

Maybe the phone that I'm using.

OK.

OK. This is a United States Holocaust Memorial Museum interview with Mr. Henry Birnbrey, on September 13th, 2016, and it is in addition to the interview that the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum had with Mr. Birnbrey of October 22nd, 2015. It's an addendum to that interview. So Mr. Birnbrey, I'm very glad that we're able to set the record straight today, and I appreciate your wanting to do so. Can you tell me a little bit about what was misspoken in the other interview that you want to make sure is now corrected?

When you asked me the question as to the name of the landlady that kicked us out of the apartment, I inadvertently gave you the last name of a righteous gentile instead of the name of the landlady.

What was the actual name of this landlady?

Frau Lindemann.

Frau Lindemann.

Yes.

Do you remember her first name?

No. I don't think I ever knew that.

You don't think you ever knew that. So that was Frau Lindemann, but now tell me, the name Kornhagen, which is what you originally called her, who was Kornhagen? Was this a man or a woman?

It was a man. His first name was Fritz, and he actually began life as an SS man.

Oh my.

And he fell in love with my cousin.

Mm-hmm.

And he quit the SS and tried desperately to move to Israel, to Palestine. And he bought himself a motorcycle and tried to figure out a way to get out of Germany through Russia to that part of Asia, so he could cross the continent on a motorcycle. And somehow, he could never put it together, but he practically lived with our family after that.

So tell me, was this after the war? Was this during the war, before?

No, no, this was in 1937 and 1938.

Ah, I see. Was this with one of your cousins who survived?

Yes.

OK. What was her name?

Alice Jacobson.

Alice Jacobson, and did he try to get her out too? Was this the idea?

No, no, she was already in Palestine.

Ah, and he wanted to find his way there.

Yes.

And in what way would you say he was a righteous gentile?

Well, because he denounced the-- he quit the SS and became more or less a part of our family.

Ah, I see, I see, and do you know what his fate was?

No, I do not. I have googled it several times and never could find it.

So Fritz Kornhagen who also lived in Dortmund. Yeah?

Yes.

Was this person who inadvertently the last name you gave to your landlady.

Yes.

Mm-hmm, and when was the last time that you saw him? Do you remember?

No, he told me goodbye when I left Germany, in March of '38.

Together with your parents then?

Yes.

I see, and that was it. And from that time on, you never knew what happened to him?

No, because there was no communication after I came to the United States.

Yeah.

The only communication I had a little bit was with my parents while they were still alive.

Yes.

But all mail was censored, so I didn't dare send him a letter.

Yeah.

And what about Mrs. Lindemann? Did you ever find out what happened to her? Do you know?

To who?

To that landlady who turned your family out.

No, I have no idea.

OK. OK. Is there anything else that you'd like to add to your testimony that you might have forgotten from before or

you'd like to emphasize again?

No, the only thing I was embarrassed that I made that big mistake. Although, I don't think anybody would know the difference, still you never know.

Well, it's important. It's important for the record, and I appreciate that you wanted to correct it.

Yes.

So thank you, Mr. Birnbrey.

Well, thank you.

OK. We've got that down now. It's Mr. Fritz Kornhagen, and then I will conclude our interview. And we will make this audio addition part of the record, so that people will be able to listen to this, as well as to your original interview.

OK.

OK. Thank you very much.

Thank you.

And so I'll say this concludes the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum additional interview with Mr. Henry Birnbrey, on September 13th, 2016. OK.

OK.