From the Testimony of Judith Becker about Survival in Plaszow Camp

...afterwards we were working in a place where they were peeling vegetables for the kitchen of the SS and we had such a vicious guard over us that she would beat...

Q: SS too?

A: SS. She would beat women to death over a potato peel. We weren't even interested in the potato peels. We were interested in the beet peels because the beet peels, as I said, were a necessity. When you had selections you had to look lively, you had to look good and the women looked terrible, so the beets were a way of roughing the cheeks and the lips a little bit. But she would beat people to death for a peel of, not the beet, the peel of the beet. But we had to endure it because we had to work someplace and this was better than the "*Steinbruch*". And then we heard that they are sending everybody away on transport. This Chaiml let me know. So I tried to get us out of this transport. I won't go into detail, all the things that I did. I really did terribly risky things in order to get off the transport.

Q: Like? Give me one example.

A: There was a Jew who was working with the Nazi at the gate. He was his assistant. Obviously, he had to bribe him all the time and this Jew had the lists, you know, and if you bribed him he could get you off the list. So I went, I risked my life to go to the men's camp to see him, to see this Jew. Now this Jew which I didn't know had a father in the camp. So when I came to the men's barrack which was totally not allowed, the father said: "Throw her out because she is endangering us by coming here." So he didn't even want to talk to me. "I says: "You have to talk to me and you have to take us off the list."

Q: How did you know you were on the list?

A: Chaiml knew, Chaiml said we are on the list. So the father wouldn't even let him say hello to me and I waited for him outside the barracks and when he came outside of the barracks he wouldn't talk to me. So the next day I went to

the guard house. It was forbidden, totally forbidden. And I pretended that he had invited me because I'm his girlfriend, so he was terribly embarrassed because I think he was the boyfriend of this Nazi, I think. In any case, he said to me: "If you leave now, I promise you I'll take you off the list." I said: "I don't take anybody's promise. I want to see you do it." And I said it in German so that the German would hear it. So he made jokes about that, you know? And I saw him cross us off the list. And so I breathed a sigh of relief. I went back to the women's camp.

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