



# A N N E F R A N K

A HISTORY FOR TODAY

ANNE FRANK

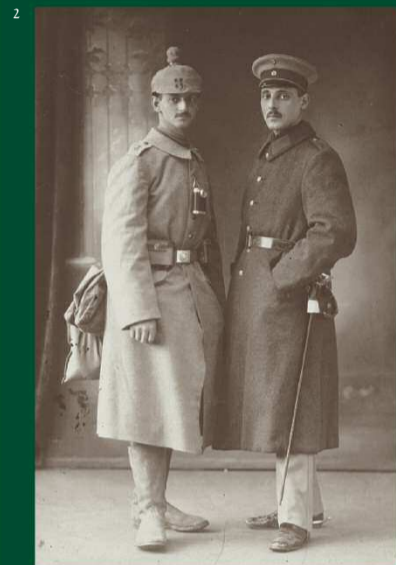
“Writing in a diary is a really strange experience for someone like me. Not only because I’ve never written anything before, but also because it seems to me that later on neither I nor anyone else will be interested in the musings of a thirteen-year-old schoolgirl.”

On her thirteenth birthday Anne Frank is given a diary. Just a few weeks later her life is turned upside down when she has to go into hiding. For over two years she will keep a record of her thoughts, feelings and experiences in her diary. She has no way of knowing that in the future this diary will be read by millions of people all over the world.





Anne's parents' wedding, 12 May 1925.



Anne's father (left) and her uncle Robert as German officers during the First World War (1914 - 1918).



Anne's grandmother Frank as a nurse in a military hospital during the First World War.

“I was born on  
12 June 1929.”

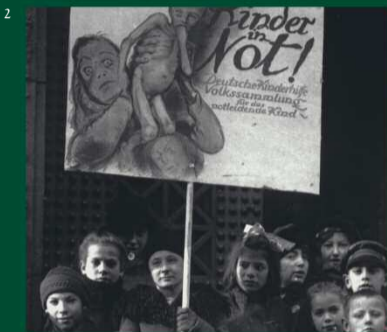
ANNE FRANK

“My father, the most adorable father I've ever seen, didn't marry my mother until he was thirty-six and she was twenty-five. My sister Margot was born in Frankfurt am Main in Germany in 1926. I was born on 12 June 1929.”

Anne Frank is the second daughter of Otto Frank and Edith Frank-Holländer. The Frank and Holländer families have lived in Germany for generations. The Frank family are liberal Jews. They feel a bond with the Jewish faith, but they are not strictly observant. In 1930 around 1% of the German population, more than half a million people, are Jewish.



A demonstration against the Treaty of Versailles at the Reichstag parliament building in Berlin in 1932.



Collecting money for poverty-stricken children in Berlin, 1920.



Children playing with a pile of worthless banknotes, 1923.



Hitler on the day of the annual party rally in Nuremberg, 1927. He repeatedly claims that the Jews are to blame for Germany's problems.

### CRISIS IN GERMANY

The First World War ends in 1918 with Germany's defeat. The Treaty of Versailles drawn up at the end of the war imposes harsh reparations on Germany. Millions of people lose their jobs and are thrown into desperate poverty. Inflation is out of control: by 1923 the currency is practically worthless. Many Germans feel bitterly resentful. In 1929 the world is plunged into economic crisis, and Germany is especially hard hit. The NSDAP (National Socialist German Workers Party), a small extremist nationalist political party led by Adolf Hitler, blames the Jews for all of Germany's and the world's problems. Hitler also claims to have the solution to the problems of unemployment and poverty.

Hitler attracts a growing following. In 1930, 18.3% of the Germans vote for the Nazi party (NSDAP).





Anne, Margot and their father, 1931.



In October 1933, Anne and Margot stay with their grandmother Holländer in Aachen (Germany), near the Dutch border.



Anne, October 1933.



Margot Frank in 1929. She is three years old when her sister Anne is born.

“I lived in Frankfurt until I was four.”

OTTO FRANK

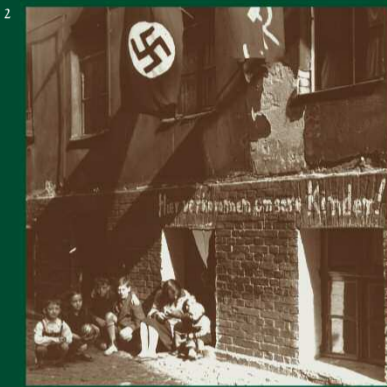
“As early as 1932, groups of Stormtroopers (Brownshirts) came marching by singing: ‘When Jewish blood splatters off the knife’... I immediately discussed it with my wife: ‘How can we get away from here?’”

Otto and Edith are deeply worried about the future. The Nazis are growing in power and brutality. What is more, the economic crisis means that things are going from bad to worse at the bank where Otto works. Otto and Edith want to get away, and wonder if there is another country where they could start a new life. Margot and Anne know nothing of their parents’ worries.



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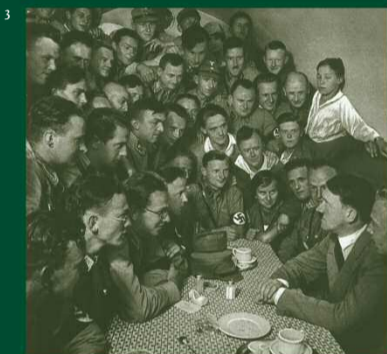
'Hitler: Our Last Hope'  
NSDAP election poster, 1932.



2  
A poor neighbourhood in Berlin in 1932. Communists and National Socialists live in the same street. On the wall is written: "Our children are wasting away here".

### HITLER WINS THE ELECTIONS

By 1932, almost 6 million Germans are unemployed. More and more Germans are attracted to radical anti-democratic parties. Both Communists and National Socialists claim to have the one and only solution to all of society's problems. Political differences are often fought out on the streets. The NSDAP exploits this violence to their own advantage, and in the November 1932 elections they become the largest party in parliament, with 33.1% of the vote.



3  
Hitler is shown surrounded by avid admirers in this photo from 1932.

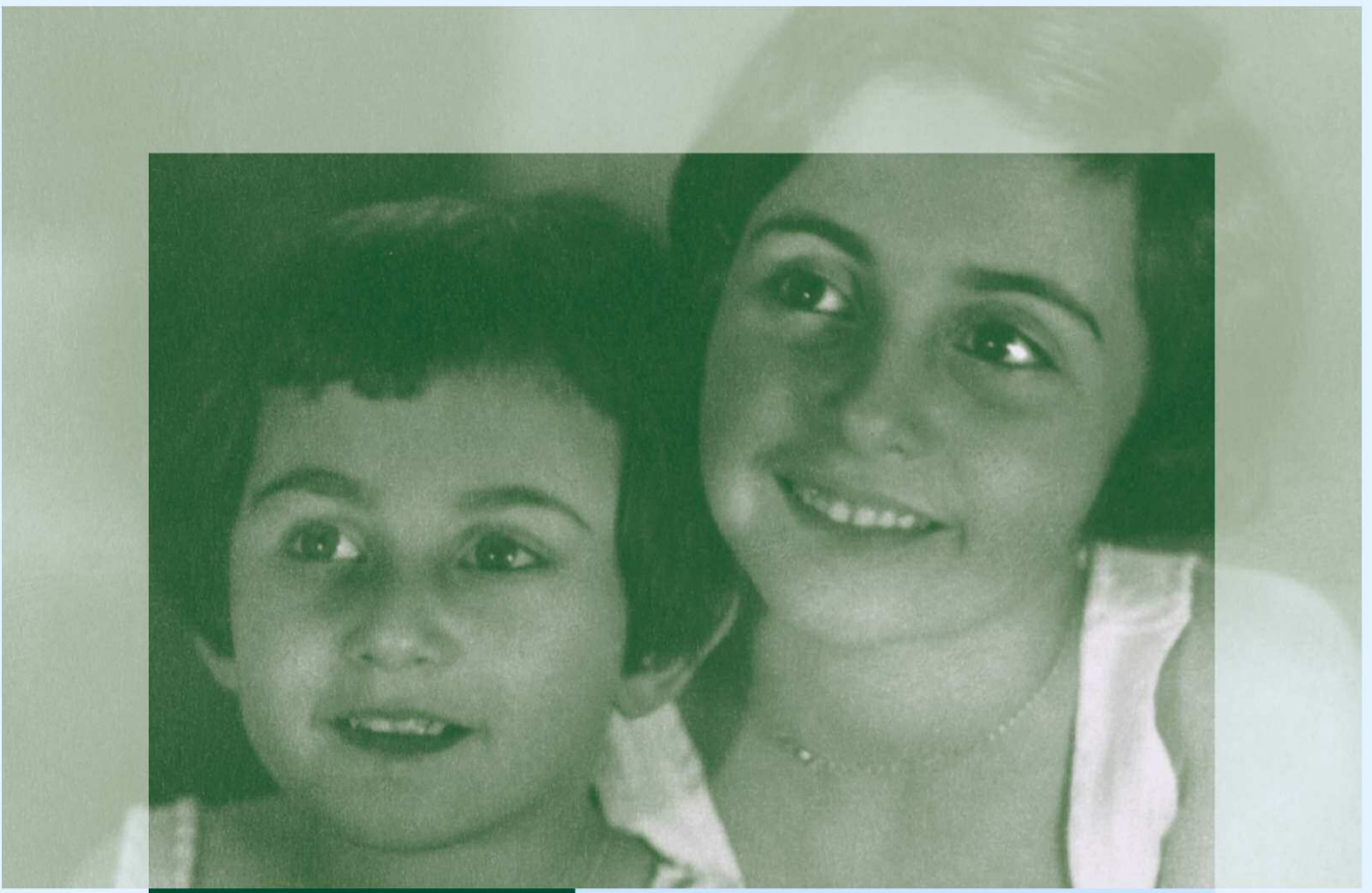


4  
The Nazis still have many opponents in 1932. This is an anti-NSDAP demonstration.

Unemployed people lining up outside the employment office in Hannover. The words on the fence read: 'Vote for Hitler'.

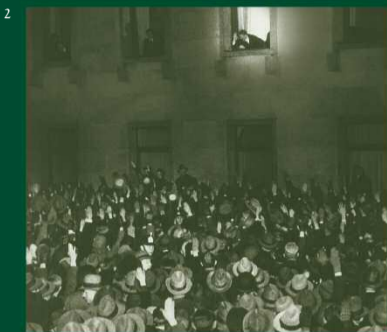


5



1

While Otto makes preparations for the emigration, Anne and Margot stay with their mother at their grandmother Holländer's house in Aachen (Germany).



2  
Adolf Hitler becomes Chancellor on 30 January 1933.



3  
Nazi violence against the Jews is widely reported in the international media, but the Nazis claim this is nothing but Jewish propaganda. On 1 April 1933 they begin a boycott of Jewish lawyers, doctors, shops and department stores.



4  
Anne, Edith and Margot Frank, 10 March 1933. Tietz department store in Frankfurt (Germany) had a Photoweigh photo booth where you could weigh yourself and have your passport photo taken.

“...the world around me collapsed.”

OTTO FRANK

“...the world around me collapsed... I had to face the consequences and though it hurt me deeply, I realised that Germany was not the world and I left forever.”

On 30 January 1933 Hitler becomes Chancellor of Germany. The new rulers soon make their true intentions clear. The first anti-Jewish laws are introduced, and the persecution of the Jews in Germany begins in earnest.

For Otto Frank, the time has come to leave Germany. He tries to find work in the Netherlands, where he has business contacts. He succeeds in his search, and the Frank family emigrates to Amsterdam.



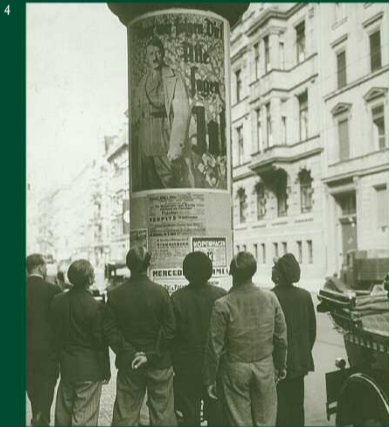
An NSDAP torchlight march through Berlin, 1933.



On 23 March 1933, Parliament votes to allow Hitler to rule without democratic consent. Only the Social Democrats, those who have not already been arrested or have fled, vote against. The Communist Party has already been banned.



A public book-burning in May 1933. The authors, many of them Jewish, are branded 'un-German'.



'Führer, we follow you! Everyone says Yes!' In mid-1933 all political parties are banned. The only party permitted is the NSDAP.

## DICTATORSHIP

The NSDAP does not terrorise only the Jews, but its political opponents as well. Communists and Social Democrats in particular are persecuted and confined to concentration camps. Certain types of art, literature and music are banned, and books are burned in the streets. Many writers, artists and scientists flee abroad. Democracy is abolished. Jewish civil servants and teachers are dismissed.

Political opponents are rounded up, March 1933.





Anne at school, 1935.



Otto Frank and his secretary Mietje Gies, who began working for him in 1933.



Anne with her friends Eva Goldberg (on the left) and Sanne Ledermann (in the middle) at the Merwedeplein (Amsterdam), 1936.



Margot and Anne with their friends Ellen Weinberger (second from the left) and Gabrielle Kahn (on the right). The photo was taken at the home of the Kahn family in Amsterdam, 1934.

## “To Holland”

ANNE FRANK

“Because we’re Jewish, my father emigrated to Holland in 1933, and became the Managing Director of the Dutch Opekta Company, which manufactures products used in making jam.”

Otto Frank starts a business selling ‘Opekta’, a gelling agent for jam. The Frank family move into a house on the Merwedeplein, part of a new housing development in Amsterdam. More and more refugees from Germany come to live in the neighbourhood. Anne and Margot go to a local school and quickly learn Dutch.





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Rigidly organised mass rallies make a big impression.



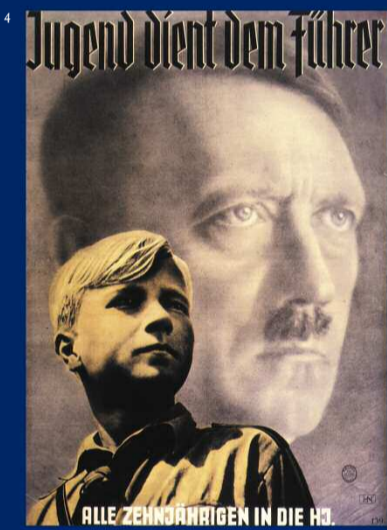
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The unemployed are put to work on the construction of highways, government buildings and civil projects. Hitler also begins to build up a weapons industry and a large army. Unemployment falls dramatically.



3

Young and old alike are full of enthusiasm for the Nazis.



4

'Youth Serves the Führer'  
'All ten-year-olds in the Hitler Youth'

## THE NAZIFICATION OF GERMANY

In Germany, 'law and order' have returned, and the economy is on the upturn. The Nazis take control of the upbringing and education of young people, with the aim of turning them into 'good Nazis'. The media (radio, newspapers and film) only reflect Nazi ideology.

There is great enthusiasm for Hitler and his party. There are some opponents too, but most of them remain silent for fear of violence and imprisonment. A variety of anti-Jewish measures are introduced. There is little resistance.

The Nazis want complete control of young people's upbringing. Boys' activities take on a military flavour, while girls are prepared for their roles as housewives and mothers.

5





Anne with her friends in a sandbox, 1937. Hannah is on the left, Sanne on the right.

Anne

Margot

2



1935



1936



1937

## “There go Anne, Hanne and Sanne”

(ANNE FRANK

“Hanneli and Sanne used to be my two best friends.

People who saw us together used to say, “There go Anne, Hanne and Sanne.””

Hannah Goslar and Sanne Lederman are both Jewish, and both of them come from Berlin. The stream of refugees keeps growing, and more and more people who have fled Germany come to live in Anne’s neighbourhood. Around half of the children in Anne’s class are Jewish.

3

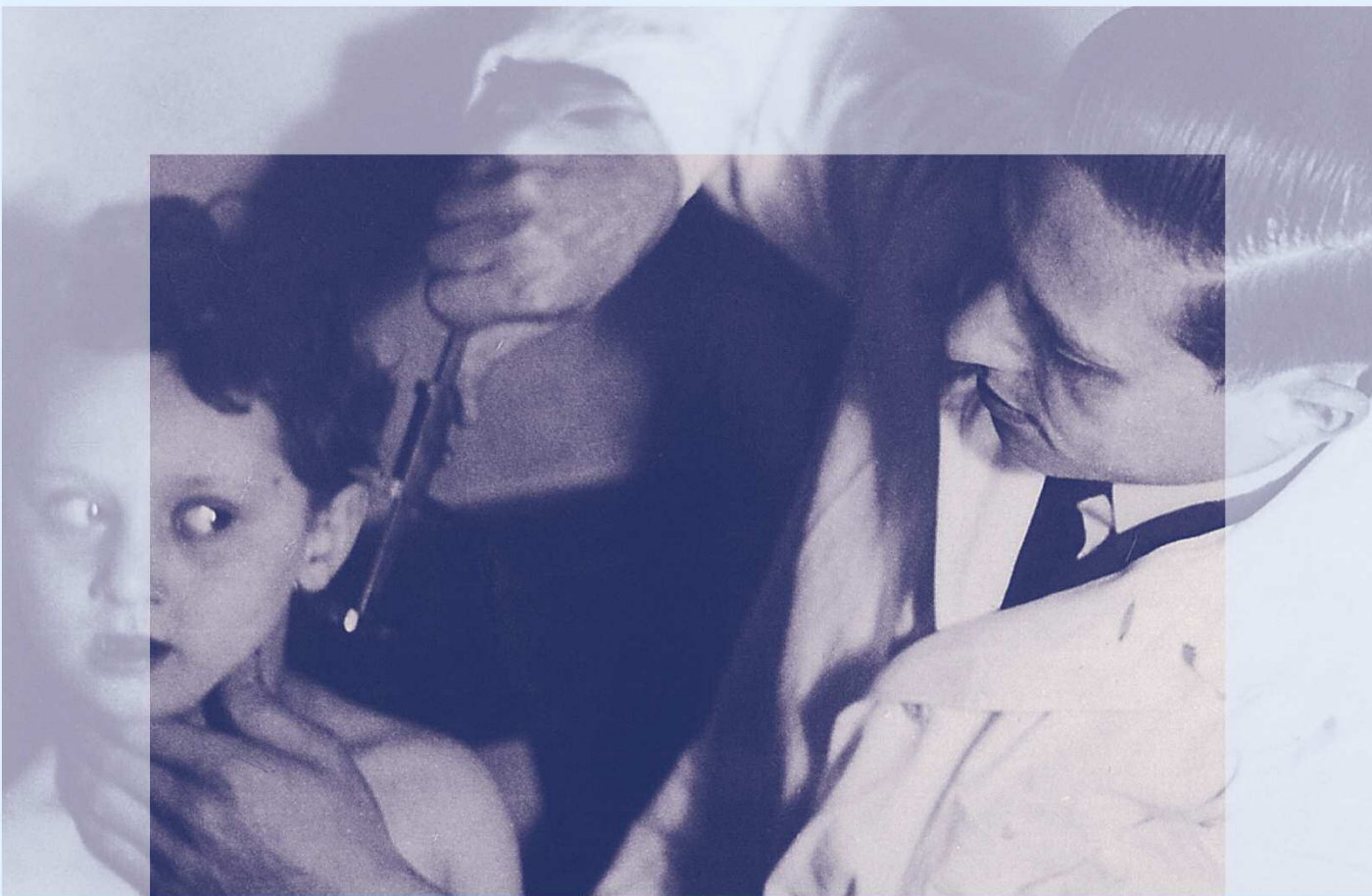


Anne at a summer camp for city children in Laren near Amsterdam in 1937.

4

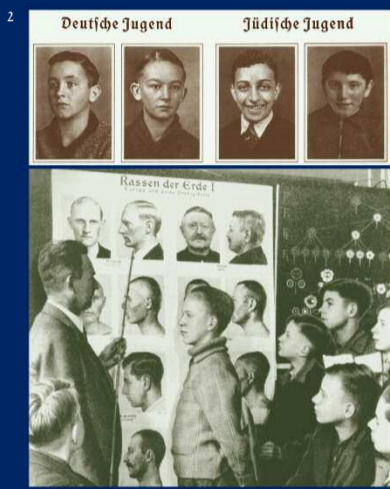


There are many Jewish children in Anne’s class, most of them from Germany.



1

The Nazis believe that people can be divided into 'races', and that their own 'Aryan race' is superior. Here, a child is being examined for 'racial traits'.



2

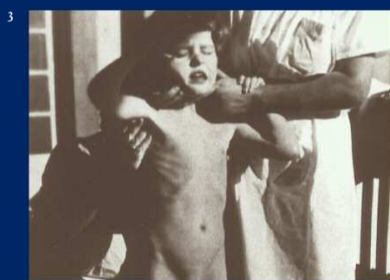
Deutsche Jugend Jüdische Jugend  
Schoolchildren are given lessons in 'racial studies'.

### RACE LAWS

In 1935, 'race laws' are introduced. Only Germans with so-called 'German blood' can be full citizens from now on. All others have fewer rights.

Hitler's ideal is a 'racially pure' German people. According to him, the German 'Aryan race' is superior to all others. The Nazis see the Jews not only as inferior, but also as dangerous. They harbour the delusion that 'the Jews' are engaged in a worldwide conspiracy to destroy the so-called 'Aryan race'.

Jewish people face mounting restrictions, and all to one purpose: to isolate the Jews from the non-Jewish population.



3

Hitler issues an order to kill disabled people in order to prevent the 'weakening of the race'. Some 80,000 disabled people, this girl among them, are murdered.



4

The Nazis also consider black people 'inferior'. There are around 20,000 black people living in Germany in the 1930's. In 1937, 385 black children are secretly sterilised.

Thirty-nine Roma ('Gypsy') children are brought to the 'St. Josefpflege' clinic in the German town of Muldingen for so-called 'racial studies'. In 1944 the children are sent to Auschwitz, where most of them are killed in the gas chambers, while others are forced to undergo medical experiments. Only four survive.

5





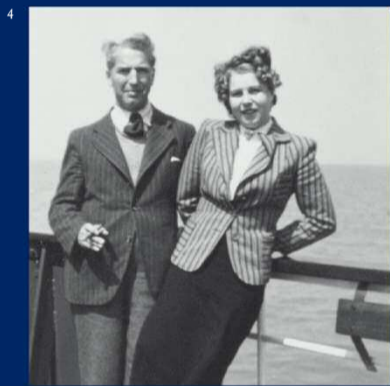
Anne (second from the left) in the Vondelpark in Amsterdam, in the winter of 1940/1941. Figure-skating was her great passion. This is the only photo of Anne skating that has survived.



Anne's Grandmother Holländer leaves for Amsterdam in March 1939 and comes to live with the Frank family. She dies in 1942.



Peter van Pels (centre) with friends at the Jewish Boy Scouts in Osnabrück, Germany, in 1936.



Fritz Pfeffer with his non-Jewish fiancée Charlotte Kaletta. In Germany, marriages between Jews and non-Jews have been illegal since 1935. They cannot marry in the Netherlands either, since German laws are respected there.

## “Our lives were not without anxiety...”

ANNE FRANK

“Our lives were not without anxiety, since our relatives in Germany were suffering under Hitler’s anti-Jewish laws. After the pogroms in 1938 my two uncles (my mother’s brothers) fled Germany, finding safe refuge in North America. My elderly grandmother came to live with us. She was seventy-three years old at the time.”

Otto and Edith Frank get to know other German refugees. They meet Hermann and Auguste van Pels and their son Peter, and Fritz Pfeffer, all of whom will later go into hiding with them. The Van Pels family fled Osnabrück in 1937, and Hermann van Pels becomes a partner in Otto Frank’s business. Like Anne’s uncles, Fritz Pfeffer left Germany following ‘Kristallnacht’.



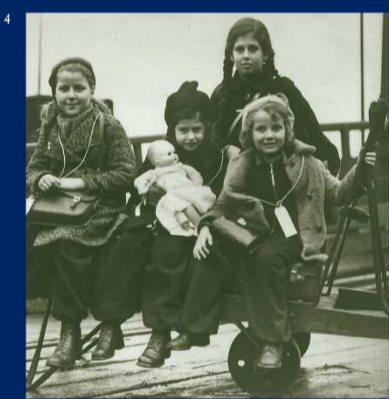
Jewish refugees on board the 'St. Louis' in the harbour at Antwerp, Belgium, 17 June 1939.



Passers-by at a vandalised shop on the Potsdamer Strasse in Berlin on the morning of 10 November 1938. The term 'Kristallnacht' refers to the broken glass that litters the streets.



Jews in Oldenburg, Germany, under arrest after 'Kristallnacht'.



Jewish refugee children arriving in Britain, December 1938. Children are sometimes still admitted to the country. Most of them will never see their parents again.

### THE PERSECUTION OF THE JEWS BEGINS

On the night of 9-10 November 1938 (the so-called 'Kristallnacht', or Night of Broken Glass) the Nazis organise a series of attacks against the Jews. In this one night of violence 177 synagogues are destroyed, 7,500 shops wrecked and 236 Jews murdered. Around 30,000 people are arrested and sent to concentration camps. Only now does the true scale of the danger they are in become apparent, and many Jews decide to flee Germany, but more and more countries are closing their borders to refugees.

A Frankfurt synagogue in flames during 'Kristallnacht', 9-10 November 1938.





1

In September 1939 the Second World War breaks out.



2

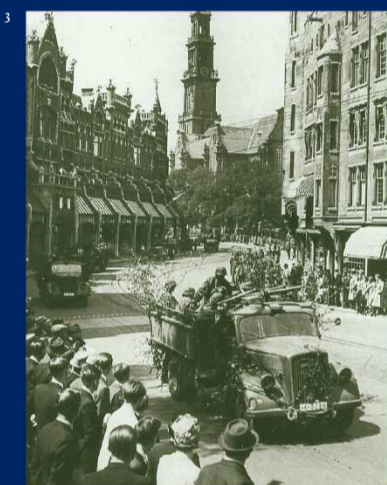
Behind the front line in Poland the campaign of terror against the Jews begins immediately. Jews are publicly humiliated and beaten up in the streets. The occupying forces carry out pogroms in which thousands of Jews are killed.

### WAR!

On 1 September 1939 the German army invades Poland. Large areas are cleared by the army to make way for settlement by German colonists. Many prominent Poles are killed. Little news of the atrocities being carried out in Poland filters through to Western Europe.

In May 1940 the Netherlands, Belgium and France are also invaded by the German army. The Nazis see the non-Jewish people of these countries, in contrast to the Poles, as members of the same 'race', and do not commit atrocities on the scale of those in Poland.

The registration of Jews begins in the first year of the occupation of the Netherlands.



3

The arrival of the German army in Amsterdam, near Otto Frank's business, 16 May 1940.



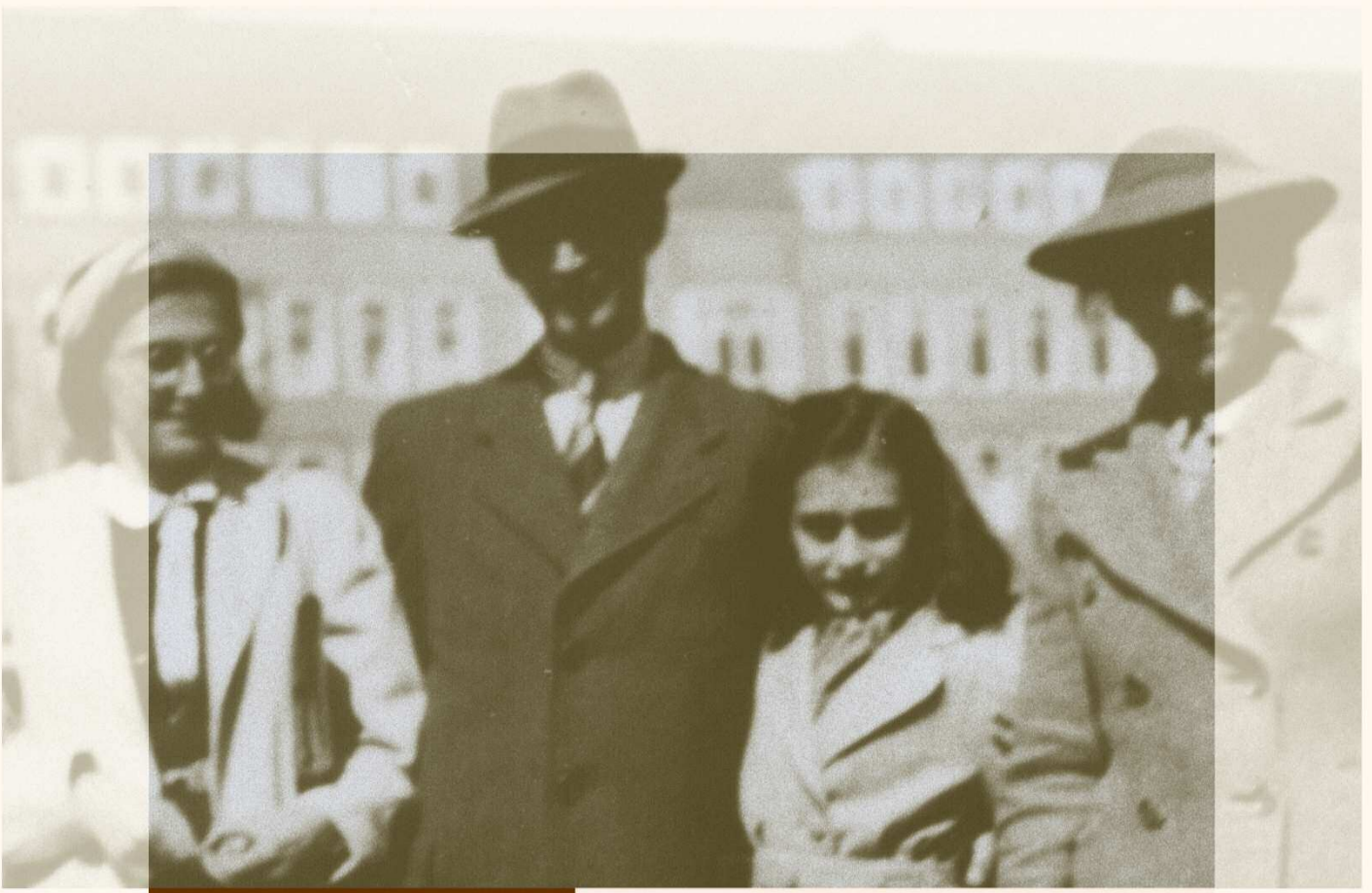
4

At first the Nazis attempt to win over the Dutch people to their ideas, but with little success. Only a small proportion of the population collaborates with the occupiers.

Warsaw, 14 September 1939. Polish children look anxiously to the sky as German aircraft attack the city.

5





The Frank family on the Merwedeplein in Amsterdam.

## “...the trouble started for the Jews.”

ANNE FRANK

“After May 1940 the good times were few and far between: first there was the war, then the capitulation and then the arrival of the Germans, which is when the trouble started for the Jews.”

The Second World War breaks out a few months after Anne's tenth birthday. Otto and Edith hope that the Netherlands will stay out of the war, but on 10 May 1940 the German army invades. The Nazis quickly begin the process of identifying who is Jewish and who is not. After a year, the names and addresses of the majority of the Jews in the Netherlands are known to the occupiers.



Anne (third from the right), her father (third from the left) and other guests at the wedding of Jan Gies and Miep Santrouschitz in Amsterdam on 16 July 1941.



A 1940 school photo of Anne, her teacher and two classmates. From left to right: Martha van den Berg, teacher Margaretha Godron, Anne and Rella Salomon.



Dutch Nazis marching through the Jewish quarter of Amsterdam. They often provoke fights with the Jews.



1

In Germany and in most of the occupied territories Jews are forced to wear a yellow star.



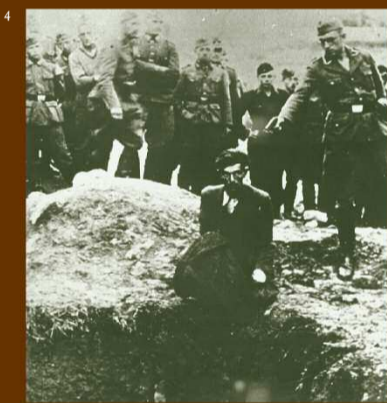
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The first major open conflict between the occupying forces and the Dutch people comes in February 1941, after 427 Jewish men have been rounded up and deported to the Mauthausen concentration camp. The people of Amsterdam and the surrounding area go on strike in protest against the persecution of the Jews, but the strike is violently broken up after two days.



3

By order of the occupiers, signs appear with the message 'Jews Not Allowed' or 'Jews Not Welcome Here'.



4

In Eastern Europe special army units, 'Einsatzgruppen', have the task of killing as many Jews, 'Gypsies', and partisans as possible. In just one year an estimated one million men, women and children are murdered.

## ISOLATION

Once the names and addresses of the Jews are known, their isolation can begin. The Nazis introduce a fast-growing array of anti-Jewish measures, with the effect that many non-Jews no longer dare to associate with Jews, or vice versa.

In the Netherlands, from 3 May 1942 onwards, all Jewish children over six years old have to wear a yellow star.

5







Anne at the Montessori school in Amsterdam, 1941.

#### A SECRET PLAN

Behind all the anti-Jewish measures lies Hitler's secret plan: all 11 million Jews in Europe are to be killed. This decision is worked out in detail by high-ranking Nazi officials at a top-secret meeting at a villa in Berlin in January 1942: the so-called 'Wannsee Conference'. The Jews must suspect nothing. They are told they are being sent to 'labour camps'. In reality they are transported to specially constructed extermination camps, most of them in Poland, which have been specifically designed for the rapid and 'efficient' killing and cremation of as many human beings as possible. Large-scale deportations to these camps begin in the summer of 1942. Most of the Jews who are sent there are killed immediately on their arrival. The remainder are forced into gruelling slave labour until they die of exhaustion.

“...a series of anti-Jewish decrees.”

ANNE FRANK

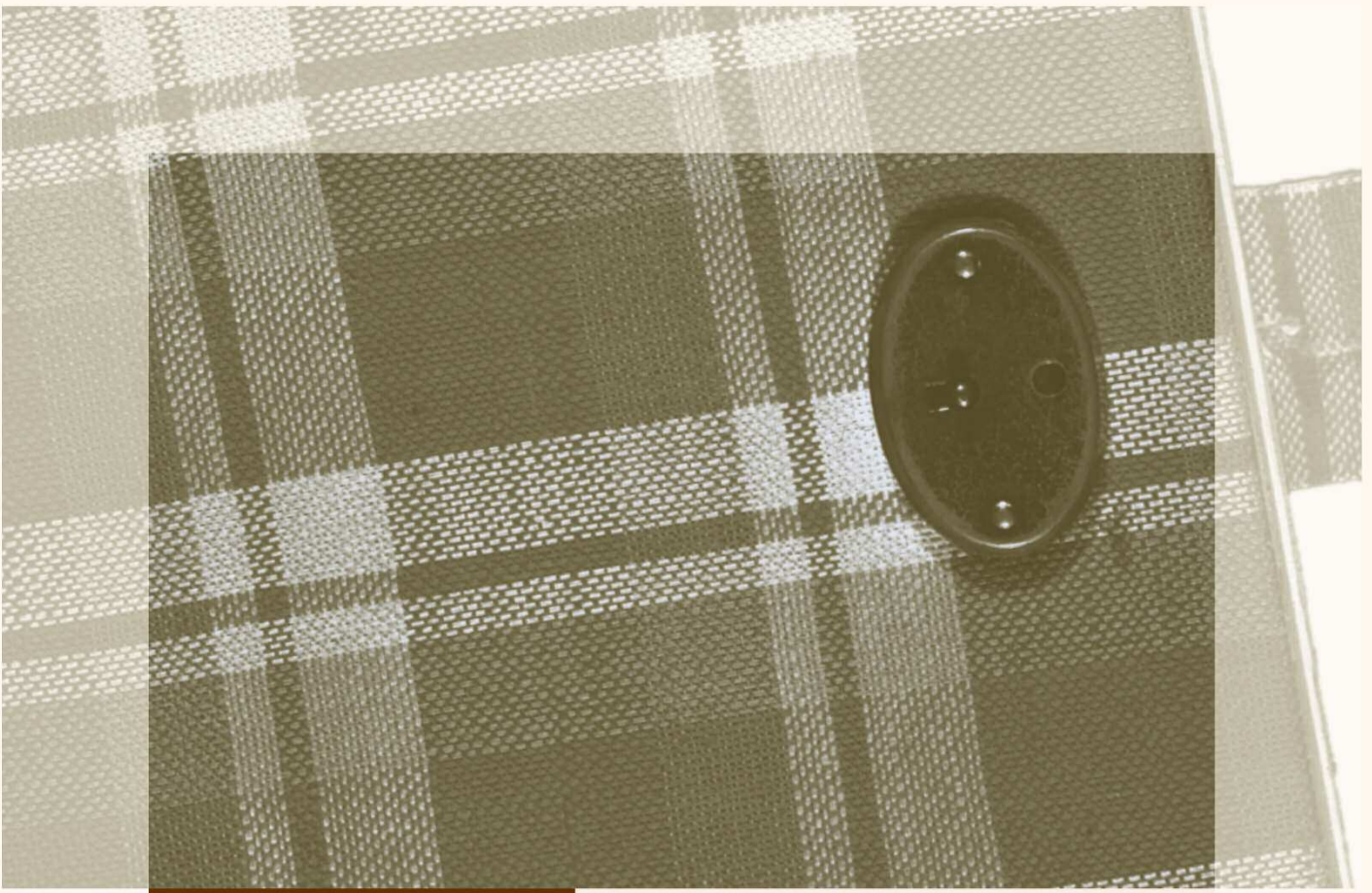
“Our freedom was severely restricted by a series of anti-Jewish decrees: Jews were required to wear a yellow star; Jews were required to turn in their bicycles; Jews were forbidden to use trams; Jews were forbidden to ride in cars, even their own; Jews were required to do their shopping between 3.00 and 5.00 p.m.; Jews were required to frequent only Jewish-owned barbershops and beauty salons; Jews were forbidden to be out on the streets between 8.00 p.m. and 6.00 a.m.”

Jewish children now have to go to separate Jewish schools, in Anne and Margot's case the Jewish Lyceum. Because Jews are no longer allowed to have their own businesses, Otto Frank names Johannes Kleiman as company director, although Otto remains active behind the scenes. The company is also given a new name, Gies & Co, after Jan Gies, the husband of Miep Gies.

2

L a n d	Einhl.
A. Altreich	131.800
Danemark	43.700
Ostgebiete	620.000
Generalgouvernement	2.284.000
Baltische	400.000
Protektorat Böhmen und Mähren	74.000
Estland - judenfrei -	3.500
Lettland	34.000
Litauen	34.000
Belgien	43.000
Dänemark	5.000
Frankreich / Besetztes Gebiet	165.000
Unbesetztes Gebiet	700.000
Grönland	63.000
Niederlande	160.000
Norwegen	1.100
B. Halbinseln	49.000
England	330.000
Finnland	2.300
Irland	4.000
Italien einschl. Sardinien	58.000
Albanien	200
Kroatien	40.000
Portugal	3.000
Rumänien einschl. Bessarabien	342.000
Schweden	8.000
Schweden	18.000
Serbien	10.000
Slowakei	88.000
Spanien	6.000
Ungarn (europ. Teil)	55.000
Ungarn	742.000
USSR	5.000.000
Ukraine	2.994.684
Weißrussland einschl. Baltische	446.484
Zusammen: über	11.000.000

At the Wannsee Conference a calculation is made of the number of Jews living in Europe.



1

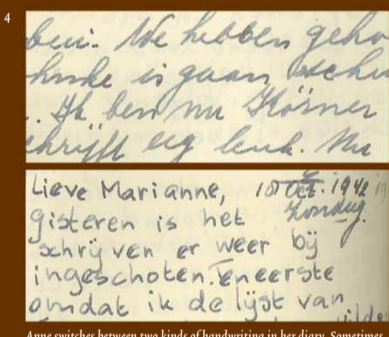
Anne's diary



Anne Frank 1935-1942



Anne's diary. On some pages she she pastes passport photos of herself and comments on them.



Anne switches between two kinds of handwriting in her diary. Sometimes she writes in block letters, at other times she uses a flowing, slanted script.

“I hope I will be able to confide everything to you...”

( ANNE FRANK

“I hope I will be able to confide everything to you, as I have never been able to confide in anyone, and I hope you will be a great source of comfort and support.”

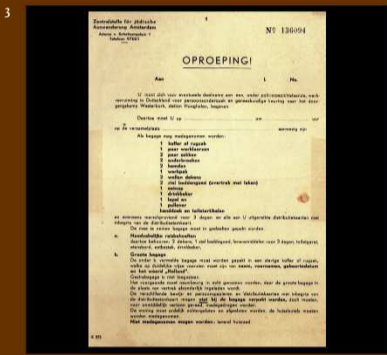
Anne writes these words on the first page of the diary which she is given for her thirteenth birthday on 12 June 1942. She writes the diary in the form of letters to her imaginary friend Kitty about school, her friends and her life up to that point. She cannot foresee that three weeks later her life will change completely.



Margot Frank at the Jewish Lyceum, December 1941.



A passport photo of Anne, May 1942. Probably the last photo that was taken of her.



A call-up notice, with a list of the items the deportees must take with them.



The Frank family decide to go into hiding the very next day. Miep Gies and other helpers come by that same evening to bring as many items as possible to the hiding place.

## “I was stunned. A call-up...”

ANNE FRANK

“At three o’ clock... the doorbell rang. I didn’t hear it, since I was out on the balcony, lazily reading in the sun. A little while later Margot appeared in the kitchen doorway looking very agitated. ‘Father has received a call-up notice from the SS’, she whispered... I was stunned. A call-up: everyone knows what that means. Visions of concentration camps and lonely cells raced through my head.”

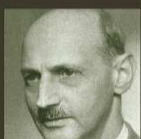
Three weeks after Anne’s birthday, on 5 July 1942, a call-up notice arrives for Margot to report to the authorities. She is to be sent to a ‘labour camp’ in Germany. The call-up does not come as a complete surprise to Anne’s parents: since early 1942 Otto Frank has already been making preparations to go into hiding in the ‘Secret Annexe’, a part of his offices on the Prinsengracht. Only his most trusted employees know of these plans. The decision is made to go into hiding immediately.



The building on the Prinsengracht. The hiding place, the 'Secret Annexe', is at the rear.

2

The Secret Annexe inhabitants



Otto Frank



Edith Frank



Margot Frank



Anne Frank



Hermann van Pels



Auguste van Pels



Peter van Pels



Fritz Pfeffer

“...an ideal place to hide in.”

ANNE FRANK

“The Annexe is an ideal place to hide in. It may be damp and lopsided, but there’s probably not a more comfortable hiding place in all of Amsterdam. No, in all of Holland.”

The hiding place is in an empty part of Otto Frank’s offices. Later, the Van Pels family and Fritz Pfeffer join the Franks there. For the next two years these eight people remain in the Secret Annexe, cut off from the outside world. It is a time full of fear and tension, but also of arguments or stifling boredom. Four of Otto Frank’s trusted employees keep the eight people in hiding supplied with food, clothes and books.

3

The helpers



Miep Gies



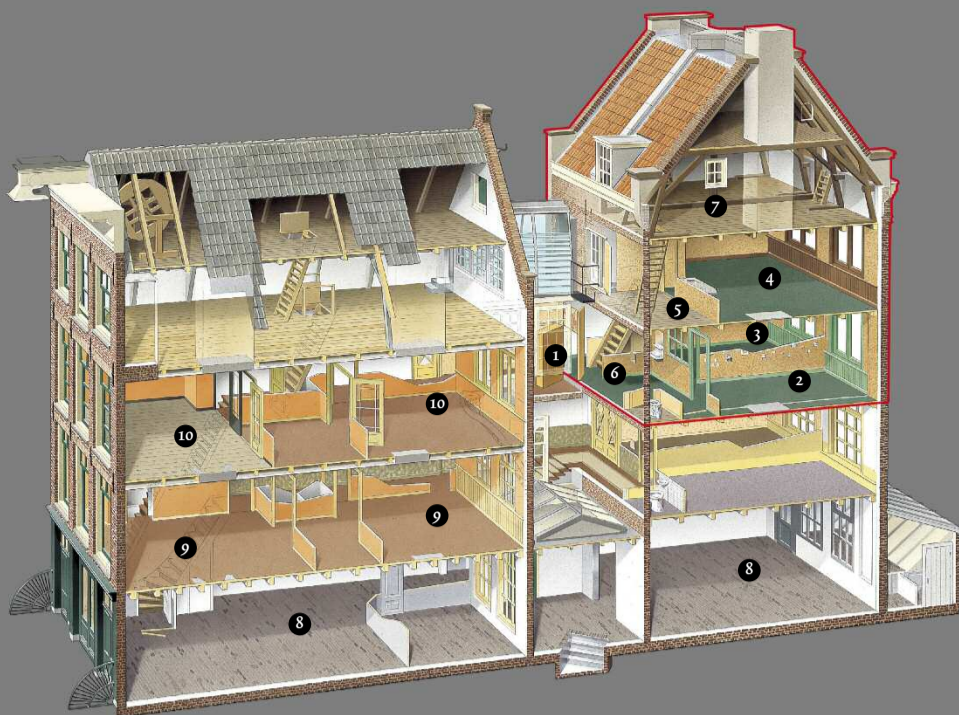
Victor Kugler



Johannes Kleiman



Bep Voskuijl



The building at Prinsengracht 263 (in 2000). At the rear, outlined in red, is the hiding place in the Secret Annex.

#### THE SECRET ANNEXE

- 1 Bookcase.
- 2 Anne and Fritz Pfeffer's room.
- 3 Otto, Edith and Margot's room.
- 4 Hermann and Auguste van Pels's room, also used as dining room.
- 5 Peter van Pels's room.
- 6 Bathroom and toilet.
- 7 Storage attic.

#### THE BUSINESS PREMISES

- 8 Warehouse.
- 9 Office where the helpers work.
- 10 Office storeroom.

“... I’m terrified our hiding place will be discovered and that we’ll be shot.”



A hinged bookcase conceals the entrance to the Secret Annex.

ANNE FRANK

“Not being able to go outside upsets me more than I can say, and I’m terrified our hiding place will be discovered and that we’ll be shot.”

During the day, while people are at work in the building, the Secret Annex inhabitants have to remain very quiet. The warehouse employees have no idea they are there. Because the waste pipe from the toilet runs alongside the warehouse, it must be flushed as little as possible. All the windows are blacked out with blankets so that the neighbours cannot see in, and the door which leads to the Secret Annex is hidden behind a hinged bookcase. During these long, silent hours Anne reads her schoolbooks, plays games with the others and writes in her diary.



Anne and Fritz Pfeffer's room. Anne has decorated the walls with photos. Some years ago, for the making of a film, the Secret Annex was temporarily fitted out as it must have looked while the people were in hiding.



Almost every day Anne writes about her thoughts, feelings and experiences. This diary is already full after a few months. She continues to write in notebooks which she is given by Bep.



The deportation of Amsterdam Jews, summer 1943. Anne learns that friends and classmates have been arrested. At first the helpers still pass on news of what is happening in the outside world, but later they stop.



The helpers try to keep up the spirits of the Secret Annexe inhabitants. They bring them food, books, newspapers and magazines. Anne especially likes the magazine 'Cinema and Theatre'.



Otto, Edith and Margot's room. Anne usually spends her days in this room, because the small room is occupied by Fritz Pfeffer.

“...all are marched to their death”

ANNE FRANK

“It's impossible to escape their clutches unless you go into hiding. No one is spared. The sick, the elderly, children, babies and pregnant women – all are marched to their death.”

The Secret Annexe inhabitants receive news from the outside world that Jews are being hunted down. On the radio they hear about gassings. They feel anxious and powerless. Anne sometimes finds the pressure unbearable. She is often rebellious and rude to the others, and frequently gloomy and depressed. There are many things which she feels she cannot talk about properly with the others. Her diary is her best friend.



Anne begins to re-write her diary on loose sheets of paper.



Anne also writes short stories, and sometimes reads them to the others.



Anne falls in love with Peter van Pels.



Anne and Peter spend hours together in Peter's room.

“...will I ever become a journalist or a writer?”

ANNE FRANK

“...will I ever become a journalist or a writer? I hope so, oh, I hope so very much, because writing allows me to record everything, all my thoughts, ideals and fantasies.”

Anne has discovered a talent and a love for writing. On 28 March 1944 she hears in a radio broadcast from London that the Dutch government will be collecting people's diaries after the war. She decides to re-write her diary in the hope that it may one day be published as a book. She has even thought of a title: 'The Secret Annexe'. Hopes of liberation are raised in the Secret Annexe by the news that the Allies have landed in Normandy and are advancing.



Anne often spends time alone in the attic, struggling to come to terms with her own feelings and events in the world around her.

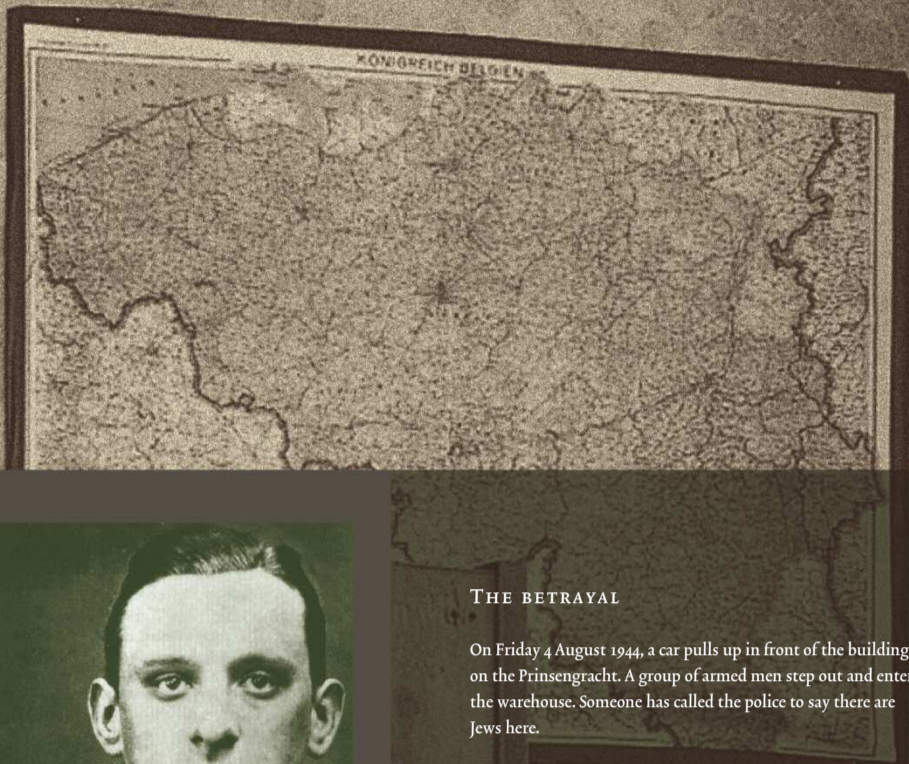
## “I hear the approaching thunder...”

ANNE FRANK

“It’s difficult in times like these: ideals, dreams and cherished hopes rise within us, only to be crushed by grim reality. It’s a wonder I haven’t abandoned all my ideals, they seem so absurd and impractical. Yet I cling to them because I still believe, in spite of everything, that people are truly good at heart. It’s utterly impossible for me to build my life on a foundation of chaos, suffering and death. I see the world being slowly transformed into a wilderness, I hear the approaching thunder that, one day, will destroy us too, I feel the suffering of millions. And yet, when I look up at the sky, I somehow feel that everything will change for the better, that this cruelty too will end, that peace and tranquility will return once more. In the meantime, I must hold on to my ideals. Perhaps the day will come when I’ll be able to realise them!”

On 1 August 1944 Anne writes the final entry in her diary. Three days later, on 4 August 1944, the moment that everyone in the Secret Annex has been dreading arrives.





1



Karl Josef Silberbauer, the SS officer who led the arrest. Nineteen years later, in 1963, he is tracked down in Vienna, where he is working as a police officer. He is suspended, but later reinstated after making a statement that he does not know who the informant was. To this day it remains unclear who betrayed the Secret Annexe inhabitants.

#### THE BETRAYAL

On Friday 4 August 1944, a car pulls up in front of the building on the Prinsengracht. A group of armed men step out and enter the warehouse. Someone has called the police to say there are Jews here.

Karl Josef Silberbauer, an Austrian Nazi, is in command. The others are Dutch police officers. The Secret Annexe inhabitants are taken completely by surprise. They are given just enough time to pack their bags. Silberbauer grabs a briefcase and shakes out the contents so he can use it to take away money and jewellery. Anne's diary papers fall out onto the floor. Then Anne and the others are taken away to the local prison.

A few hours later Miep Gies and Bep Voskuijl return to the Secret Annexe, where they find Anne's diaries. They take them away with them, and Miep locks them in her desk drawer.

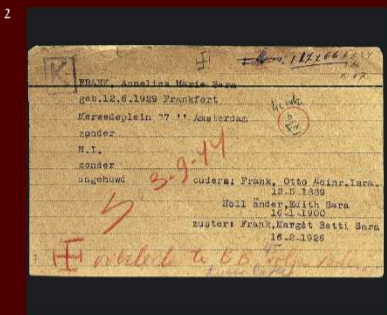
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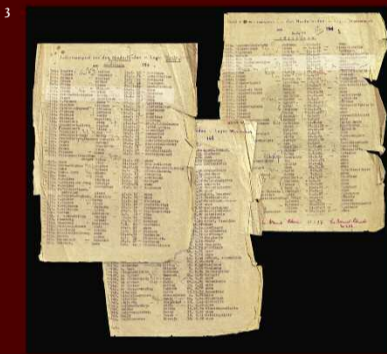
Anne and the others are first brought to Gestapo headquarters. Four days later they are taken by train to the transit camp at Westerbork in the Dutch province of Drenthe.



Nearly all of the Jews captured in the Netherlands are first taken to the Westerbork transit camp.



Anne Frank's record card from Westerbork.



The train leaves on 3 September 1944, with 1019 people on board. The lists of deportees still exist today. Anne's name, and those of the others from the Secret Annex, are on these pages.



A transport departs from Westerbork.

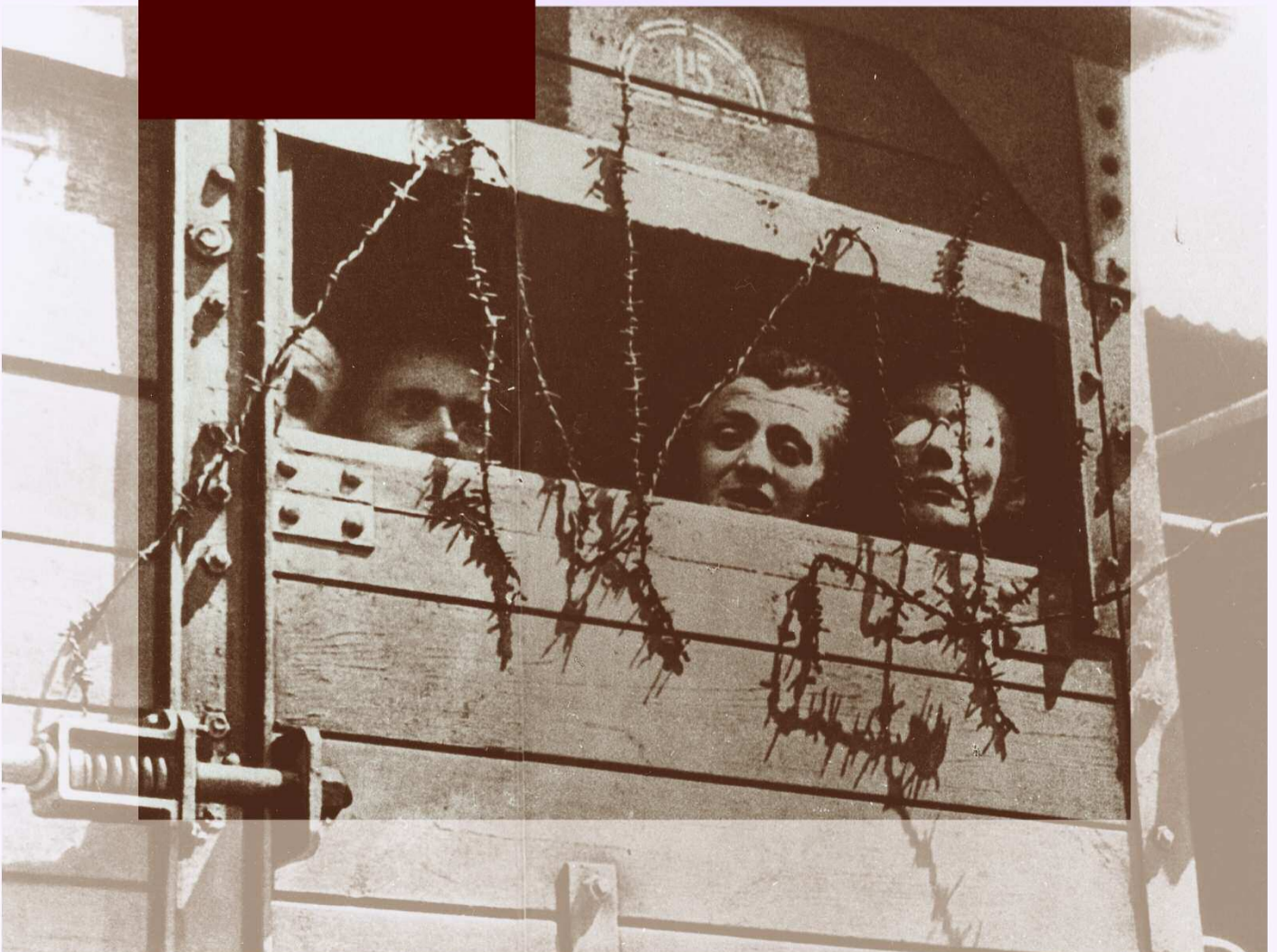
## “...we knew what was happening”

OTTO FRANK

“We were together again, and had been given a little food for the journey. In our hearts, of course, we were already anticipating the possibility that we might not remain in Westerbork to the end. We knew about deportation to Poland, after all. And we also knew what was happening in Auschwitz, Treblinka and Maidanek. But then, were not the Russians already deep in Poland? The war was so far advanced that we could begin to place a little hope in luck. As we rode toward Westerbork we were hoping that our luck would hold.”

Thousands of people are being held at Westerbork. The Secret Annex inhabitants are put in special punishment blocks, because they have not reported for deportation of their own accord. They receive especially harsh treatment from their guards, and are forced to carry out hard labour. Trains crammed with Jewish people leave regularly for the East. After four weeks, Anne and the others from the Secret Annex are also taken away, on the last train to leave Westerbork for Auschwitz.

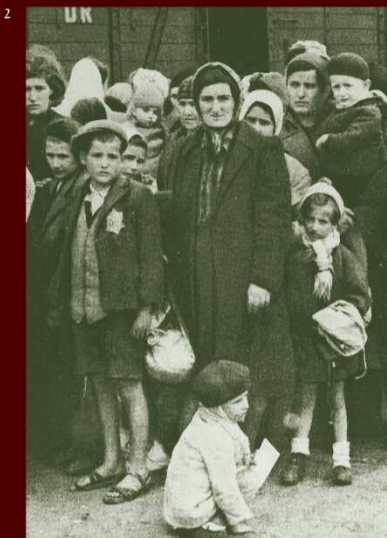
The deportees are locked into goods trains, with around 70 people crammed into each wagon. The journey lasts for three days, with no space to lie down, next to no food or drink, and just a single bucket for a toilet.





1

Men and women are separated directly on their arrival at Auschwitz. After that the Nazis select those who are to be gassed and cremated immediately. The rest must carry out inhuman forced labour.



Hungarian Jews, selected for the gas chambers, on the platform at Auschwitz.

## “I can no longer talk about...”

OTTO FRANK

“I can no longer talk about how I felt when my family arrived on the train platform in Auschwitz and we were forcibly separated from each other.”

On the night of 6 September the train arrives at Auschwitz. The prisoners have to leave their belongings behind in the train. On the platform, the men and women are separated. This is the last time that Otto will ever see Edith, Margot and Anne. Auschwitz is one of the extermination camps which have been specially constructed for the purpose of killing human beings. The old, the sick and children under 15 are gassed immediately on arrival, a fate which befalls more than half the people on Anne’s train. The rest, the Secret Annexe inhabitants among them, survive this selection and are taken to a labour camp. With the Russian army advancing, the Nazis are beginning to evacuate Auschwitz. After two months Anne and Margot are moved to the Bergen-Belsen concentration camp.



Poison gas cylinders (Zyklon-B) that are used in the gas chambers.

The prisoners who are not killed immediately have a number tattooed on their arm. Their heads are shaved and they are given camp uniforms.

4





Starvation, cold and disease claim many lives in the overcrowded Bergen-Belsen concentration camp.



After Westerbork and Auschwitz, Anne and Margot reach their final destination: Bergen-Belsen.



The British soldiers who liberate the camp are deeply shaken by what they find. There are corpses lying everywhere. They force the former camp guards to bury the bodies.

## “She wasn’t the same Anne.”

HANNAH GOSLAR

“She wasn’t the same Anne. She was a broken girl... it was terrible. She immediately began to cry, and she told me: ‘I don’t have parents anymore.’ I always think that if Anne had known that her father was still alive, she might have found the strength to survive...”

In Bergen-Belsen Anne meets her schoolfriend Hannah Goslar, who is being held in another part of the camp. Then they become separated by a fence of barbed wire and straw and can no longer see each other. Anne tells Hannah that she and Margot are starving and have no warm clothes. Hannah manages to throw a package with some clothes and a little food over the fence. But Margot and Anne have no strength left. They both contract typhus, and in February 1945, within a few days of each other, they die.

On 15 April 1945 Bergen-Belsen is liberated by the British army.

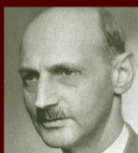
A women’s barracks shortly after the liberation of Bergen-Belsen.





1

2



Otto Frank is the only person from the Secret Annexe to survive. He is liberated from Auschwitz by the Russian army on 27 January 1945.



Edith Frank dies of exhaustion in Auschwitz on 6 January 1945.



Margot Frank dies of typhus in Bergen-Belsen in the spring of 1945.



Anne Frank dies of typhus in Bergen-Belsen a few days after Margot.



Hermann van Pels is gassed shortly after his arrival in Auschwitz in October or November 1944.



Auguste van Pels dies in April or May 1945 on the way to Theresienstadt concentration camp.



Peter van Pels dies on 5 May 1945 in Mauthausen concentration camp.



Fritz Pfeffer dies on 20 December 1944 in Neuengamme concentration camp.

A map showing some of the main concentration and extermination camps.

## “My entire hope...”

OTTO FRANK

“My entire hope lies with the children. I cling to the belief that they are alive and that we’ll be together again. Only the children, the children count.”

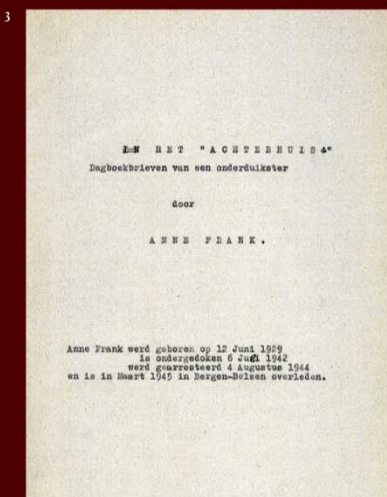
Otto Frank writes this in near-despair to his mother in Basle after the liberation. Otto has survived Auschwitz by sheer chance. He is one of the few who are found alive by the Russian soldiers. Once he has regained a little strength he begins the journey back to Amsterdam. The journey takes four months, because war is still raging in most parts of Europe, and during this time he hears that his wife Edith is dead. However, he knows nothing of his children’s fate, and he clings to the hope that they are still alive.



Otto Frank shows the concentration camp number tattooed on his arm.



At first Otto is so overcome by grief that he cannot bring himself to read the diary. But later, when he does begin to read it, he cannot stop. "A completely different Anne from the daughter I had lost appeared. Such deep thoughts and feelings... I had no idea..."

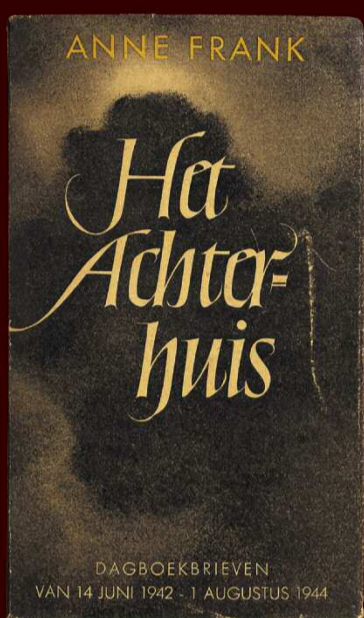


He types out part of the diary and lets his family and a few friends read it. They say that he must have it published.

## “...deaths of my children”

OTTO FRANK  
“Small groups kept returning from the various concentration camps, and over and over I tried to find out about Margot and Anne. I found two sisters who had been with Margot and Anne in Bergen-Belsen, and they told me about the final suffering and death of my children.”

Otto is a broken man. Miep Gies, who has kept Anne's diary safe all this time, now hands it to Otto, saying: "This is your daughter's legacy."



For many, Anne Frank has become a symbol of the Holocaust: the systematic murder of six million human beings.

"The diary demonstrates the immense tragedy of the Holocaust, the waste of human lives and talent, and the price that was paid because free people did not act in time to suppress totalitarian movements."

Yehuda Lev

“...and later on,  
a famous writer”

ANNE FRANK  
“...my greatest wish is to be a journalist, and later on,  
a famous writer. In any case, after the war I'd like to  
publish a book called *The Secret Annexe*.”

Two years after the war, in June 1947, Anne Frank's diary is published under the title she had thought of herself: *The Secret Annexe*.

The first edition sells out quickly and is soon reprinted. Publishers from other countries also begin to show an interest in the diary.

In 1955 the diary is adapted into a stage play, which is a phenomenal success. The film version which is later made is shown in packed houses around the world.

The diary is translated into over 60 languages, some 30 million copies are sold, and schools and streets are named in honour of Anne Frank.

Millions of people read the diary, and many of them want to see with their own eyes the place where Anne wrote it.

Otto Frank in 1960, just before the opening of the Anne Frank House. Otto wants to do more than just open the Secret Annexe to the public. He sets up an educational foundation which brings together young people from all over the world.  
Otto Frank dies in 1980, aged 91.

© Arnold Newman



## The Anne Frank House

The Anne Frank House is dedicated to honouring the memory of Anne Frank and raising awareness of the Nazi era and the Holocaust.

The story of Anne Frank, and the events surrounding her life and death, still have much to teach us today. The Anne Frank House aims to show how they call upon each one of us to counter prejudice and discrimination, preserve freedom, uphold human rights and work for an inclusive and democratic society. Through its activities, the Anne Frank House seeks to inspire people all over the world to actively commit themselves to these ideals.

## Credits

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