

ROGER FRANÇOIS PAPERS, 1936-1990
2005.25.1

United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Archives
100 Raoul Wallenberg Place SW
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Descriptive summary

Title: Roger François papers

Dates: 1936-1990

Accession number: 2005.25.1

Creator: François, Roger, 1914-1993

Extent: 1 linear foot (2 oversize boxes)

Repository: United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Archives, 100 Raoul Wallenberg Place SW, Washington, DC 20024-2126

Abstract: The Roger François papers consist of a scrapbook and diary documenting the life and experiences of Roger François, an active member of the Belgian Resistance during World War II who was captured and imprisoned at the Buchenwald and Flossenbürg concentration camps. The diary was written in Dutch by Roger from 1944-1945 and documents his life and experiences during the war, including recounting his experiences imprisoned in Buchenwald and Flossenbürg. The scrapbook contains original and copies of wartime and post-war documents including a birth verification, identification and membership cards, a letter granting a leave of absence to get married, personal and professional correspondence, work documents, and documents and certificates relating to his various medals awarded to Roger as well as wartime and post-war photographs.

Languages: Dutch, English, French, German, Flemish

Administrative Information

Access: Collection is open for use, but is stored offsite. Please contact the Reference Desk more than seven days prior to visit in order to request access.

Reproduction and use: Collection is available for use. Material may be protected by copyright. Please contact reference staff for further information.

Preferred citation: (Identification of item), Roger François papers (2005.25.1), United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Archives, Washington, DC.

Acquisition information: Guy Francois donated the Roger François papers to the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in 2005.

Separated material: Medals awarded to Roger for his service as a Belgian resistance fighter have been catalogued separately as objects (2005.25.4-.10) and *This must not happen again!* (2005.25.11), *Buchenwald* (2005.25.2), and *Duitsche Gruwelen in het Vlaamsche Land* (2005.25.3) have been catalogued as publications.

Accruals: Accruals may have been received since this collection was first processed, see archives catalog at collections.ushmm.org for further information.

Processing history: Morgan Voth, February 2019.

Biographical note

Roger Leon François (1914-1993) was born in Ledeborg, Belgium and served in the Belgian Army throughout the 1930s. He was granted leave from the Congo to marry Johanna F. on March 12, 1936. In May 1940, Germany invaded and occupied Belgium. Roger became a member of the Organisation Militaire Belge de Résistance (OMBR), the Belgian Military Resistance Organization. He participated in sabotage actions and actively assisted Jews to go into hiding to avoid deportation by the German authorities. He was arrested in Brussels by the Germans in 1942, and deported to Flossenbürg, then Buchenwald concentration camp. His prisoner number was 60481. He may have been released on June 17, 1944, due to ill health pursuant to a prisoner release agreement negotiated by the Dutch. Buchenwald was liberated by American troops in April 1945, not long before the war ended in May. Roger was honored with multiple awards and medals for his wartime service by the Belgian government. After the war Roger resumed his service in the Belgian Army. He worked as a photographer for the Belgian embassy, as a cryptographer for NATO, and was stationed in the Belgian Embassy in Washington DC for three years. In 1960, he retired from the military after twenty years. He and his wife Johanna had four children, two boys and two girls including Guy (b.1950) and Arlette.

Scope and content of collection

The Roger François papers consist of a scrapbook and diary documenting the life and experiences of Roger François, an active member of the Belgian Resistance during World War II who was captured and imprisoned at the Buchenwald and Flossenbürg concentration camps. The diary was written in Dutch by Roger from 1944-1945 and documents his life and experiences during the war, including recounting his experiences imprisoned in Buchenwald and Flossenbürg. The scrapbook contains original and copies of wartime and post-war documents including a birth verification, identification and membership cards, a letter granting a leave of absence to get married, personal and professional correspondence, work documents, and documents and certificates relating to his various medals awarded to Roger as well as wartime and post-war photographs.

System of arrangement

The Roger François papers are arranged as a single series.

Indexing terms

François, Roger, 1914-1993.

Buchenwald (Concentration camp)

Flossenbürg (Concentration camp)

Concentration camp inmates' writings.
World War, 1939-1945--Underground movements--Belgium.

Belgium.

Correspondence.
Diaries.
Photographs.

CONTAINER LIST

Series 1: Roger François papers, approximately 1936-1990

| Box | Title |
|-----|----------------------|
| 1 | Diary, 1944-1945 |
| 2 | Scrapbook, 1936-1990 |