1904-1922 Parchim

June 8, 1904: Erich Weil was born in Parchim (Mecklemburg), to Louis Weil, a well-off shopkeeper, and Ida Weil, née Löwenstein.

1911-1913: attends Parchim’s Vorschule (primary school).

1913 (Easter)-1922 (Easter): attends Parchim’s Friedrich-Franz-Gymnasium.

May 6, 1922: death of his father, Louis Weil; the family experiences money problems during the following years, as shown for instance in the “Der Werkstudent” unpublished conference (1932).

1922-1928 Hamburg-Berlin, University years.

April 24, 1922-August 10, 1922: in Hamburg, enrolls as a student of the School of Medicine (and also attends one of Ernst Cassirer’s classes in Philosophy of Language).

October 13, 1922-March 7, 1923: in Berlin, enrolls as a student at the Friedrich-Wilhelm-Universität’s School of Medicine (and lives in Berlin, at Kastanienallee 26).

May 3, 1923-March 1924: in Hamburg, enrolls in a Philosophy Course (attends the classes of Cassirer, Panofsky, Görland, Stern, Petsch, Wolff, etc.).

May 7, 1924-March 7, 1925: in Berlin, enrolls as a student at the Friedrich-Wilhelm-Universität (attends the classes of Wertheimer, Maier, Dessoir, Hildebrandt, Rieffert, Lasch, Weisbach, Reich, Roethe, etc.).

April 17, 1925-August 15, 1927: in Hamburg, enrolls as a student in a Philosophy Course (attends the classes of Cassirer, Görland, Noack, Petsch, etc.).

February 22, 1928: in Hamburg, Doktorprüfung (Doctoral exam): “sehr gut”.

Completes his doctoral dissertation Des Pietro Pomponazzi Lehre von dem Menschen und der Welt, printed by Sittenfeld, Berlin and supervised by Ernst Cassirer, earning the second level of distinction “sehr lobenswert.” It was published in 1932 under the title Die Philosophie des Pietro Pomponazzi in Archiv für Geschichte der Philosophie, XLI, Heft 1-2, Carl Heymanns Verlag, Berlin.

June 20, 1928: is awarded a scholarship (Preussisches Ministerium für Wissenschaft, Kunst und Volksbildung) which allows him to cover the PhD exam registration fees. Lives at Oberstrasse 140.
1928-33 : Hamburg-Berlin, after the PhD

. Erich Weil reworks the link between philosophy and astrology already developed in his thesis and also starts working on the publication of a critical edition of Marsile Ficin’s De vita triplici; he is encouraged by Saxl and Panosky and the circle of the Kulturwissenschaftliche Bibliothek Warburg, which he regularly attends starting in late 1927.

. He prepares an anthology of texts on astrology with Hans Meier. The anthology is never published.

. He publishes a number of reviews and articles. Conference: “Der Werkstudent” on the radio.

Hambourg :


. Early 1929: occasionally works for the Warburg Library; gives private lessons; is awarded a small scholarship at the end of 1929


. January 4, 1930: goes on a health retreat in Allenstein, Ostpreussen, Gartenstrase 16/17

. February 1930: lives at Maria-Louisenstrasse, 40, Hoheluft, Hamburg.

Berlin :


. End of 1930: becomes Max Dessoir’s private secretary, a position he holds until the beginning of 1933. He is mostly in charge of writing for Dessoir’s journal Zeitschrift für Ästhetik und allgemeine Kunstwissenschaft

. 1932: Erich Weil publishes his thesis, which gives him his title of “Doctor”.

. March 30, 1932: lives at Barbarossastrasse 43, Berlin W.30, where his last letter from Germany is sent to Saxl on March 17, 1933.

. February 20, 1933: the German embassy in Washington is notified that Erich Weil’s application for a position at the University of Puerto Rico has been turned down. The official notification from the Auswärtiges Amt is dated April 21, 1933.
1933–1940 Paris

. April 19, 1933-April 27, 1933: lives at 1, quai St-Michel, Paris, 5th arrondissement.
. 28 avril 1933 – 1 août 1933 : 192, rue de Tolbiac, Paris, 13e

. Anne Mendelsohn lives at 6 bis, rue du Chevalier de la Barre from August 29, 1933 to October 19 and from November 1 to December 28, 1933.


. When Catherine Mendelsohn arrives in Paris (autumn or winter 1933), she lives at 59 rue de Seine.

. July 1934: Rose Mendelsohn visits her daughters Anne and Catherine in Paris. From 1933 to 1939, Weil regularly meets members of his family in Luxembourg without ever going back to Germany.

. October 16, 1934, 10:10 am: 6th arrondissement local town hall, civil wedding of Éric Weil and Anne-Lise Mendelsohn, living at 60 rue de Seine.

. October 23, 1934: religious wedding in Bad Mondorf, Luxembourg. The ceremony was officiated by the rabbi D. Laupheimer who was the director of the Bad Ems-Weilburg Bezirksrabbinat. The marriage license is housed in the Éric Weil Institute Archives. Rabbi Laupheimer also signs as the witness. The second witness is from Bad Mondorf. Bad Ems (Germany) is the town where Weil’s sister Ruth lives with her husband Siegrfried Cohn and their two daughters.

. January, 1935: Éric and Anne Weil-Mendelsohn move in together with Catherine Mendelsohn to 1 avenue René Samuel in Clamart, Seine. They live there until the summer of 1958 (except during the war).


. In Paris Éric Weil continues his work on Renaissance philosophy and astrology, as shown in the important manuscript Ficin et Plotin, published in 2007 by Alain Deligne. During this period his research also focuses on history, on fundamental philosophical concepts, and on the logic of philosophy.

. He contributes to the journal directed by Alexandre Koyré: Recherches Philosophique, 1934-38.

. He participates in the seminars of the École Pratique des Hautes Études, led by Alexandre Koyré and then by Alexandre Kojève, on Hegel’s Phenomenology of Spirit from 1934 to 1939. These seminars were attended by Lacan, Leiris, Hypolite, Wahl, Polin, Queneau, and Bataille.


. He writes the article: “L’anthropologie d’Aristote”, published in 1946

. August 1, 1939: he begins writing the Logique de la philosophie, 1938.

. 1938: Ida Weil, his mother, is forced to sell the family house in Parchim. She moves in with her daughter Ruth Cohn and her son-in-law Dr Siegfried Cohn in Bad Ems.

. November 8, 1938: Cohn’s apartment is ransacked by the Nazis. Dr. Cohn is arrested.

. In March, 1939 Ida Weil and her daughter Ruth Cohn live in a room in Cologne. Ruth’s two little daughters are sent to hide in the Netherlands. Penniless, Siegfried Cohn makes his way to Amsterdam.

. March 6, 1939: Éric Weil sends £100 to an intermediary in the Netherlands for his brother-in-law and his nieces. Another £50 will follow. Dr Cohn and his two daughters will succeed in reaching England and then Australia.

1940-45

. Éric Weil enlists in the army under the fake name, Henri Dubois. He is taken prisoner June 17, 1940 in Le Péage (Eure-et-Loir), and taken into custody in Stammlager XI B (stalag XI B: a POW camp) in Fallingbostel, Germany (between Hamburg and Hannover, and 20 km from Bergen-Belsen). Appointed as secretary-interpreter, and according to L. Sichirollo, he becomes one of the main organizers of the POW’s resistance, of the relations between different nationality groups, and one of the writers of the clandestine newspaper.

. In 1940 Catherine Mendelsohn is a prisoner in the camp at Gurs (Pyrénées Atlantiques) for a short period. In 1942 and 1943 Anne Weil and her sister Catherine Mendelsohn (under the aliases Anne Dubois and Marcelle Ombinat) find refuge at Le Pigeonnier, in Souillac (Lot), and then in Monpazier (Dordogne) in 1943-1944. Anne writes a secret diary from June 6 to August 24, 1944 and works as a secretary and communication agent for the FFI command in Monpazier.

. 1941: Ida Weil and Ruth Cohn live in Neu-Isenburg, south of Frankfurt am Main.
Starting on September 19, 1941, like all the other members of the family who have stayed on in Germany, they are forced to wear the “Judenstern” and are imposed heavy taxes like all Jews.

August 18, 1942: Ida Weil is deported to the Theresienstadt labor camp with her daughter Ruth Cohn, her sister Sara Wertheim, her brother in law Alfred Wertheim and their daughter Hanna Goldberg. They all die there.

September 26, 1942: Ida Weil is deported to the Maly-Trostinec camp (in modern-day Belarus, near Minsk) by transport "Er 1027". She is almost 76 years old. “Über ihr weiteres Schicksal ist mir nichts bekannt” (Éric Weil). She is believed to have died in Auschwitz. The day of her death is legally marked as May 15, 1945. Ruth Cohn is moved from Theresienstadt to Kowel (in Poland at that time and in modern-day Ukraine), where she is believed to have died soon after her arrival when in August the Nazis slaughtered all the Jews in both ghettos.

[The details on the fate of Éric Weil’s family are to be found in the “Wiedergutmachung” (compensation) file drawn up by the German Federal Republic. This file is a compilation of Éric Weil’s correspondence with a surviving member of his family, Charlotte Werthein, from 1949 onwards, and, between 1955 and late 1961, with a notary office in Göttingen.].

October 11, 1943: postcard from Henri Dubois (Gefangenennummer 116.686) to Anne Weil (sic), Le Pigeonnier, Souillac, Lot.

April 16, 1945: the British liberate the prisoners’ camp. The British Lieutenant Colonel in command grants Éric Weil the office of the former German camp chief so that he can organize the return of the prisoners.

May 14, 1945: certificate from the French military command: “The reservists Éric Weil and Henri Dubois are the same person.”


1945-1956 Paris

1945

July 12-19 : visits Henri Moysset at Gramond, near Rodez.

October 1 : is appointed researcher at the CNRS (National Centre of Scientific Research).

1946

Summer 1946: stays at Le Pigeonnier, Souillac (département of Lot).

October 2 : visit Henri Moysset in Albi

November: undergoes surgery

December 27: finishes the writing of Logique de la Philosophie

1947
April : visit Georges Bataille in Vézelay.

April 11 : visit (with Anne W. and Catherine M.) to Henri Moysset in the department of Tarn.

June : Publication of the first issue of Critique, magazine created by Georges Bataille. Eric Weil quickly becomes "the privileged interlocutor of Bataille within the editorial committee" (Sylvie Patron, in *A en-tête de Critique*). He published approximately 150 reviews and reports in Critique.

August-September : holidays in Pigeonnier-Laval, Souillac (Lot)

October 1947-july 1948 : Correspondence with Jean Wahl (in the USA) concerning the organization of conferences for Collège philosophique (established by Jean Wahl in January, 1947) and their publication in Deucalion.

« Le cas Heidegger » in the journal Les Temps Modernes.

1948

- December 2: request to be put on the waiting list for eligible candidates to work in higher education : is refused.
- Takes part in the UNESCO survey on democracy (1948-49), in the Décade de Royaumont (ten day-cultural conference) (1947-52).
- July 1-13, Stay in Chichilianne (Isère)-"Dès que je vois des montagnes, je revis" (to J. Wahl, 24/06/1948, IMEC).
- July 7, 1948, Decree of Catherine Mendelsohn's naturalization.

1949

- July 10-20: runs the Décade de Royaumont on “Le bonheur” (Happiness) along with G. Bachelard and H. Gouhier.

1950

- July 10-20: runs the Décade de Royaumont on “L’idée de modernité” (The Idea of Modernity) along with H. Gouhier.
- July 21-September 5: stays in Chichilianne (Isère)
- September 16-21 : Chichilianne
- September 21-October 16: Trip to Italy
- October : Critique starts publishing again (n. 41) with Éditions de Minuit. G. Bataille is the director, and Éric Weil and Jean Piel are editors.
Conference: Collège philosophique.

Summer: stay in Paestrum, Italie (see photo).

1950-55: teaching at the EPHE (Practical School of Higher Education) on Hegel’s *Philosophy of Right*.

1951


June 26: request to be put on the waiting list for eligible candidates to work in higher education: is refused.

July 10-20: runs the Décade de Royaumont on “Le dialogue” (Dialogue) along with H. Gouhier and P. Burgelin.


Conference in Nancy.

1952

January 28-29 and May 5: request to be put on the waiting list for eligible candidates to work in higher education: is refused.

July 10-20: runs the Décade de Royaumont on “La nature” (Nature) along with H. Gouhier and P. Burgelin.

September 3-12: takes part in the Rencontres internationales de Genève (International Conference of Geneva) on “L’homme devant la science” (Man Confronted by Science) (<rencontres-int-geneve.ch>).


Writes articles for Confluence magazine (1952-1957).

October 1: is appointed Senior Research Fellow at the CNRS.

1952-53: teaches at the EPHE (6th section, Historical Research Centre, F. Braudel dir.) on “La pensée politique allemande pendant la 1ère moitié du 19e siècle” (German political thinking in the first half of the
19th century) and on “La Politique d’Aristote et son influence sur la pensée politique moderne” (Aristotle’s Politics and its influence on modern political thinking).

1953


1954


1955

. Hospitalized from November 26 to December 9, 1955 and from January 9 to January 20, 1956. Conference in Germany.
. December 12: is listed as qualified to teach within the higher education system and as a lecturer
. December 16: Anne Weil-Mendelsohn is appointed to C.E.E., at first in the Luxembourg, then in Brussels. The date is retrospectively put into effect starting August 17, 1955. Her "card of legitimization for international state employees” is signed in Brussels the November 9, 1956.

1956-1968: School of Humanities in Lille

. April 1, 1956: is appointed as lecturer in the School of Humanities at the University of Lille.
. August: trip to Arosa.
. Philosophie politique (Paris, Vrin) is published.

1957

. When Prof. Landmann asks him (in a letter dated June 19, 1957) if he would accept a position as a professor at Berlin University, Weil responds (on June 28, 1957) that he is already "committed to establishing a better relationship with Germany" but that he "cannot erase twenty five years of [his] life, which is what returning would do"; "I am too intimately tied to France (Ich bin zu sehr mit Frankreich verwachsen), not to mention everything I owe this country; if I ever move to another country (…), I will go as a Frenchman, but the only country in which this attitude would be absurd would be Germany." He would only accept a position as an associate professor if he were asked to do so by French authorities.
. Conferences: Cologne, Brussels, Toulouse, Münster, Marburg
1958

. Conferences: Heidelberg (October 1-4), Lyon (November 15).
. July–August: stays in Arosa (Switzerland), Haus Rocco.
. Is appointed as a tenured professor of general philosophy in the School of Humanities at the University of Lille.
. Buys a house in Lille, 41, rue Gounod.
. Summer: visits Italy.
. November: "I have been quite seriously ill. I am now recovering from the disease and the treatment." (to L. Sichirollo, dated November 28; 1959).

1959

. In March, he moves into his house in Lille, 41 rue Gounod, his residence until 1968.

1960

. Conference in Lille (March 8), Cambridge (August 31-September 3), Heidelberg (October 6-10).
. July-August: stays in Arosa; September: visit to Italy (Rome, Urbino, Arezzo, Paestum.).

1961-2

. September 1961 - late January 1962: Visiting professor at Claremont College, California (USA); Conference in Los Angeles.

1962

. Resigns from his position on the editorial staff of Critique. Conference in Claremont (USA – January 8), Lyon (March 24), Royaumont, Hegel Symposium in Heidelberg (July 29 – August 1), Strasbourg (September 15), “Congrès allemand de philosophie” (late October), Münster (November).
. August: stays in Switzerland and in Italy (San Casciano).

1963
1964


. Problèmes kantiens (Paris, Vrin) is published

1965

. Teaches a class on Moral Philosophy in Brussels, holds a seminar in Urbino in September.

Conferences: Giessen (February), Leuven (May or June), Hagen, Urbino (Hegel conference – September 25); Moscow, December 2-17, 3 conferences.

. Stays: August 15 – September 23 in Arosa, Haus Koller; then in Urbino and Venice until early October (returns to Lille on October 10).


1966

E.Borne, E.Weil, J.P. Vernant, D. Dreyfus, L. Guillermit
. Conferences in Zürich and Paris (March 5: television appearance)

. March 31-April 16: holiday in Italy (Venice: "We are so in love with this little city that we're thinking more and more about settling down there someday in the near future.") [to L. Sichirollo, April 26 1966].

. August 15 – September 15: stays in Arosa, then on September 23 in San Casciano (Toscany), in Sienna, Pisa.

1967

. Conferences in Paris (Catholic Intellectuals Week) on February 3 1967, in Chantilly (February 4 or 5), in Ammersfoort (Hegel seminar), in Chantilly (November 18).

. May: stays in Pisa, Rome, Perugia, Brunnen (Lake Lucerne), Bonn.

. August 15-September 15: stays in Arosa, at Haus Koller; then Italy between Pisa and Florence, and Switzerland. Returns to Lille on October 13.

1968-1977 Nice

1968


. Member of the Hegel-Preis jury, Stuttgart, November 12.

. Anne Weil: retirement

. August 1: purchases a flat at 47 boulevard Victor Hugo in Nice, “a 1890s bourgeois-style building, spacious, very well-located, incredibly old-fashioned, a few minutes’ walk from the sea-and all for a reasonable price.” (Éric Weil to L. Sichirollo, June 24, 1968).
October 1, 1968-September 30, 1974: professor at the University of Nice.

1969

- February 6: is awarded an honorary degree (Ehrenpromotion) from the University of Münster (Germany).
- Member of the Hegel-Preis jury (Stuttgart, November 12).
- Conferences in Paris, Nice, Cologne, Chantilly (May 17), Nice (September 4), Bellagio (September 5-7, 1969), Urbino, Brussels (November 26-27), Lille (December 18).

1970

- Early March: is admitted to hospital for surgery.
- May 30: is elected a member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences.
- Conferences in Milwaukee on June 2 (Marquette University, USA), Heidelberg (September), Reading University (Great Britain, October 28, 1970), Turin (November 20, 1970).

1971

- Conferences: Paris (Daedalus conference, June 6), Colmar (IPP, July 2), Chantilly (October 14-17, conference on Hegel’s Logic).
- April: is admitted to the clinic for surgery.
- September: holiday in Italy.
- Is elected an “Associate Advisory Member” of the Centro Superiore di Logica e Scienze comparate of Bologna.

1972

- Is admitted to hospital for surgery.
- August 1 : Aprica (Lombardy).
- Conferences : Paris (Daedalus, 12-14 sept.), Rome (16-20 sept.)
1973

. Clinical stay: January 11, February 24, surgery.


. Accepts E. Vollrath’s invitation to be part of the editorial committee (Beirat) of the magazine De Re Publica that he plans to found (with the support of H. Arendt).

1974

. Conferences in Amsterdam, Nijmegen, Groningen (April 1-5), Lille (April 8), Aspen (Colorado, USA, July 23- August 15, 1974), Cologne (WDRundfunk), Nice (December 2).

. June 8: receives an honorary doctorate from the University of Nice.

. September: takes trip to Italy, San Casciano, Urbino, Pisa, Rappallo

1975

. May: cannot attend the conferences in Bellagio for medical reasons. Is admitted to the Pasteur Hospital in Nice from May 28 to June 9, 1975.

. At Château d’Oex (Switzerland), followed by Italy: Urbino (Schelling conference, October 3-5, followed by two weeks of vacation). Conference in Nice in November.

1976

. February 2: is elected a corresponding member of the Académie des Sciences Morales et Politiques of the Institut de France, Philosophy section.

. April 20: writes his will.

. August: at Château d’Oex (Switzerland), Beau Séjour Hotel.

. Is admitted to Cimiez Hospital from September 11 to 21, 1976, “Since you wish to hear from me, well, I got excellent news from the hospital last night. I’m not suffering from anything; and really, they have done the impossible to find something…” (to L. Sichirollo, October 20, 1976).

. Conferences in Hamburg (may 4), Poitiers (Hegel - November 20-21)
1977:

“I am fine, though I could be better: I have a blocked artery in my leg, and I think I will be admitted to the clinic soon to have the necessary cleaning done…” (Éric Weil to L. Sichirollo, January 3, 1977).

Is admitted to St Georges clinic in Nice on January 4 for surgery on January 17 and 29.

February 1: Éric Weil dies at his home in Nice.

Éric Weil is buried in a municipal cemetery in Nice. Following landslides in the cemetery, his remains were exhumed a first time and transferred from burial plot 129.888 to 22.235, then a second time on November 26, 2004, at 8 am, in the presence of executors Gilbert Kirsch and Jean Quillien, to burial plot 134.735, already shared by Anne Weil-Mendelsohn (who died on July 5, 1984) and Catherine Mendelsohn (who died on February 15, 1993).