

Erich Heine was born on May 13, 1886 in Neubrandenburg. His parents were Martha Heine, née Levy born in 1860, and Max Heine, born in 1849, a horse trader, both Jewish. Erich was a dressmaker by profession. He had two older siblings, Georg, born in 1884, a horse-trader as well, and Selma, born in 1883, a weaver. Both later moved to Chemnitz with their families.

It was Erich Heine’s great-uncle Isidor Heine who was the last principal of the synagogue in Neubrandenburg. He died in 1942, the day before his deportation to a concentration camp. It seems that he was the last Jew who lived in Neubrandenburg, after his death his hometown was declared „free of Jews“. Several family members on Erich’s father’s side were deported and died in the camps.

Erich, after moving from Mecklenburg-Vorpommern to Berlin, stayed with his mother who was a widow by then, in Deidesheimer Str. 9 in Wilmersdorf.

In a raid in June 1938 Erich was imprisoned and deported to the concentration camp Buchenwald near Weimar on June 14.



Photo: private
 From left (standing): Hans and Selma Heine, Georg and Erich Heine, Georg’s wife Margarethe (the couple at the very left might be Selma’s parents). From left (sitting): Martha and her granddaughter Kaete with two of her sons.

This so-called „June Action“ was officially initiated to get „work-shy“ men off the streets but was actually meant to provide the Nazi regime with cheap male labor. Out of 9,000 men captured 2,300 were Jews.

ASE	Haftling	Erich Heine	471
Beruf:	Schneider	geboren am: 13.5.86	in: Neubrandenburg
Wohnort:	Schwester: Selma Bernstejn, Chemnitz-Sa. Horststr. 3		
Eingel. am:	15.6.38 / 7 Uhr von Berlin	Entl. am:	2.7.38 / 11 Uhr nach Gestorben

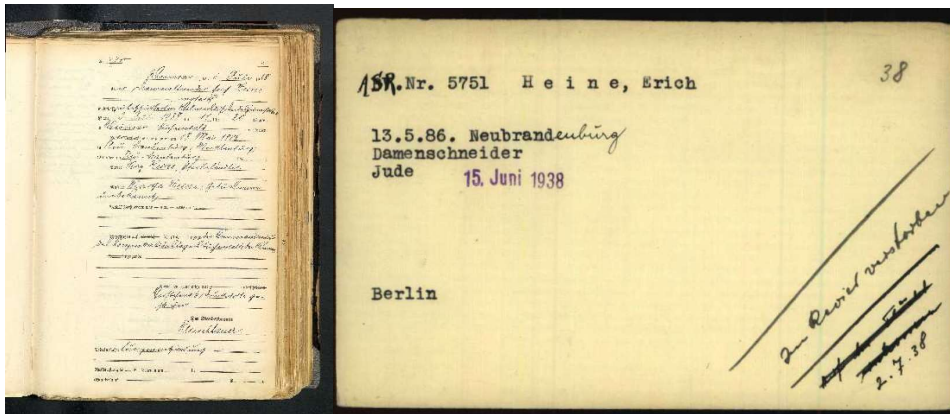
Bei Einlieferung abgegeben:			
1/ Hut/Haube	1/ Strogon	1/ Brieftasche/Papierre	1/ Kamm Spiegel
1/ B. Schuhe/Stiefel	1/ Bänder	1/ Bänder	1/ Koffer/Messer
1/ B. Strümpfe	1/ Borkband	1/ Aus-Beiz-Karte	
1/ B. Waschlappen	1/ Leibriemen	1/ Drehtleibst	
1/ Mantel	1/ B. Sockenhalter	1/ Hüllfederhalter	1/ Koffer/Werkzeuge
1/ Hut	1/ Rittel	1/ Wässh.-Handtuche	1/ Wässh.-Handtuche
1/ Gürtel	1/ Stragethüchse	1/ Wässh.-Handtuche	1/ Wässh.-Handtuche
1/ Wäsche	1/ Pullover	1/ Gabelstich	1/ Uhr mit Kette
1/ Hemd	1/ Taschentuch	1/ Feuerzeug/Walzer	1/ Fernrohr
1/ Unterhose	1/ B. Sockenfüße	1/ Tabak	1/ Pfeife

Handwritten notes: *Hand Heine 6.5.48. M. 2.6.38*

Stamp: *Dirig. Lungenentzündung*

Stamp: *L.T.S. FOTO No. 1073*

Erich Heine died in the camp’s ward on July 2, 1938, two weeks after he was imprisoned. Officially he was diagnosed with „pneumonia“, an entry in his Buchenwald death certificate replacing a first handwritten entry „shot when trying to escape“.



His urn was sent to Berlin, and he was buried on the Jewish Cemetery in Weissensee, next to his mother Martha who had passed away in 1937. There are no gravestones, but the burial site is known to the family.



His sister Selma born in 1883, had managed to escape with her husband Hans Bernstein and their children Kaete (Kate) born in 1906, Fritz (Fred) born in 1916, and Karl Ludwig (Charles) born in 1920. Starting from Chemnitz in 1938 via Switzerland, boarding a ship in Southampton, UK and via Cuba, to New York finally finding a new livelihood in California in 1943. Selma passed away in 1970.

His brother Fritz, whilst being a soldier in the British Army, died in 1942 in Wales, UK. Erich Heine's niece, Kate Bernstein married to Heinz Joseph Franck had two children. She passed away in 1952 in California. Charles Bernstein was drafted in the American Army in 1942 and later worked as a farmer. He passed away in 1990.

Erich Heine's brother Georg, born in 1884, with his wife Margarethe, their daughter and two sons Gerhard and Hans managed to escape as well. In 1939 they boarded the steamer „Njassa“ and found shelter in Kenya for many years where Georg passed away in 1963.

Georg and Margarethe's son Gerhard later had a son called Eric (after his great-uncle Erich). About Hans we have no information.

Georg and Margarethe's granddaughter (née Heine and married Joseph) had a son Stephen Joseph who donated the Stolperstein for his great-uncle. He was born in Kenya and lived there until he was 11. From there the family moved to California and only many years later and just nearby they found family members they had never heard of before.

Sources:

Family information

Death certificate Erich Heine issued by Buchenwald concentration camp on July 2, 1938 and death record issued by Weimar on July 5, 1938

Yad Vashem

[ancestry.de](https://www.ancestry.de)

www.juden-in-mecklenburg.de

Stolperstein donor: Stephen Joseph, USA, grandnephew of Erich Heine