

# Holocaust Survivor Biography: Dr. Charles Rojer

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Charles Rojer was born in Brussels Belgium in 1934. His father was a successful leather goods maker and his mother took care of the children. They lived in a neighborhood with Catholic neighbors.

In May 1940, the German army invaded Belgium and the family fled to France by train but was stopped by German troops who seized the train and marched the passengers to Fortel, France. They then found transport back to their home in Belgium and tried to resume a normal life.

Charles and his two older sisters, Cecile and Anny returned to school, which was located approximately three blocks from home behind the local Catholic Church. Conditions were deteriorating quickly though. Food was scarce at home so the Belgium government tried to provide some extra food at school, including a vitamin supplement and bar of chocolate for each student. Additionally laws were passed that restricted his father's business and then everyone was forced to wear the yellow Star of David.

With the threat of capture looming, his parents found him a safe hiding place with the help of the Belgian Resistance. Unfortunately his parents were captured and deported to Auschwitz. The Belgian Resistance then helped hide his two sisters. Over the next four years Charles was hidden in a variety of safe houses provided by the Belgian resistance.

In December 1944 Charles was liberated by the American army near Stavelot, Belgium. With the help of his Uncle who moved to American in January 1947, Charles moved to the Philadelphia area in the summer of 1948.

Charles eventually graduated from Central High School, then Temple University and Hanemann Medical School, eventually becoming Ear, Nose, and Throat and Head and Neck Surgeon. He is retired and has three children and nine grand-children, his personal victory over Hitler.



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## Witness to History Project:

The Witness To History Project is designed to further the message and lessons of the Holocaust by direct interaction between students or interested adults and Holocaust survivors. Participants "adopt" a survivor by learning his or her unique account of via listening to the survivor tell his/her story, asking questions, writing a biography, reviewing a videotape, and memorizing and re-telling the story to others. Ultimately, the participant will have the lifelong job of educating others about the Holocaust by sharing this personal narrative. Contact the Holocaust Awareness Museum to participate.

**Holocaust Awareness Museum and Education Center**

[www.hamec.org](http://www.hamec.org)

**Kleinlife, Suite 210, 10100 Jamison Ave, Philadelphia 19116**

**Phone: (215) 464-4701 Fax: (215) 464-4703 Email: [info@hamec.org](mailto:info@hamec.org)**

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