

# Hermann Pineas

## Introduction

The neurologist Dr Hermann Pineas is frequently mentioned in the documents. He prepared expert reports for persecuted persons, documenting the psychological damage caused by persecution; 45 of the reports are included in the documents. He signed the reports with the signature "Fr. Chefarzt der Nervenabteilung des Krankenhauses der jüdischen Gemeinde Berlin". In addition to the medical diagnoses, there are also descriptions by the applicants of their situation during the persecution. Hermann and Hertha Pineas were themselves persecuted as German Jews.

The following description is based on documents and manuscripts by Hermann and Hertha Pineas. Two manuscripts were the basis: The manuscript "Unsere Schicksale seit dem 30.1.1933 " (Our fates since 30.1.1933) Memmingen/Bavaria, 22.5.1946, 53 pages, written by Hermann and Hertha Pineas, and the manuscript "Meine illegale Zeit vom 6. März 1943, Datum des Untertauchens, bis Herbst 1944, der gemeinsamen Illegalität mit meinem Mann und Einmündung in seine Memoiren" (My illegal time from 6 March 1943, date of going into hiding, until autumn 1944, the joint illegality with my husband and the entry into his memoirs), 18 pages.

There were also numerous letters, identity cards and documents available.

This is only a summarised account; the documents go into great detail about her experiences in Berlin (discrimination against Jews, events during deportations of Jews, work in hospitals and as a volunteer for Jewish welfare). They also describe the everyday life of a "deportee" - the constant fear of denunciation and controls, the search for accommodation, the attempts to obtain identity papers.

## Biography

He was born in Düsseldorf in 1892, went to grammar school there and met Leo Baeck for the first time, who taught Jewish religion here. He trained as a doctor in Bonn, Würzburg and Berlin and went to the Eastern Front in the summer of 1915. During the First World War, he was a "field doctor" in the 372 Infantry Regiment and was awarded the Iron Cross 2nd Class on 30 June 1916. On 16 January 1918, he was appointed "Assistenzarzt in Reserve" (assistant doctor in reserve). He was seriously wounded in October 1918, leaving him with a stiff right arm. Documented by a "certificate for German severely wounded soldiers".



Figure 1: Hermann Pineas - Certificate for severely war-disabled persons

In 1925, he joined the "Reichsbund jüdischer Frontkämpfer" (R.j.F.), district group "Zoo" in Berlin. He cites the following experience as the reason:

"I joined the R.J.F. relatively late, in 1925. The immediate reason for becoming a member was the following experience: one day a uniformed troop in steel helmets marched along Berlin's Tauentzienstrasse singing the song: 'Wenns Judenblut vom Messer spritzt, Dann gehts nochmal so gut!' I then went to the office of the Zoo (logical garden) district group of the Berlin chapter of the R.j.F. for the enrolment."<sup>1</sup>

From 1935, he headed the Moabit local group. Pineas gave "lectures there and on invitation in numerous other local groups on a variety of topics, by no means exclusively Jewish". These events were also observed by the Gestapo; Pineas mentions the presence of Reinhard Heydrich at one meeting. The R.j.F. also supported the "juedische Sport- und Jugendbewegung" and Pineas was therefore "often at the Grunewald sports ground of the Berlin Jewish community; I was also often a guest at meetings of Jewish youth groups".<sup>2</sup>

In 1927, he lost his first wife and married his second wife Hertha. He worked as an assistant and later as senior physician in Berlin and on 1 July 1939 became head of the nerve department of the Jewish hospital in Berlin, Iranischestrass. His licence to practise medicine would have expired on 30 August 1938<sup>3</sup>, but on 12 August 1938 he received permission from the Reich Medical Association to continue practising as a "Jewish doctor" and was only allowed to "treat Jews apart from his wife and legitimate children"<sup>4</sup>. Pineas writes: "The war invalids among them, front-line fighters and those who were allowed to continue practising medicine for special reasons were no longer allowed to call themselves doctors, but had to call themselves Jewish practitioners:"

He also worked for a short time (1939) for the "Jüdische Wohlfahrts- und Jugendpflegestelle, Bezirks-Stelle, Nordwest-Charlottenburg". He also worked for the "Jüdische Kinderhilfe e.V." until 30 June 1939 and worked in the administration of the "Israelitischer Gemeindebund" until July 1939. His wife Hertha worked unpaid for the "Jüdische Kultusvereinigung zu Berlin e.V." from May 1933 to 16 May 1942<sup>5</sup>.

From the beginning of 1938, the family tried to emigrate by contacting German friends who had emigrated or relatives who had emigrated abroad. However, these attempts were unsuccessful. On 29 June 1939, the two youngest children, Hanno and Rainer (aged 9), were able to emigrate to Scotland.

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1 Erinnerungen an den Reichsbund jüdischer Frontsoldaten, 10.7.1978 (Memories of the Reich Association of Jewish Frontline Soldiers)

2 Erinnerungen an den Reichsbund jüdischer Frontsoldaten, 10.7.1978

3 Vierte Verordnung zum Reichsbürgergesetz vom 25. Juli 1938, §1

4 Vierte Verordnung zum Reichsbürgergesetz vom 25. Juli 1938,§3 (2)

5 Bescheinigung der Personalverwaltung vom 19.9.1942

Their son Theo had already emigrated to Palestine in 1938. Hermann Pineas' mother - Therese Pineas, 12.11.1860 in Vreden, née Oppenheimer<sup>6</sup> - was deported to Theresienstadt on 14.9.1942<sup>7</sup> and murdered there on 2.7.1944.

Hermann and Hertha Pineas had been preparing to go into hiding for a year. They had obtained forged identity cards and secure accommodation for everyone, including luggage from their flat. They went into hiding on 6 March 1943 after being taken to the Levetsostrasse collection camp with others on 4 March, but were released there again. Initially, Hertha Pineas stayed in Berlin, where she had to constantly change flats to avoid detection. The hope of finding permanent accommodation was not realised - the hosts usually asked her to leave the flat again after a few days. Hertha Pineas writes: "In the two months that I was in Berlin, I had different accommodation every three days, and sometimes at shorter notice, and was travelling and on the train all day to find the new one". At this time, Hertha Pineas only had a "badly forged" (postal) identity card in the name of "Josephine Günther", as the attempt to obtain an identity card had failed.

Hertha Pineas was supported by the "retired district court director Sello, author of a well-known work on criminal law, baptised Jew, well acquainted with Leo Baeck, Christian by marriage". Leo Baeck was also known to Hermann Pineas, he had been a former religion teacher at his school.

On 6 May 1943, she was able to travel to Stuttgart to Pastor Kurt Müller and Miss Kopske, who took her on to Heimsheim to Pastor Fausel and his wife. From there she travelled to Schwenningen to the vicar Margarete Hoffer (where her husband was also staying for a short time in the meantime), and at times also to Pastor Schaefer. She later found accommodation in a nursery in Königsfeld/Black Forest and in September 1943, at Margarete Hoffer's request, in the vicarage in Gerstetten. Then an estate in Durlach, then Suessen near Stuttgart (5 to 17 November 1943), where she also received a new postal identity card.

Hermann Pineas went to Vienna, then to Linz and St. Pölten. Here, like his wife in Berlin, he was in constant danger of being arrested by the Gestapo. His problem was that he had neither an identity card nor ration cards, his only identification was a blank form of a trade licence that he had bought in Berlin for 3000 RM, plus a blank form from I.G. Farben. It was "provided with my photograph and filled out accordingly - written by me and my wife - and was of great use to me for hotel accommodation". And he had "a 'genuine' (i.e. unaltered) postal identity card issued in the name of Hans Perger in response to my business licence".

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6 Schreiben des Synagogenvereins Vreden vom 3.12.1938

7 Deported with Transport I/65, Train Da 514 from Berlin, Germany to Theresienstadt, Ghetto, Czechoslovakia on 14/09/1942. Quelle: Yad Vashem, Deportation Database





Hertha Pineas alias Johanna Günther's postal identity card from November 1943



Postal identity card of Hermann Pineas alias Dr Hans Perger

On 14 July 1943, Hermann Pineas arrived in Stuttgart at the invitation of Mrs Hoffer.

An odyssey through Württemberg followed for both of them - various places of residence, mostly with protestant clergymen and followers of the confessing church who also provided them with the necessary food ration cards etc. Hermann Pineas also returned briefly to Vienna - until September 1944.

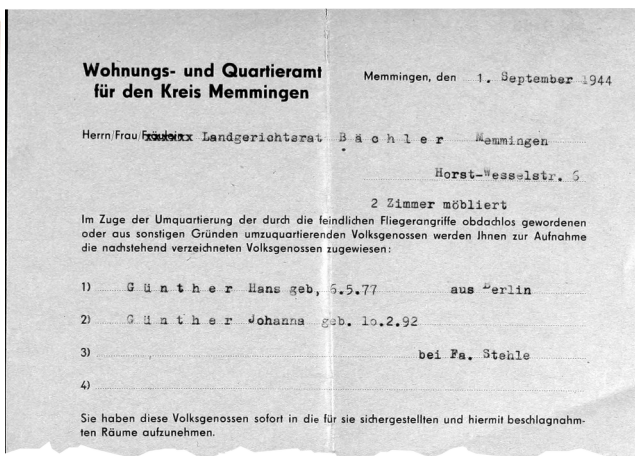
Registering to receive ration cards in the summer of 1944 had been crucial to being able to start a "civilian life". "Mrs Hoffer and Mrs Braun had obtained deregistration from their food offices through church-minded employees". In the small town of Lautrach, they managed to register for food ration cards and with the police without the necessary documents.

Hermann Pineas had already received a new (postal) identity card in the name of "Dr Hans Günther" at the beginning of 1944, but had made himself 15 years older in order to avoid labour service. He had previously been "Hans Perger, representative of I.G. Farben".

In order to get a flat, Hermann Pineas dared to register for "voluntary labour service" in Memmingen on 1 September 1944. The registration was successful and they were also allocated a flat.



Postal identity card Hermann Pineas alias Dr Hans Günther



Allocation of a flat

From 7 September 1944, he was already working for the "Werkzeug und Maschinenfabrik Wilhelm Stehle Memmingen/Bay.". On 29 November 1944, they received identification cards under the names "Johanna Günther" and "Dr Hans Günther"



Identification card Hertha Pines, alias Johanna Günther from November 1944

Identification card Hermann Pines alias Hans Günther from November 1944

Pines and his wife emigrated to the USA and he worked as a neurologist in New York from 1952 to 1969.

Timeline			
Date	Hertha	Hermann	Remarks
1933	Berlin	Berlin	Age of sons Theo: 11, Hanno 9, Rainer 2 1/5
Beginning of 1938	Berlin	Berlin	Withdrawal of passports and driving licences
11.7.1938	Berlin	Berlin	Delivery of an affidavit from Willy Sauer at the US Consulate General, rejection because insufficient
October 1938	Berlin	Berlin	Theo lands in Palestine
29.6.1939	Berlin	Berlin	Hanno and Rainer will be sent to Scotland through the mediation of Gerhart Rosenberg
1.7.1939	Berlin	Berlin	Hermann Pineas :Takeover of the management of the mental ward of the Jewish Hospital
October 1942	Berlin	Berlin	Escape attempt planned: with french Workers' passports
January 1943	Berlin	Berlin	Escape attempt planned: on Swedish ship to England
February 1943	Berlin	Berlin	Escape attempt planned: on foot to Switzerland
6.3.1943	Berlin	Vienna/Linz/ St. Pölten	Living in illegality
7.5.1943	Berlin	Linz	Hermann Pineas receives a postal identity card in the name "Hans Perger"
June 1943	Schwenningen	Linz	Hertha Pineas lives with Pastor Schaefer and Miss Hoffer
13.7.1943	Schwenningen	Vienna	Departure from Vienna to Stuttgart, stay in Schwenningen, invitation by Miss Hoffer
August 1943	Königsfeld	Schwenningen	Four weeks at the Bayer-Schlee nursery: "I was able to sleep in the same bed for 4 weeks"
6./7.9.1943	Königsfeld	Return journey to Vienna	accommodation with Mrs Ida Bentz, assistance by Senior Church Councillor Prof Franz Fischer and colleagues
1.10.1943	Königsfeld	Return journey to Dorschhausen	to Mrs Hoffer, continue to Biberach , stay there until 22.12.1943
September / October 1943	Gerstetten	Biberach	Hertha Pineas receives "dubious" postal identity card by way of guarantee by Mrs Braun in the name of "Johanna Günther"
20.10.1943	Ulm	Ulm	Both meet in Ulm
29.10.1943	Schnaitheim	Schnaitheim	Stay with Pastor Wasser



		Timeline -continued	
5.11. - 17.11 1943	Suessen	Biberach	Hertha Pineas: Sewing a trousseau, new postcard "according to my wishes" thanks to a guarantee from Mrs Sel. Hertha Pineas makes herself 6 years older
November/ December 1943	Rittnerhof (estate near Durlach)	Biberach	Hertha Pineas: Household help
22.12.1943	Schwenningen	Schwenningen	with Mrs Hoffer, stay planned until February 1944
8.2. 1944	Schwenningen	Schwenningen	new postal ID card in the name of "Dr. Hans Günther" with the help of Dr Hans Kohler. Pineas makes himself 15 years older
10.2.1944	Schwenningen	Schwenningen	Hertha breaks her wrist, stays until April 1944
1 May 1944	Gniebel	Stuttgart-Zuffenhausen	Hertha Pineas: 2 months of nursing care; Hermann Pineas: In Stuttgart with pastors Guembel/Dr Werner
? 1944	Gniebel	Wankheim	Stay with Pastor Richard Goelz, cancellation of the ration cards in Gerstetten by "church-minded employees of the Nutrition Office" Gerstetten with the help of from Miss Hoffer and Miss Braun
3 July 1944	Neckarentzlingen	Wankheim Kirchheim/Teck	Hertha Pineas: Household help; Hermann Pineas: to Kirchheim/Teck near former pastor Paul Schempp
August 1944	Lautrach	Lautrach	Lautrach near Memmingen, successful registration with the police, registration of ration cards, accommodation arranged by a long-time friend "Anna"
1.9.1944			Registration for voluntary labour service in Memmingen
7.9.1944	Memmingen	Memmingen	Start of work at "Tools and machinery Wilhelm Stehle" factory
November 1944	New identification card	New identification card	necessary, as postal ID cards were no longer valid
26.4.1945			Liberation by American troops

## Sources

- Leo Baeck Institute, for the illustrations or quoted documents see Hermann O. Pineas Collection

- Further data were taken from the manuscript by Hermann and Hertha Pineas "Unsere Schicksale seit dem 30.1.1933" Memmingen/Bavaria, 22 May 1946, source: Center for Jewish History,
- A brochure based on this manuscript, among others, entitled "Gerechte unter den Völkern. Die stillen Retter untergetauchter Juden im Nordschwarzwald und im Oberen Gäu", authored by a team from Nagold Technical High School (p. 7 ff). Download: The silent rescuers
- Margarete Hoffer: <https://pro-stolpersteine-vs.de/biographien/index.php?storyNumber=18>

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