



Gudrun Himmler

(shown here with her father Heinrich Himmler)

Gudrun Margarete Elfriede Emma Anna Burwitz was born on August 1929, the daughter of daughter of Heinrich Himmler, *Reichsführer-SS*, leading member of the Nazi Party (NSDAP), and chief architect of the Final Solution to exterminate the Jewish population.

Heinrich Himmler adored his daughter and had her regularly flown to his offices in Berlin. When she was at home he telephoned her most days and wrote to her every week. He continued to call her by her childhood nickname "Püppi" throughout his life. She accompanied her father on some official duties, including a visit to the Dachau concentration camp. Gudrun wrote in her diary about this visit:

"Today, we went to the SS concentration camp at Dachau. We saw everything we could. We saw the gardening work. We saw the pear trees. We saw all the pictures painted by the prisoners. Marvelous. And afterwards we had a lot to eat. It was very nice."

According to Stephan Lebert, the author of *My Father's Keeper: Children of Nazi Leaders - An Intimate History of Damage and Denial* (2001): "At fourteen... she cut out every picture of him from the newspapers and glued them into a large scrapbook". She continued to be loyal to her father, even after he was captured and news of his war crimes was made public.

Heinrich Himmler was reported to have taken his life by breaking a concealed cyanide capsule after he was captured by British forces. Gudrun disputes this. Throughout her life she has harboured a great deal of bitterness, maintaining that she and her mother were treated as if they had to atone for the supposed crimes of her father.

Gudrun never renounced the Nazi ideology and has repeatedly sought to justify the actions of her father, relative to the context of his time. People who know her say that Gudrun has created a "golden image" of her father.

Gudrun Himmler is part of a group known as Holocaust deniers.

Holocaust deniers insist that the Holocaust is a myth, invented by the Allies, the Soviet communists, and the Jews for their own ends. According to the deniers:

- The Allies needed the "Holocaust myth" to justify their occupation of Germany in 1945 and the "harsh" persecution of Nazi defendants.
- The European Jewish population needed the "Holocaust myth" to extract huge payments in restitution from Germany and to justify the establishment of the State of Israel.
- There is a vast conspiracy involving the victorious powers of World War II, Jews, and Israel to propagate the "myth" of the Holocaust for their own ends.

To make this argument, they reject all the evidence submitted at Nuremberg.

Holocaust deniers denounce as fabrications the genocidal intention of the Nazi state and the thousands of orders, memos, notes, and other records that document the process of destruction. They maintain that because there is not one signed document from Hitler ordering the Holocaust, the Holocaust itself is a hoax. They argue that the language in the documents has been deliberately misinterpreted. Furthermore, some Holocaust deniers insist that the Allies tortured the perpetrators into testifying about their role in the killing process and that the survivors who testified about Nazi crimes against Jews were all lying out of self-interest.

Some Holocaust deniers claim that those "few" Jews who perished died from natural causes or were legitimately executed by the Nazi state for criminal offenses.

They assert that Jews and the Allied powers deliberately inflated the numbers of Jews killed during the war. Holocaust historians have placed the number of Jews killed in the Holocaust between 5.1 and 6 million, based on historical sources and demographic methods. Holocaust deniers cite uncertainty about the exact number of deaths as proof that the whole history of the Holocaust has been fabricated and that the number of Jewish deaths during World War II has been grossly exaggerated.