



Resources

Holocaust Unit

Perpetrator - Resource C

A Testimony of an Eye Witness to the Holocaust

Mr. X was born in Turin. at Corso Re Umberto 75. His father Cesare worked for the manufacturing firm Ganz and spent much of his time working abroad in Hungary, where Ganz was based. In 1925 he entered the Felice Rignon primary school in Turin. A thin and delicate child, he was shy and thought of himself as being ugly, but he excelled academically.

In September 1930 he entered the Massimo d'Azeglio Royal Gymnasium a year ahead of normal entrance requirements. In 1933, as was expected of all young Italian schoolboys, he joined the Avanguardisti movement for young Fascists. He avoided rifle drill by joining the ski division, and then spent every Saturday during the season on the slopes above Turin.

In July 1934 at the age of 14, he sat the exams for the Massimo d'Azeglio liceo classico, a Lyceum (sixth form) specialising in the classics and was admitted that autumn.

Upon reading *Concerning the Nature of Things* by Sir William Bragg, he decided that he wanted to be a chemist. Mr. X matriculated from the school in 1937.

At the end of the summer he passed his exams and in October he enrolled at the Univeristy of Turin to study chemistry. The following February he graduated onto the full-time chemistry course.

In June 1940 Italy declared war against Britain and France, and the first air raids on Turin began two days later. his studies continued during the bombardments, and an additional strain on the family was imposed when his father became bedridden with bowel cancer.

Mr. X survived the war but died in 1987 aged 67.