

## ROSE MEYERHOFF

Born 1933 Antwerp, Belgium. Moved to Brussels. Father, Hillel Jacobowitz, a cabinet maker. Mother Gitlau Genicow. Parents divorced and she lived with mother in Brussels. Sister lived with an uncle. Yiddish and French spoken at home. Secular upbringing with no Jewish education. Many gentile friends. Left Brussels with mother when Germans invaded in 1940 and walked to Paris. They were supposed to connect with uncle and sister, but did not. Walked back to Brussels, again on foot. Looked for family but police told them they had been killed in a bombing raid. In 1942, Jews banned from school. Summer 1942 she went to a day camp run by a Catholic priest who was killed by the Germans for allowing Jews in the camp. September 1942 mother taken and Meyerhoff taken by mother's friend to avoid capture. Went to Benedictine nunnery/orphanage and given Cristian name, Christine De Graaf. Other Jewish children there as well and they initially did not participate in the morning mass, but did later on to avoid suspicion for being apart from the rest of the children. When SS came to search for Jews, nuns got them out before they came. Happened 6-7 times. Has warm feeling for nuns for what they did and risked. September, 1944, Allies came after 2 ½ years in convent. Nuns had kept them posted as to Allies progress after D-Day. They stayed in the convent and in December 1944 were joined by more Jewish kids from Weisenback, Belgium who were fleeing the German counterattack during the Battle of the Bulge in the nearby Ardennes. Once attack repelled, she left the convent in 1/45, going to La'ilde, a secular camp near Brussels. After a year and a half, she moved to a Jewish camp near Weisenback where she learned about Jewish holidays and Jewish songs.

By 1947, HIAS trying to connect children with Jewish relatives in the US. She had an uncle in NYC but it took a while to get proper paperwork because she was considered Polish due to her parents' birthplaces despite being born in Belgium. Came to NYC in 1947 and lived with uncle who adopted her. Finished high school. Met husband and moved to MN to work for Honeywell in 1959. Does not belong to a synagogue as she is part of only Jewish couple in Fridley, MN. She doe belong to Holocaust Study Committee which records survivor/liberator recollections. Has three children and one grandchild. Recalls a Jewish friend in La'ilde whose parents were in the resistance and she ran messages for them.