

AUGUSTE ELISABETH HEYMANN (née EICHENBERG)* 1891
Söbendieken 8 (Altona, Nienstedten)

Suicide 26.10.1941 Hamburg

Auguste Elisabeth Heymann, née Eichenberg, born 6.10.1891,
suicide 26.10.1941

Auguste Elisabeth Heymann was the daughter of the Jewish Hamburg trader Paul Eichenberg and his wife Henriette Gertrud, née Hesse.

In 1922, her second marriage was to the Hamburg lawyer Dr Georg Heymann who was 15 years older than her. In the same year, her daughter Gertrude Elisabeth (*Lila*) was born. From her first marriage, she had a son Günther Haas, born in 1913, who lived under the same roof at Söbendieken 8, Nienstedten. Both children were baptised in the Protestant religion, as had been their parents. Georg Heymann ran a successful and respected lawyer/notary practice in Altona housed in the Hotel Kaiserhof building. Among his clients he counted the Reemtsma brothers (*leading tobacco company*). Because of his 'fully Jewish background' – both his parents, Julius Heymann and Louise, née Melchior, were Jewish – he was no longer permitted, from 1933 onwards, to practise his profession of lawyer and notary, being then allowed only limited work as a tax advisor. This situation led to serious heart problems culminating in a heart attack in April 1936 from which he died. His doctor later testified before the compensation office that "he had been, until the moment actions were taken by the national socialists, a completely healthy human being full of the joys of life."

After her husband's death, Auguste Elisabeth Heymann inherited the land as well as capital and stocks and shares held at the Deutsche Bank and from this fortune, she and her children continued to live. Her daughter Gertrud Elisabeth attended the Bertha-Lyceum in Groß Flottbek after completing junior school (Volksschule) in Nienstedten. In 1938, the 15-year-old was expelled from school for 'racialist' reasons. She found no other school which would have her. Consequently, she then attended the private Milberg high school (Realschule) for girls in Klopstockstraße, until this school too was forced to close. Gertrud

Elisabeth tried to find an apprenticeship as a physiotherapist but in vain. She now started planning her emigration. In April 1939, the Gestapo Finance Office noted that she had applied for a legal attestation that no taxes were due. In summer 1939, Gertrud Elisabeth (*Lila*) eventually emigrated to England at the age of 16 where a cousin of her father's lived. Auguste Elisabeth's son, Günther, also managed to escape to Southern Rhodesia.

Auguste Elisabeth Heymann remained behind. Meanwhile, anti-Jewish measures intensified. The National Association of Jews (Reichsvereinigung der Juden) in Hamburg identify her in 1939 as a compulsory member. She was forced to pay a high Jewish capital contribution. Finally her capital came under a security measure taken by the national socialist state, in other words, it was blocked. From 19 September 1941, she was forced to wear the "Jewish star".

On 21st October 1941, at her address Söbendieken 8, the 50-year-old Auguste Elisabeth Heymann received the deportation order to Lodz for the 25th October. The Gestapo transport list has her name under the number 388 but it has been struck off. Instead of following the instruction, to present herself the day before the transportation date to the lodging house on Moorweidenstraße, she chose death as her escape route.

Late in the evening of 23rd October, there was a telephone call to the police in Nienstedten to say the widow Heymann had probably committed 'suicide'. A police officer found her unconscious in her flat. A doctor who was called established poisoning through sleeping tablets and organised her transfer to the Israeli hospital in Johnsallee. Auguste Elisabeth Heymann's mother, who lived in Klein Flottbek, stated that the grounds for the attempted suicide were the impending evacuation. The Gestapo were informed 'that it was a Jew they were dealing with here'.

Three days later, on 26 October 1941, Auguste Elisabeth Heymann died in hospital. She was buried in the central cemetery. Her household goods were auctioned off, the house and capital confiscated.

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No mention is made of Georg Heymann's two children from his first marriage, Inge and Karin, who lived in the family house together with their father and stepmother but who survived the war, probably because their mother was not Jewish. Inge never married but Karin had one son , Georg Syamken, who lives in Hamburg.

Sources: 1; 2 R 1939/2606: 4: StaHH, 55221 Jewish Communities, 992e 1 Volume 1. Transport lists of deported Hamburg Jews. Transport to Litzmannstadt on 25.10.1941; StaHH, 331-5 Police offices, Unnatural deaths, File 1941/1605; AfW, File 061091, Heymann, Elisabeth, née Eichenberg, and File 160922, Alexander, Elisabeth (*Lila*)