

# Heinz Schwarz

Greifenhagen, Germany  
1927 - 2005



DEUTSCHES REICH

Vergl. Zusatz auf Seite 3

Before 1935:

Heinz's father, Walter, fought in the German Army in World War I and was awarded an Iron Cross for his heroism. The family operated a successful clothing business frequented by Jews and non-Jews alike. Heinz had, at first, a normal German childhood. At age 8, his school photo was taken with a traditional *Schultüte*, or school cone (below). German parents traditionally gave the cone, filled with sweets and school supplies, to their children on the first day of school.



## 1935 - 1939

With Adolf Hitler's rise to power in January of 1933, conditions steadily grew worse for the German Jews. In 1938, the Nazis took over the business that belonged to Heinz's family. By 1939, all Jews were issued identification cards, each with a large "J" stamp. Their middle names had also been changed - "Sara" for women and "Israel" for men. Jews were prohibited from using state hospitals, parks, and libraries. The Nazis rapidly passed laws that segregated Jews and prohibited them from almost every aspect of normal life.

## 1939 - 1948

In April of 1939, Heinz's father purchased passage for the family to Shanghai, China, one of the few places that offered a refuge for Jews. Heinz turned 12 during the two-month journey. They arrived to find cramped quarters and unsanitary living conditions. Life was challenging for Jews in Shanghai, but Jewish refugees adapted, creating a Boy Scout troop (which Heinz joined), schools, and social events. At the end of World War II, five years later, the Schwarz family tried to contact their relatives who had stayed behind in Germany only to find that all had been killed in the Holocaust. In 1948, the Schwarz family immigrated to the United States and settled in Seattle.


The artifacts on display were donated by local survivors and their families.

Explore the Holocaust Center for Humanity's artifact collection to learn more about Heinz's experience.

- Walter Schwarz's Iron Cross
- Receipt for passage to Shanghai
- Heinz's Jewish identification card
- Heinz's school books from Shanghai
- Photo of Heinz Schwarz in Seattle

Learn more about Heinz and other survivors who came to the Pacific Northwest at:

[HolocaustCenterSeattle.org/Survivor-Encyclopedia](https://HolocaustCenterSeattle.org/Survivor-Encyclopedia)




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