

Two Mannheimer in Concentration Camp

"Perpetrator and Victim"

The "Footsteps" team was invited to the double premiere of the scientific book "Der Kommandant und die Bibelforscherin" (The cook and the Bible student) and the documentary film "Die Köchin des Kommandanten" (The cook and the Commandant) on 15.4.18 by the Mannheim NS-Documentation center. Two ways to Auschwitz: Sophie Stippel as a concentration camp prisoner and later the commander's female cook came to Auschwitz because she was Jehovah's confessing witness. Rudolf Höss was commander of the death camp from 1940 to 1943 and both knew each other from their youth in Mannheim. The Director of the Archive Prof. Dr. Nieß, Historian Prof. Kreuzt and Historian Karen Strobel point out that the autobiography, which the concentration camp commander Rudolf Höss wrote in 1946 on his death row, especially concerning the First World War, was deliberately falsified by him. Gerald Sander, grandson of Sophie Stippel, accompanies the different locations in the film, which documents both paths of life.

Rudolf Höss, who had acquired a new identity after the Second World War, was recognized, arrested, sentenced to death by hanging in 1947 as a war criminal and executed at the site of his horrific activities in the main camp at Auschwitz. Until then, he was in prison writing autobiographical notes, which were now scientifically questioned. He also comments on the number of victims, but denies any guilt of his own. He was only acting on orders - so listen.

Wilhelm Kreuzt, Professor of Modern and Contemporary History at the Historical Institute of the University of Mannheim since 2014, and Karen Strobel, who has been working at the "Marchivum" (State Archive of Mannheim) since 2005, responsible for dad NS Documentation Centre, gave an insight into their scientific research on Rudolf Höss.

He joined the Artamanen League in March 1928 and was its leader as early as June 1929. They gave him the necessary structure and he appeared there "like a father". Höss learned early on to distance himself from feelings and to follow only this anti-democratic, anti-Semitic and generally racist organization as if from "innermost orders". The association of peasantry and Nordic blood has always played a key role among these intolerant members. Höß married the Artamans Woman Hedwig Erna Hensel on August 17th, 1929.

Sophie Stippel suffered the stroke of fate that her second daughter died. She then found help with Jehovah's Witnesses and became a Bible scholar. Due to his former acquaintance in Mannheim, Rudolf Höß takes her into his family as a cook. 1945 the Red Army liberated Auschwitz and Sophie Stippel had survived.

How did these conditions come about historically? Very briefly, after the stock market crash in NY, there was a large resonance space, which was strongly served from the right, the democratizing forces no longer existed and the NSDAP became more and more popular. In 1931 the Artamans League officially joins the NSDAP. In 1933 Hitler comes to power. In 1934 Höß joins the Nazis and joins the SS directly on heaven's suggestion. In 1934/1936 he received special training in the Dachau concentration camp. Here he was trained as an unscrupulous perpetrator.

September 1941 Hitler decides to assassinate systematically. Hitler and Himmler, as head of the SS, instructed Höß, under the utmost secrecy, to set up the extermination camp so that the founded solution by cyclone B gas could be used. From 1942 the deportations to Auschwitz were systematized and it became the central site of the extermination of the Jews and other ethnic groups and enemies of the state.

Höß has brutally rearranged the order. He was the "effective manager of terror," completely unconscionable and unconscionable, building up the machinery of violence, and Höss was consciously cool, never showed pity to set a good example for his men to carry out his orders. 1.1-1.5 million people died at Auschwitz.

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