no papers. The only thing they found was my golden wristwatch which they took. That was all they achieved. But then later, probably 3 or 4 days, they came from the other side and wanted to break into the apartment. That was during the night and we saw it. Subsequently two police men of the czech police were constantly in our house. That is, they guarded us. In addition I was given a superb watchdog by an Oberstleutnant, as a present. He was so beautiful that I had to protect him. Because he, unfortunately, did not protect us, no way He snored in his sleep and I watched for him through the night. That was all. Then, afterwards, other people came, there were changes, came fresh ones, because they had previously worked for the Aussendienst in Poland. Those were polish men, the exchange had to be made. since the polish police knew their names ... others had to come. It went on until the war. till the beginning of the war with Poland. The Poland war started as Hitler said . the polish had come and assaulted a station, a radio station, I am unable to recall where that ... at the border to Poland. Unfortunately that was not true, those were german soldiers in polish uniforms. Thereupon came the war.

F: After the war had started, when Oscar went to Krakov, did he tell you anything as to what his plans were, what his expectations and ambitions were?

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Mrs S.: No, Oscar went, when the polish . . . when Germany was at war with Poland, he had to join, had to enter, marched through most of Poland. Then he returned. Then the Abwehr transferred him to Krakov. He did not go independently, the Abwehr transferred him. He worked under what was the name of the gentleman, he was so kind, Mr., General. what was he? Oberstleutnant, Oberstleutnant Hartwig was one of them I do not recall the name of the gentleman, he belonged to the Wehrmacht - it should be in there and yet is not in there (laughs and points at her head) - he was so kind, he was viennese, but he was a half jew and nobody knew that he was Korabov (remembers the name), essentially he was hungarian, lived in Vienna and was half jewish and nobody knew, since - no half jew was allowed to serve in the Wehrmacht and that gentleman was in the Wehrmacht . . . and there came . . . and he was my husband's boss in Krakov. And we . . . the Wehrmacht then helped us in Krakov, since he had to work, because nobody could make large conquests (big jumps<sup>x</sup>) on the basis of the money paid by the Wehrmacht. Then he had me . . . first they wanted to . . . I do not know how to put it, it is called . . . they instructed that he should administrate, that is, as manager or supervisor. que sé jo (what do I know). But he did not accept, my husband. Then they advised him not to . . . there is an enamel factory which went into bankrptcy and he should see to rent this factory. Then he had the factory . . . he went there . . . unfortunately it was not for rent, there was no work and it was owned by two jews. He came to an agreement with the two jewish owners and he began to work at that time, there was very little work, to produce enamel.

<sup>x</sup>the german phrase refers to inability to live extravagantly or even comfortably

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He remained under the command of the Wehrmacht. And then he started to manage the business. At the end it ( the plant) was sold on court order by a polish court and Schindler, I do not want to say Oscar because it was under the name of Schindler, and Schindler acquired the factory. Then he started to work seriously, one of the jews left, they took him away, the second owner worked with Oscar and they brought it to (made it) flourish.

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F: Mrs. Schindler, you visited him. When you were visiting, do you recall anything, details about his lifestyle, how he lived, what happened around him?

Mrs.S.: May I speak now, very well: the first time I was not in Krakov. I was in Ostrau, where we had the apartment, in Ostrau. My husband was on his own, at that time he had to work a lot, the plant, to try to get the factory to flourish. They worked there, he then rented an apartment. I, I visited him, yes, but shortly, that was not .... the last time I spent in Krakov. For good, no, no visits. Then when I was in Krakov ... came Mr. von Korab the boss of the Abwehr, who I had not known previously, with Mr. Sedlacek , the Sedlacek from JOINT, they came to the apartment. Unfortunately I did not know what and how Mr. von Korabis (represented) and also did not know how Mr. Sedlacek is. Unfortunately my husband was not at home.

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I call him, he says, he is unable to come right now, he will come later, but the gentlemen had not time to wait and I did not know what to do with the gentlemen (laughs). Then they left, but I met the gentlemen. Later, I was in Krakov, then it became ... we were good friends, von Korab and I, in fact I was friends with everybody, no? At that time I did know what was going on. Mine (this refers to her husband) had already established connections with Goeth, as the jews were brought from the ghetto into the camps. Where they also went to the extermination camp of Auschwitz. von Korab asked him (Oscar) through Sedlacek to help the jews and somehow take them into the factory so that they could become workers. Then they built a camp within the factory and that ... because otherwise the dear people had to go back and forth everyday .... it was decided they should stay, they stayed in the camp, in Plaszców, then they came to the factory. But only then, then when the factory was converted, not voluntarily but on the order that it otherwise had to close down - converted to armament fabrication, armament plant, armament - armament plant, then the jews were able to stay, they became armament workers. And Sedlacek of Joint tried to help my husband as much as he could in order to prevent the shooting of these people. This continued until the collapse of the german ... in Bruenn, no, in, in, there in Plaszców the jews were able to take care of themselves, many were able ... their friends brought them what they needed to live. That is, they could supply themselves independently and did not need the support to live. They had to live (refers to enough food to live). Unfortunately the Russians came fairly close.



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J: We want to ask a little bit more about life in Krakov.

Oscar had appeared to have lots of money and enjoyed drinking and entertaining people. Perhaps she can tell me a little bit about his social life in Krakov. and if she can put her hand down for a moment. //

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F: Mr. Blair is interested in Oscar's social life in Krakov. Not as much right now what he did in the plant. He seemed to have had money, he seemed to have drunk, he seemed to have led a good life. Did you notice any of this?

Mrs.S.: Of course, I lived in Krakov. I was there for 2 years. The social life, no, the social life was below level (nível = referring to the social class she belonged to). Let me put it like this: who, then, lived in Krakov? Who, then, gave parties? That was not my acquaintance (Gesellschaft- social class, friends, associates) I associated with some, but not on my behalf, to be honest, the people who came into the house were mostly Wehrmacht. Then came the commandant of the jewish camp, he came to our house. But he very much respected me. He behaved like a gentleman towards me. I couldn't tell, I did visit other houses. Oscar, too, did not entertain very much. He had to have the meetings with the SS, there he had to pay, there he had to drink with them. Not the Wehrmacht ... the SS, those who guarded the jews and there was the commandant who allotted them and took them away and did all that. The Wehrmacht, it was them

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who protected them, they ( the jews) had to stay as armament workers and if not in addition Oscar had always paid a lot to Goeth ... the commandant had taken away all these people. One preferred to shoot them rather than have them work. (She uses the form "one" preferred, although meant it all of the SS).

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F: Tell us about Oscar's relationship with the SS people and how he associated with them.

Mrs.S.: Well, well, well. The Schindler, forgive me if I say Schindler, it is the same, no, he had with Korab ..

Mr. Schindler had, when Mr. Korab and Mr. Sedlacek asked him to see after work for the jewisch prisoners as to not have them transported away, to Auschwitz, so that they would not be killed in Auschwitz ... one of these days the JOINT will reward him and if he suffers losses or has to pay, the JOINT will compensate him. The JOINT, here in America, no? Thus Schindler arranged himself with Goeth, he (Schindler) had already some people work for him, but they had to return to camp on a daily basis and came back to the factory in the mornings. When the enamel factory closed, because... then the armament fabrication started, then the officers in charge of armament arrived. Subsequently we converted into armament ( fabrication, into <sup>bazooka</sup> Panzerfaust ( shells, amunition?). Only then Was Schindler able to require jewish prisoners. Then Schindler

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built the barracks and ordered the jewish prisoners, so that they could live and exist as armament workers, in the factory. Of course under SS supervision. A commandant was needed and commandant Goeth of PlasZow was the commandant. Goeth was from Vienna. The arrangement was mostly based on the fact that we had to pay. That was done through diamonds, not by means of money, No, those were always little presents, diamonds and other things, hm,hm (nods her head) which had to be made, since money had no value. It had to be jewelry, exquisite jewelry by means of which he was paid so that the people could stay. These people had to be paid for by my husband, to the SS. It was not as if they were there ... each worker, each jewish worker had to be paid for so and so much every day as if they were regular armament workers ( meaning the money per capita went to the SS). They were not cheap. That had to be paid for. The factory had to take care for their food. At that time the jewish prisoners... everybody still had some money, they could supply themselves. It was just that we were able to say "they are going to be provided", it was not that dangerously. And so it went on. But Schindler had to arrange himself with the SS. If he had not gotten along that well with the SS it would have looked awfully bad. Not only from above, also from below there had to come presents. There had to be a scale from high to low. (She must mean that bribes to the commandant did not suffice. All ranks had to get presents.) Then ... the SS was of very little cultur. They were ... I do not know what it was, no, and Schindler had to

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start ... Schindler did not drink before, my husband did not drink before, then he had to start drinking with them. But those were special drinks, it was Whisky and the devil knows what, I never joined the drinking, I don't know. (Laughs). He then had to drink with them. Of course, if you start to drink, you learn how to drink and then it goes in a scale ( refers to continuous increase?) and you will not stop drinking. Before my very eyes happened little drinking, I did not appreciate it at all. Now, my husband had ... there was also ... sometimes happened this sometimes happened that, sometimes this one, sometimes that one, constantly, constantly something happened, constantly they had to drink and celebrate and the devil knows what was up. Suddenly one of them, who was conform (refers to an acquaintance) with them, reported to the SS, Schindler is who knows what, Schindler got arrested. Therupon I went to an Oberstleutnant of the Abwehr through whom, through his mediation Schindler was set free once again. Not from the armament, through the Abwehr got Schindler his release and it went on. Once they wanted to send him to the front because somebody of the SS desired the factory. He wanted to take over. Well, I was no friend to the SS. He (O.S.) brought the commandant whb presented himself as a gentleman. There was no yelling, no theater, there was no drinking, everything was as supposed to be. What they did outside ( means social occasion out of the house) was not known to me since I never joined them. I was in the apartment. Once my husband invited somebody of the SS, I can't tell anymore who was it

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exactly ... was kind of a young, the gentleman, who exactly was or was not present. Korapp was there, also Ott, Ott the Oberstleutnant, also Hartwig, no, Hartwig, no, what was the name again of the other one, Hartwig not, Ott was from armament ... a small, plumb one, who was also from the Abwehr (laughs) and there were several gentlemen and also ladies, the wife of one SS leader, who (the leader) was very pleasant, who helped very much to protect the jews. He was from Hamburg, very decent, I must admit, with his wife, and there were other women. And we had dinner ... was that. And the gentleman talked quite a bit and I suspected all the time ... and thought: "Na, you talk too much to my taste, where will it lead to" ... I am somewhat impulsive (laughs) ... easily aggravated and I say...and all of a sudden he shouts: " Long live the Fuehrer, long live the Fuehrer"... and takes, I had cristal glasses, cut cristal glasses, takes the glass and throws the glass onto the piano so that the glass broke into 1000 pieces. I saw ... it was too much for me, long live the Fuehrer, no, I am going to tell you ... Did I say: Señor, Sir,"... I forget which rank he had, Sturmkrieger, cannot remember what he was, I said: " Long live the Fuehrer, I don't mind, but if you throw the next glass and smash the next glass - the third glass will land on your head." I'll do it (laughs). I would have done it. Everybody was quiet, no, everybody looked at me, they already knew who I was ... I am going to show you, and if he had really acted against my will I would have smashed the glass on his head. So, that was the SS. It was not easy.

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Mrs.S.: Now I don't know where to begin.

F; The second arrest of your husband.

Mrs.S.: Well I had no time for sentiments. I had to run, to look how to get him out of there. I had to run to the... to the gentleman of the Abwehr. I had no time whatsoever to even think. The only thing was to get him out of there. That was all. I always felt that I was I (Laughs).

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F: Once again the question will be how it was when your husband got arrested for the second time. When you, as you just said, had no time to think, .Could you possibly describe the details how you actually got him out and what happened next?

Mrs.S.: Well, when my husband got arrested it was an arrest by the SS due to the fact that there was infighting among the SS. To be frank, they soiled each other. And someone had against Schindler ... because, that is, Schindler with Goedt ... where the jews were in the camp, he was arrested on the basis of false accusations. But when ... I had to go to the Abwehr, to officers of the Abwehr. The officer of the Abwehr saw to it and they had to release Schindler, since the Abwehr intervened. Thus they have Schindler ... Schindler was arrested from morning to night. At night he was already released <sup>because</sup> ~~since~~ the german Abwehr intervened. Once he was out again the matter was settled. No, I had no time for thinking. Becaus I had too

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much to run and see to take care of the matter. That was all what was to it.

J: Did she and Herr Schindler ever think about the danger or talk about the danger of what they were doing?

F: Did you and your husband ever talk about the danger of what you were doing? Did you talk about your life at night? (I do not know why I added the night ( and left out the thinking). I apologize. I must have spontaneously inferred that you talk when your daywork is done).

Mrs.S.: Neither at night ... we had never time to talk about anything. Not in the mornings, not at night. Because everything was on the go, everything had to move, had to be taken care of. As the ... but in Krakov it was, was not that dangerous any more. Not any more there. It was the name, that Schindler had protection, protection against the SS. Through the name of the Abwehr it became possible to work with the jews. That was it, nothing was dangerous any more. We ~~had our backs against the wall~~ <sup>were under the protection of</sup> (?Being covered by) (due to) the Abwehr and on the other side it was the german armament, enabling him to keep the jews, so that the jews were not brought to Auschwitz. Again it was made possible by the commandant of the german armament. The SS had only to be paid as to prevent that they , with malice, malice, would take away the people and shoot them in the end. That was all to it. <sup>there was</sup>

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J: When the decision, the order came to close down the factory,  
how did come about the decision to move the factory to Bruennlitz?

F: Do you recall the order to close down the factory, at the very end?  
How did your husband's decision come about to move the factory to  
Bruennlitz, did you think about it?

Mrs.S.: No, may I speak, very well. There was no order to close down the  
factory, nobody said so. The order came, from armament, to move the  
factory. Only if the factory cannot be moved, it has to be closed  
down. The Russians<sup>x</sup> were close, the Russians came. But if my husband  
had not moved the factory the jews would have been shot. That was all (there was)  
to it. Therupon he had to look, he sent out people, had to look how  
thés factory could be moved to another site. Unfortunately there  
was no possibility anywhere. The one possibility was Sudetenland,  
that is , the home of my... mhm...my and his home. (Heimat = homeland)  
And that was not far (laughs) not far away from Zwickau. Bruennlitz.  
There was a factory, a factory, the owners had gone. It was managed  
by a guy, a German, who had worked with woolens. Well, wooleas were  
unimportant, it was not armament, therefore he had to surrender half,  
more than half of the factory so that the "german enamel factory" could  
come, as armament factory. This led to the move, but the transfer  
wasn't easy. It was again ... we started with the transport, so and  
so many wagons arrived with machinery, there were none (probably no  
machines in the new site?), the machines were loaded, everything was

*In German you often use "der Russe", singular, despite referring to the Nation*



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thrown onto one big pile. There were no people to carry the machinery, it was a huge number of machines and nobody knew what to do with them. Then, when Ingenieur Lange, Ing. Lange was the boss of all armament factories.... he was life and death of a <sup>(any)</sup> given factory. If Lange decided that the factory is not paying off and should not be supported they had to close it down. But Lange was a very nice, pleasant person. I got fabulously along with him and (he) was contra Hitler. He was supposed to do his inspections wearing a uniform, but I never ever saw him in a uniform, he always came as a civilian, came from Berlin. A very nice person, who helped my husband a great deal to settle the matter. But one day, the jews were already transported to, what is the name again of that camp, now I forgot the name of the camp, the women went to Auschwitz, the men went ... no, Mr. Scheuer will know it. He will know it, he knows where they went, he will recall it.

T73/Take 1

- F: The question is: did your husband go to Berlin and did he have to bribe anybody in order to initiate the move of the factory?
- Mrs.S.: No, my husband did not go to Berlin. He did not bribe anybody, since we dealt with the german Wehrmacht, the german armament industry, and the gentlemen of the armament did not take the least bit. The only one to be paid constantly was the SS. There was always the trouble with the SS and the jewish staff. But the armament industry ... those were old german officers who had pride in their honor, who were not corruptible. That was that. He did not go to Berlin. The order to move came from Berlin, from the german armament depart-

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ment,. It would have meant the end if my husband had not found the other factory, but he had to search in order to save the jewish prisoners. And the jewish prisoners were employed by the german Wehrmacht as armament workers, not as inmates. Therby they could get to Bruennlitz. First came the men, then much later the women.

174/Take 1

Mrs.S.: During the move of the factory to Bruennlitz it so happened that Goedt wanted to move his belongings. Asked my husband to ... his, what, how shall I put it, what he possessed, furniture, what do I know what it was. Should he take, take with him <sup>(when he)</sup> on the move. <sup>(s)</sup> Unfortunately, my husband cannot take it to Bruennlitz, but he had to take the stuff if he did not want Goedt to refuse to release the jewish prisoners at the last minute. Thus I had to march again. With truck and driver and Katschiwatschi (stuff?) of Goedt , had to bring it to my house in my hometown. There it was stored. There we left it. That is, we left it there in the second house and went back to Ostrau. The, the driver went to Krakov and I stayed meanwhile in Ostrau. Then a secretary, I was in Ostrau for 2 days, came and told me that Oscar had been arrested. I should see to come to Bruennlitz since the people were fearful. There were no prisoners yet. I should come to Bruennlitz since an inspection was announced, Mr. what was the name of the gentleman... first, that Oscar was released and that I see to it that they free Oscar. Mine (O.S.) had there ... the

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arrest had ...because the other SS was against Goedt ... they had arrested Goedt ... they said Schindler had helped Goedt to move valuable objects to Bruenn, Bruennlitz, stolen objects ... that was not Bruennlitz, that was Altmoretin ...and Schindler is ... they arrested Schindler together with Goedt. I drove immediately to Bruennlitz to get things going, told the gentlemen, who wanted to hear it, I told the SS I am at your disposal at any time. Come with me and see for yourself that there are no valuables. It is furniture and what do I know, I did not look, what it was, but it was there, no.Also...

175/Take 1

Mrs.S.: When Oscar was arrested a secretary came and asked me to come to Bruennlitz immediately. Oscar was arrested in Krakov, not in Bruennlitz. I should come immediately since Goedt was arrested and Goedt is in custody and did not get out." They also took your husband, because they believed he is conspiring with Goedt." Thereupon I gave notice to the officers of the armament industry because at that time the armament was more valuable than the secret service. Then they noticed the armament industry in Krakow and Berlin and Schindler had to be released. Thus Schindler was freed. But during the time when Schindler was in custody in Krakow, we had an inspection by the Prefect of the district, from Hitler's party and the Prefect is in charge of the whole district. They told me "we don't have any Jews anymore, now they want to bring Jews in again," they had other

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expectations. Now we are happy to have gotten rid of all the Jews, now this Schindler comes again with his Jews. That may not be. It was such a fight, since they didn't want to let us come, my husband with his factory. At that time, I, the dunce leads (laughs; this is a common German proverb referring to stupid people who take the lead and get burned - similar to the English "Fools march in"), ... that is, there was this engineer Schoeneborn and there was also another engineer, I believe Fuchs, or whoever, they were also in Bruennlitz. There were also secretaries in Bruennlitz, because everything in Krakow was already packed. And Mr. Schoeneborn calls me and says, "I don't know what to do. This afternoon, the inspection by the Prefect is coming." "Who is Prefect? Who is now Prefect?" Then he says "he is called so-and-so, Hoehnig is his name, the Prefect." "So" said I, "Very well. He might as well come. I will receive the Prefect." Because this Prefect was my swimming teacher (laughs). I received him and there was nothing to it. The Prefect didn't ask anything, the Prefect didn't say anything, the Prefect left (laughs).  
(marched out again)

176/Take 1

Mrs. S.: Shall I really say this? (laughs). How? The question is whether my husband was afraid, whether I know what he felt. I tell you, even if my husband had been afraid, I do not know how he felt because, because he hadn't told me, for sure, for certain he didn't say anything. The honor of a man... If he says "I'm a coward, I am afraid"... that is all.

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... Therefore, I never knew if he is afraid or is not. That is all.

The armament industry got him out, they had to release him due to the armament inspection. Because the ammunition was needed, not prisoners. Thus he was released.

F: Why did it take so long until he was released?

Mrs. S: It wasn't that long. It wasn't that long, probably three or four days, not much longer. With all the back and forth and back and forth, it always takes some time, no?

J: When he was released, there was a problem still of how to get the women out of Auschwitz. I'd like her to tell me from the beginning how she and Oscar got the three hundred women out of Auschwitz.

F: Do you still recall, from the very beginning, how you and Herr Schindler managed to get the three-hundred women out of Auschwitz.

Mrs. S: May I now begin? How we managed? Not I and not Herr Schindler did managed the release of the prisoners, the Jewish women. The daughter of a factory owner from Zwittau came into the factory. I want the name, ... I don't want to give the name. I don't know who her relatives are and where they are. A very nice young thing. That is, she was married but she filed for divorce. She was... she loved life. But very cultured, high-standing person.

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Her father, she was like her father. Her father went to Mexico. Left family and factory and everything in Zwittau. We never heard of him again.

F: Again, very shortly, the release of the women.

Mrs.S: That the women came from Auschwitz to Bruennlitz is to the credit of a young, sweet and cultured lady. She was a friend of ours already from times in Zwittau. She was somewhat younger but a nice, elegant, cultured and high-standing girl, a beautiful young woman. She was divorced, because she couldn't stick with one man. She had to have several. She was asked by my husband to see... Nobody was easily able to get them out... She should go to Auschwitz and see if we could get the Jewish women out. How to get them out. Without hesitation, she said she would go. "I will do what I can." She left, she went to Auschwitz. She went immediately to the Commandant. She didn't bother with low ranks. She immediately went to the top, my friend, my dear. I really liked her a lot. Stayed one day in Auschwitz, In two days, the Jews, the Jewish women were in Bruennlitz.

177/Take 1

F: May we ask you to repeat the answer about the release of the Jewish women. Did you ask the young woman who saved them or did she go on her own initiative? Try to tell us in one piece and please keep your hand down.

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Mrs.S.: The Jewish women were kept in the camp of Auschwitz. Unfortunately, despite all attempts by my husband, the Jewish women were not released. It took almost three months until they came. But one day comes a young and elegant, cultured and high-standing person who we already... in those times... it was a compatriot of my husband from Zwittau but a little bit younger than we were. We got to know her as a young girl and she came and my husband asked her... He knew she was the only one who could effect anything, who could manage anything. Therefore he told her, he asked her, asked if she could go to Auschwitz since there were 300 of our Jewish women who wouldn't be released. She says without hesitation "I'm going. I don't mind, of course." And she went. And after three days, she went and stayed there one night and one day, after three days, all of the Jewish women came to Bruennlitz. That was the main piece of work. Not me and not my husband.

J: The next question I want to ask is about the train from Golles<sup>20w</sup> and what Mrs. Schindler's memory is of what the people looked like when they came off the train. (She interrupts and wants to tell something else.)

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F: Why don't you tell us what you think is still important before the arrival of the train from Golles<sup>20w</sup>

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Mrs.S.: Well, then the whole transport came. First the men. But there was no work, they were in the camp without work. It was... There was no work because we had to do preparations. Burners had to be erected, everything had to be prepared, the machines had to be brought in, a huge room had to be established for the machines, we needed fundacion, how do you say, the foundation had to be built because those were huge machines which would otherwise have torn everything apart. There were the burners used in the fabrication of bazookas. If everything hadn't been correct,... They were huge and so heavy... Everything would have collapsed. Then the steel bands came from which the bazookas were made. Was... They had to erect the furnaces where they worked. Thus there was a lot to do but not yet work. Then came, after three months came the women. It took almost three months until the women came. Then the women came and were unfortunately without work. That was, ... was preparation, was always preparation and no work could be done. But there was a lot of wool. The women all took wool and started to knit sweaters so that they at least had something to... because they had... it was winter then. It was very cold. Well, luckily the space was heated. Central heating and also upstairs where the women slept was central heating, so that they not in their gown... They only had this prison uniform, no underwear, that they didn't freeze to death. The winter is very tough there. This slowly continued, but every day had to be paid. Herr Schindler slowly ran out of money,



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we didn't take anything in. Until the armament fabrication started, we earned very little, very little. We worked very little, but the payments had to continue. In addition, the Jewish prisoners had no more support, there were no Poles, there was no Sudetenland. There was nothing to buy. Only for food coupons and as armament workers, we got more of them for the people so that they could live. But no, it wasn't enough to live, it lasted for fourteen days. And fourteen days we had to look for other places to get food. It wasn't very easy.

179/Take 1

Mrs. S: Then we had to look on the black market. Unfortunately, there was no black market. There was no black and no white market. There was no market at all. We then... nearby was the large steam mill, owned by Czechs. But they had a German who was in control. My husband went to the German, the German didn't give him anything. "There's nothing and for Jews less." Then I went, within the administration, Czech administration... the steam mill was owned by a family von Daubig. There we talked to the Czech supervisor. The Czech supervisor said "Good, Señora, I will send you something." Then we got oatmeal, there was flour to trade for bread, all these products which one could not buy otherwise. The flour was traded for bread, the oatmeal we took for soup. All products made from cereal came from... he said one thing, "When I call, the truck has to be at the steam mill immediately." It wasn't far, it was probably 200 meters. The truck has to wait already in order to... everything which I give you has  
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to be already gone and <sup>(nobody)</sup> no one may know anything. One was the chief miller... we brought from Krakow one thousand cigarettes, over one thousand packages of cigarettes, and a lot of vodka. Vodka is the Polish Schnapps, no, the drink of the Polish, we brought it with us. Then I went to the chief miller. The chief miller liked vodka very much, but unfortunately there was no vodka in Sudetenland, no vodka, no nothing. The chief miller gave me the nice white flour then I got grits, how do you say grits, I do not know how to call it, semolina you say in Castillian. That's what I got but he always came, he came to the factory and told me when I would get something next. He was always wearing such a huge thing, such what do I know, how do you say, such, such, an overcoat but very large, and into this overcoat the vodka bottles went. When he left, he held himself <sup>(...)</sup> and then was gone. Then I got the products. Then I met a Doctor veteranario. Any animal which breaks a leg or otherwise which had to be killed, <sup>(forced slaughtered)</sup> everything had to be delivered to the slaughterhouse in Zwittau. But the gentleman did love to drink coffee and there was no coffee. By means of coffee I got all of those animals for the factory, for the Jewish prisoners besides their rations. Also we got our rations of potatoes for one year. Unfortunately, the potatoes for one year didn't even last three months. The Jewish prisoners stole them and everybody fried his own potato. (laughs) That was how life was, life of the Jewish population. In addition, we had, I can't tell it any more exactly,

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how it was. There were about two hundred guards, two hundred SS. Who we also had to supply. Who also had to be supplied by the factory. No questions were asked... One had to supply them. They were so, so, ... Those were people who were so stupid, so dumb that they did not even know why they were there, they had no idea whatsoever why. With them there was always fighting. They believed they were entitled to drink the milk, they as if the others needed nothing. And I, in the supplies, was the only one who did the management. I had one secretary. But with the truck I had to drive together with the Polish staff. The Polish staff consisted of thirty people. All young people who I liked very much and who... We drove into the slaughter house to load the meat and to load the bread. And wanted to leave the slaughter house, did he stop me. "You're not allowed to leave". "What happened?" "Your people stole my meat." I said "My people don't steal. My people are decent. Why don't you search the truck?" Did they search the truck. Didn't find any meat. After we left, the Poles told me "Si, Señora, Yes, Señora, we did steal the meat. We've got it." And they had it. "It's not my business what you steal, not my business. Don't get caught or it's going to be looking bad for me." Such was life. Sometimes it was fun and sometimes sad. Luckily, the <sup>(women)</sup> factory had a buyer within the armament industry... had they... had very... was somebody from the Wehrmacht and the man was very good. Made it easy for the

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women where he could. Outside was the SS, but they were not allowed into the factory, there it was armaments. Thus they couldn't do anything to the Jews inside, only outside. Thus there was fighting constantly, because they, the armament, the, the Wehrmacht and the SS didn't get along with each other, couldn't stand each other. That was all of the life as it continued there. That was the whole content of life and I had constantly to look after the people and see that they got food for fourteen days from the black market or they would have starved, what would they have done? There was no more extra rations, it was... There was... In Bruennlitz, it was the hardest we went through. It was the hardest. Then, the population was hostile, they saw Poles, they saw Jews, nobody was allowed to get inside, it was a camp, sealed off with an electric fence, with an electric fence, the whole thing was sealed off. You couldn't get in nor out. We also had to have identification papers. Then, the SS required that everybody take an oath not to tell what inside... not we, we, we, the German staff had to say that we close our eyes to what is happening. That wasn't easy.

J: I would like to ask now what the people looked like.

180/Take 1

Mrs. S.: One day, very early, Schindler was still in Krakow, my husband was in Krakow,... One day very early, around 5 o'clock, two soldiers came who led the transport of the Gollieszow . But the transport

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Mrs.S.: Early one day, Schindler was still in Krakow, my husband was in Krakow, early one day around five o'clock two soldiers came who had led the transport of the Golleszów. However the transport of the Golleszów was not destined for us. Not for our factory ... it was destined for another factory. Unfortunately, this other factory did not take in these people. But it was incredibly cold, terribly cold, the two ( soldiers) entered and talked to me and said : "Señora, Frau Schindler" they said, " help us to ..."

Interruption

Early one day at five o'clock two soldiers came with a transport coming from Golleszów with prisoners, but the prisoners were not destined for the factory, for Schindler, the prisoners were destined for a different factory, unfortunately this other factory did not take in the prisoners. The transport moved back and forth for 14 days in the cold. Then they came to Bruennlitz, the man told me, that is, my husband ...

181/Take 2

Mrs.S.: Now, from the beginning, from A to Z or what, how shall I continue? Early at five o'clock on day during the winter two soldiers came and asked for Mr. Schindler. At that time Schindler was still in Krakow, those were the last days where he stayed in Krakow in order to settle everything, in Krakow. But then the two (soldiers) said : " We have a transport of prisoners coming from the camp Golleszów." says he " and if you ... we were on the road for 14 days, the factory for <sup>which</sup> ~~where~~ they were destined does not take them in.

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We cannot go on. We are half frozen to death, if you don't take these people we will open the wagon and I will shoot all of them. And leave them here." Subsequently we then, eh, with, with engineer Schoeneborn ... he called my husband in Krakow, we then talked with Krakow, no, and we said " we will take the transport." The transport was already on...eh...standing on a track in front of the factory, the wagon was already uncoupled (disconnected) from the train and he remained. And when those two soldiers, these convoys, said : " We can't go any further, we are almost frozen to death, we are hungry, we are this, we are that "... he was to decide to take these people in or they will shoot them and leave them. Then we went to take over the transport, Schoeneborn and the other engineer, the ... the commandant of the SS camp, Leipold and SS escorts, because they have to guard the wagon. Unfortunately, when we ... we somehow wanted to open the door of the wagon, the door did not open. The door was frozen due to the cold. We had to bring in flame throwers in order to get the door moving (sliding). It was a wagon, a transport wagon for animals or other things, it was not a wagon meant for people, it was a wagon for animals or carga, Un wagon de carga. Finally it was opened and the people were brought out and inside were 20 dead. They died during the transport. It was the first time in my life that I saw people without knowing whether they are women or men. I was unable

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to recognize ... if they were men or if they were women. They were but skin and bones. Their eyes were radiating, sooo big (large). Around here ( points to chin and cheeks) everything looked like a mummy. Those were the people who came from, from the camp of Golleschau. Sick, without food, they starved, they died. They froze to death. That arrived in Bruennlitz. And in addition this, this, eh ... commandant, who was at the factory, he called me to come and look at them, at it. There I just said: "No!" and the, the, how shall I put it, Sturmbannfuehrer, somebody of the highest then, coming after him (referring to rank of the officers), said: " Señora, Frau Schindler: don't you go there, don't you ever look at it, you will never get rid of it throughout your life." " I have no intention to go ..." "But I tell you, they were left in the snow too .... (unable to understand the word she uses.) Did I say: " I wish that you bring them in immediately. The people saw something burning, there was smoke, they thought they are going to be burned. But it was the heating, the ... the thing ... what you could see from the oven, the chimenea, the chimney, the high one, which smoked. It was the central heating, with which we did not work - we worked with electric power. And they thought they would be burned. No, then they were brought in and one had to take their clothes off. Because, they were full of lice, such a long time being transported without the opportunity to wash themselves, also without food, they were completely starved. The lice need 120<sup>o</sup> C. until the

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lice die, they have to be fried ... Yes, and the dear people were brought into the baths. And then they were bathed and they were numbered, we could not say anything, the SS, evrything done by the SS. ... just luck, that they could stay where it was warm, that they could take a bath, that they got rid of the lice. Then they were brought in, there where they ... nobody could work, they were not even strong enough to walk. They then were brought in and stayed. Also this engineer Schoeneborn, was a very talented engineer, indeed, but sometimes, it seemes, he lacked something (points to her head, referring to being not quite together), he tells me: "Señora, come and look at the people," all of them naked, those skeletons, I was supposed to look at, why should I go and look at the naked men? I wondered, thank God they were soon accommodated, the people calmed down, they were no longer afraid to be burned. Then we started to look how to feed these people. Normal food would have killed all of them. We had to start with soup, very light soup and we brought them up, from then on nobody else died. Yes, yes it was sad.

182/Take 1

Mrs.S.: The dead prisoners, there were 20 of them, the commandant wanted, told me to burn it (them) in the furnaces, those were those large steam ... the furnaces for the steam engines, they burned but we used them only as heating. I then said: "No corpse will enter this place, no human <sup>being</sup> will be burned here, no way."



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Then came ... they were thrown onto a pile, in front of the door, the entrance of the factory, there were the dead.

Then came ... my husband came the next day, the dead were then .. that was ... buried at a cemetery with jewish rites.

That is how the story ends. It's short, that is all. (Laughs)

183/Take 1

Mrs.S.: One of those days some of the SS troops ... when Goedt, that is Goedt was already ...

183/Take 2

Mrs.S.: One of those days came ... Goedt remained imprisoned, Goedt did not get out, but SS came who brought Goedt's luggage to the factory in Bruennlitz ... The SS came and wanted to search all of Goedt's luggage to find out what was amongst it. In addition, Schindler had a complete trunk , there were mor than 1000 Cigarettes, bought,(stressed), which were transported by Goedt because ... Schindler was not able to get them out ( of Krakow?) but Goedt could get them out, sent them. The SS knew something, I don't know where from I don't know how, but I believe there was something in the papers which were in ... which were there where they arrested Goedt. Wanted to find these cigarettes. Because there were no cigarettes ( on the market). And it was said: " tommorow the SS will arrive to investigate the matter." I couldn't tell my husband. " They are not going to get them, I ' ll steal all of the cigarettes." Thus I took one of the boys and had brought the...the armament crates, where the ammunition

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is put into. Took all of the cigarettes and put them into the crates, placed them among the other armament stuff and that was it. The inspection did in fact come the next day and everything was searched. They wanted this and wanted that, unfortunately there was nothing to take. Then: "Where are the cigarettes" I was asked. My husband did not know anything about it because I was afraid he might tell them something. Did I, ... did they ask me, I said: "You better listen, look at the factory, look at the work space (loft), this is stored for so many month, and you want to know where the cigarettes could be? What do I know, it seems there are none!" They had to leave without cigarettes, but I had the cigarettes (Laughs).

J:

Ask her now what she and her husband felt when they had to flee from the Russians, leaving behind the factory and so on.

F: Mr. Blair would like you to describe what you felt and what the circumstances were when you had to flee from the russians and had to leave the factory behind.

Mrs.S.: There is nothing much to say, there is nothing at all to describe. There was suffering, you know, the people were free, it was the ... it was the last hour. The truck was prepared to transport people , that is, the Germans not the jews. The jewish prisoners stayed, all of them, they were now free, but

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the Germans wanted to leave, no. Everybody had something, a suitcase or a package, que sé yo, it was all collected. Then there was the sports car which Schindler drove. But there was no driver for the truck. And the driver ... I had to go into the hall (loft) , I went into the hall and asked them to come with us. There were 6 or how many, Mrs. Scheuer knows, jewish men and women who accompanied me and came with me. We did not get out in time. The feeling you have, I don't know what you feel, one does not thing any more. All you know is that you are lost. In addition the truck was with out brakes. The truck had to use the motor as a brake. It goes up and down there, its all mountains. Rechen, the gentleman who is here, drove the truck. Thus we went. The roads were blocked (clogged) with Wehrmacht, closed.

E: Some people would have said its rather unusual for them to have fled with Martha and for Schindler to have brought M. with him to Bruennlitz. I wonder if she can tell me a bit about his relationships with women.

F: Mr. Blair says that some people think it was rather unusual for you to have lived with Martha and fled with her. Could you dexcribe ...

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Mrs.S.: People should not ponder, they should mind their own business and basta.

F: Could you describe Oscar's relationship with women a little bit?

Mrs.S.: Herr Schindler had a lot of affairs. I did not mind after a while. I got used to it. That is all there is to it. With Martha I was very .... I had, I, she likes me and I like her. Nobody should ponder, nobody. I am quite neutral, you know, I am a neutral and understanding person. That is I.(me?).

F: Mr. Blair asks: Who was Oscar Schindler?

Mrs.S.: Who was Oscar Schindler?

How - would you tell me in what way? In what way ... I'd like to know.

J: What kind of man was Oscar Schindler?

F: What kind of man was Oscar Schindler?

Mrs.S.: I can't describe him very well - what shall I say? He was a man who loved life, was a great bonvivant I have to say. He liked all (any) women. You can fight against one woman, but not against 10 or 100 women. Therefore you'd better flow with the current, no, isn't that true? But it didn't bother me at all. You cannot change a person if he is like that. It makes no sense to quibble with such a

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person or do what do I know ... I never fought with anybody. He loved women, he loved entertainment, he sometimes loved, eh, how shall I put it, that others did all of the work - he quite enjoyed if the others worked and he did not do a thing. (Laughs) that's all.

J: Why did Oscar and Emilie Schindler who were Catholics, Germans, Oscar Schindler who was a member of the National Socialist Party of Germany, why did they do so much for so many jews?

F: Why did you and Oscar Schindler, who were Germans, Catholics, he who was a member of the National Socialist Party, why did you help so many jews?

Mrs.S.: For the sake of humanity , I say only: humanidad. I'll do it for anybody if it were in my power to help a human being. At those times it was in my power to help a person ... I shall help for the sake of charity. Humanidad is my principle. I can't stand injustice. That's how I was raised ... I learned it at my parent's home. Injustice I cannot stand!

184/Take 1

My husband was no ordinary man. My husband was an extraordinary man! His whole character all of his manners were not, how do you say, ~~común~~ (common) its in Argentinian, I don't have the expression for "~~común~~". Ordinary, no, he was ....

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My husband had an extraordinary character, that's the way to put it, he was not an ... now I forgot the word again ... a normal, ordinary man. He had his own character which allowed him to win people. However, most unfortunately, he had his faults. You cannot just have your good sides, you have to have faults too. We know ... you'll find it in any ... in any person. And I cannot mold a person according to my liking. Each according to his ... I did not suffer much from the ways in which he lived. Sometimes there were some things which I didn't like, but mostly I got along fine. You know .... and the blouse (to the staff, laughs) ... everything was fine. My husband was quite amiable (charming), he had good manners and he conquered women because he had something to show, that's how it could happen. And I tell you, I am not going to fight with all of womankind - there was nothing to fight about. In the end all of the women would start to like me, that was all there is to it, let him be happy! Is there ... do you want still more?

185/Take 1

Q: Can you tell why Mr. Schindler was not particularly successful after the war?

Mrs.S: Mr. Schindler, after the flight during which we faced risk of our lives, ... in the beaten german army and the <sup>advancing</sup> ~~intruding~~ russian army... it was dreadful. We were facing death, we lost everything, the few things we

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had taken we lost there in Deutschgothen (?). Also a jewish woman was taken away by the russians, because she ... she tried to explain... defend... the russians immediately took her and we did not see her again. Then she was seen in, no, in <sup>Prague</sup> ~~Prag~~, the russians were awful at that time. They raped the women, whether they (the women) wanted or not, and not only one, but five or ten threw themselves onto the women. Fortunately we had the great luck <sup>in</sup> ~~of~~ being accompanied by the jewish prisoners. Thus we got ... the germans got... those coming from the Reich (referring to Germans) were taken into camps, // 7417/4/4 and we were brought to the border on a train, to Germany, because the jews wanted to go to Switzerland, wanted to go there. But such a ... we were transported... the whole journey was the worst I ever experienced in my life ... and the death, the dead bodies, we had to <sup>cross (pick our way?)</sup> ~~stalk~~ over the dead bodies, but we, luckily we were in the train and arrived at the border. The czech and bavarian border. There was the .. the northamerican army. They didn't let us through. There we had to sit and wait for the commandant. we were from morning to afternoon ... we could not pass ... or they would transport us back. To get transported back would not have been very good for all of us. Did we wait.

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Mrs.S.: I am going to tell you why, ... I know how to tell you ... Mr. Schindler was risking his life during the flight, he was ... the russians

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were standing in front of him , with their rifles (ready) to shoot him...not only he - it would have hit all of us. Fortunately because he was as jewish prisoner, as prisoners we made it through. That was the main cause. But the, the terror (fear) Schindler had for his life, it never ceased. There it began that he wasn't the man he used to be. He lost his will power, he let himself go, he did not have the strength of will any more to fight against his fate. He let himself drift, he did not start anything any more. That was all, the main cause. He lived like : something is going to come up, he lived like some Argentinians do: what do I care about tomorrow, today I am here.... Then he did not work any more, did not start anything... he would have been able in Argentinia to start something ... to make money, but he did not do it. He started - what nobody understood - a creader de nutria (?). I did not know nutrias at all, what they are, what kind they are. The consequence - if you don't know what you are doing ... and start, you are going to fail. With the nutria - all of the money, we lost it. That is, he had ... eh, he should have started with industria, industria ... he let himself go , failed, it was a trauma, stuck in his head (the flight). He was always afraid, always saw the russians, constantly he was afraid something might happen. Consequently he stopped doing anything. Then he returned to Germany where he was to receive compensatory payments for the factory. There he met his old friends, in Germany, then he stayed in Germany and that was that. He did not do anything anymore. (he stopped doing things altogether.) And I got angry because he knew how and what, what kind of situation I was in in Argentinia. I was without money,



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I did not own anything, I had to work hard. I had to work very, very hard. Until <sup>B'nai</sup> ~~A~~ Brith (jewish Organization) took over and B.B. started supporting me. Then I stopped to write him and that was the end of it. That is the end.

J: What does she think of all the adoration her husband gets from all these survivors?

F: The last question is - one of the last questions is: what do you think about all the admiration your husband gets from all these survivors? - Repeat -

Mrs.S.: Its very good. I am, I am a person who <sup>w</sup>acknowledges the merit of anybody. I am <sup>s</sup>also a person who does not know publicitation (publicity?), I do not like it at all. I don't have that kind of character. My husband knows how to ingratiate himself. Well, today he is no longer alive, but he enjoyed it. And with his popularity and enjoying it ... it got worse. He stopped working altogether, he did not work at all anymore.

J: After all these years, when she thinks about her former husband, what is the overriding feeling she has? What does she think about this man after all these years?

F: The question is: what do you think after all these years, after all what has happened ... what do you mainly think about your husband?

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Mrs.S.: I am going to tell you what I am thinking: I felt sorry for him!  
That's what I think, I felt sorry for him. That is the only answer  
I can give. He has gambled away his life and I feel sorry for that.  
No more and no less. That is the end now, that is all I have to say.  
I am a very straight person, you know, I am not, one should never  
... we have a saying: " Never talk about your neighbor (somebody close)  
while he is alive, but talk about him even less when he is dead!"  
Honour your neighbor! End.