

**KRYSTYNA LINDEN PHOTOGRAPH COLLECTION,
2006.122.2**

United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Archives
100 Raoul Wallenberg Place SW
Washington, DC 20024-2126
Tel. (202) 479-9717
e-mail: reference@ushmm.org

Appendix A. Biography of Krystyna Linden, 1942-

The following biography of Krystyna Linden (born Lindenbaum, 1942-) is housed in the donor files of the United State Holocaust Memorial Museum. The author of the biography is unidentified.

Krystyna Linden, Tel Aviv, Israel

Krystyna Linden was born on September 9, 1942 in the Warsaw ghetto. Her father: Leon Lutek Lindenbaum (1910-1943) was an engineer and her mother was Rozalia Rutka Labenska (?-1943).

On the 6th of September 1942, as the “great deportation” from the Warsaw ghetto continued, all the remaining inmates of the ghetto were forced to gather at a square at Zamenhoff and Gesia Street. Only 32,000 Jews had “life numbers” which meant that they were employed by German workshops in the ghetto. Rutka Labenska Lindenbaum was nine months pregnant and stood between her sister-in-law Renia Landau (later Rebeka Ilutovich, 1917-?) and Renia’s husband Michal Landau. They covered her bulging belly with a raincoat and due to a complete miracle passed the German selections.

Rutka and Lutek Lindenbaum had a small room at the territory of the Schultze workshop in the ghetto. On the 9th of September 1942 Rutka gave birth to a baby girl with the assistance of Dr. Solowiejczyk. The Germans who were guards in the workshop wanted to throw the newborn baby out, but the Jews working there bribed them. Two weeks later the baby was wrapped up in newspapers and a good friend of the family, a Polish woman Mary Gasinska, smuggled her in a wicker basket to the Aryan side of Warsaw. The baby - Krystyna Krysia was taken to a village Żółwin, near Podkowa Lesna near Warsaw. A childless woman, Michalina Janiszewska, agreed to take Krysia in. She received money for Krysia’s upkeep and indeed kept her for almost five years.

Renia and her husband fled the ghetto in February 1943. Lutek and Rutka, Krysia’s parents, managed to escape the ghetto just before the uprising in the ghetto, in April 1943. They found a hiding place with Mr. Czechorowski in the Grochow sections of Warsaw. Lutek and Rutka spent whole days laying down in a hideout and were not able to move. Renia “moved” in with her brother and sister-in-law and her husband was taken to hide somewhere else. The three hiding Jews were unable to move, to cough, sneeze or to use the bathroom during the day and most of the evening. After a few weeks, the owner of the house ordered them out under the pretext that the Germans are coming. He took them to an open field and left them there. After a rainy night Renia decided to leave and look for her husband. Lutek and Rutka tried to dissuade her, and she tried to persuade them to join her. Renia managed to reach safety and later her husband. She found out from Zygmunt Podsiadly the policeman, who helped her along the way that Lutek and Rutka were discovered by a Polish couple in the field. The couple called Polish police and they transferred the Jewish couple to the Gestapo, who executed them at a nearby cemetery. Renia has all her information about the death of her brother Lutek and his wife Rutka from the Polish policeman Zygmunt. In her memoir she writes that till today, 2006, she still feels guilty that she left them alone in the field.

Renia and Michal Landau reached “Hotel Polski” and registered with Palestinian certificates as siblings: Rebecca and Leon Lindenbaum. On July 7, 1943 they were then taken together with some 2,800 other Jews to Bergen-Belsen concentration camp. Those who had Palestinian papers (some 300) survived and others were deported to Auschwitz and murdered there.

Another sister of Lutek: Sara Lindenbaum (1908-?) married Bernard Kuniegis before the war. Their son Jerzy Edward Kuniegis was born in the mid 1930s. Jerzyk was hidden outside the ghetto, but he was never recovered. His parents lived under false identities of Waclaw and Janina Kierski. They survived the war and immediately after the liberation recovered Krysia from Mrs. Janiszewska. The matter was complicated and they had to use the help of the Rabbi David Kahane, but in the final account they adopted Krysia. For complicated psychological reasons the adoptive parents never discussed the facts with Krysia and claimed that they were her biological parents. They never told her about the existence of Jerzyk, their son and her cousin.

During the first years after the war, Mrs. Janiszewska arrived in Warsaw every year at Christmas time to bring Krysia a small tree and treats, but the little girl hid from her. In 1954 Krysia looked through different family papers and discovered that she was in fact adopted but she didn't reveal this to her parents. In 1962, after one year of law school at the Warsaw University, Krysia was sent to Israel to collect inheritance. Her parents followed soon after. Krystyna Linden is mother to two daughters Ruti and Yael and has three grandchildren: Bar, Tomer and Ilay. She resides in Tel Aviv, Israel.