

'LET ME BE MYSELF'

The life story of
Anne Frank





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In the Secret Annex, Anne dreamed of becoming a writer and a journalist after the war. She often thought about the war and the world around her. On 15 July 1944, Anne wrote in her diary: 'It's difficult in times like these: ideals, dreams and cherished hopes rise within us, only to be crushed by grim reality.'

To the Nazis, Anne Frank was just Jewish. They used their racial laws to determine who was Jewish and therefore denied the right to live. The anti-Semitism of the Nazis resulted in the Holocaust: the murder of six million Jewish men, women, and children. Anne Frank was one of them. The first part of this exhibition centres on her life.

Ours is another age. The differences between then and now are huge, but discrimination and exclusion did not end with the Second World War. In the second part of the exhibition, young people tell how they deal with these issues.

Photo of the only moving image of Anne Frank. In 1941, she was filmed by chance when the neighbour's daughter got married.

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1929 - 1933

Otto Frank and Edith Holländer marry on 12 May 1925.

Annelies Marie Frank

1

On 12 June 1929, the Frank family is celebrating: Edith and Otto are overjoyed with the birth of their second daughter: Anne (Annelies Marie). The Frank family is Jewish and German. They live in the quiet suburbs of Frankfurt am Main (Germany). There are many neighbourhood children for Anne and her three-year-older sister Margot to play with. Otto and Edith are happy, even though they do worry about the economic crisis in their country.

Germany has lost the First World War (1914-1918). Under the Versailles Peace Treaty, Germany loses part of its territory and has to pay large amounts to the victors. In October 1929, a global economic crisis is added to the mix. Otto Frank's family business, a bank, suffers as well. The situation is deteriorating. Many Germans are out of work and feel bitter. Some political parties capitalise on these feelings of dissatisfaction and rancour. One of these parties is the National Socialist German Workers' Party (NSDAP).

Standing in line at the employment office in Hannover, 1932. In February 1932, more than 6 million Germans (20%) are unemployed.

Panel 1

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1929 – 1933

Panel 2

« Otto Frank with Margot and Anne, 1931.

Scapegoats

Otto and Edith Frank are very worried about the political situation. As early as 1932, they see members of the SA, the Storm Troops of the NSDAP, marching in the streets of Frankfurt, singing 'When Jewish blood splashes from the knife...' The NSDAP hates the Jews and turns them into scapegoats. Adolf Hitler, the party leader, and his followers blame the Jews in Germany for all the problems, such as the high unemployment rate and losing the First World War. Once the Jews will have left Germany, all problems will be solved, according to the Nazis.

Hitler's book *Mein Kampf* ('My Struggle'), published in 1925, clearly shows his anti-Semitism (hatred of Jews). Anti-Semitism is not a new phenomenon; it has been around for centuries, and not just in Germany either. In addition, Hitler and his followers not only want to regain the territory that was lost after the First World War, they also want to expand to the east. As a result of the economic crisis and the anti-Semitism around them, Otto and Edith seriously consider leaving their country. But where can they go? And how will they build a life for themselves in a new country?

« Members of the SA (*Sturmabteilung*) marching in the streets of Berlin, 1932.



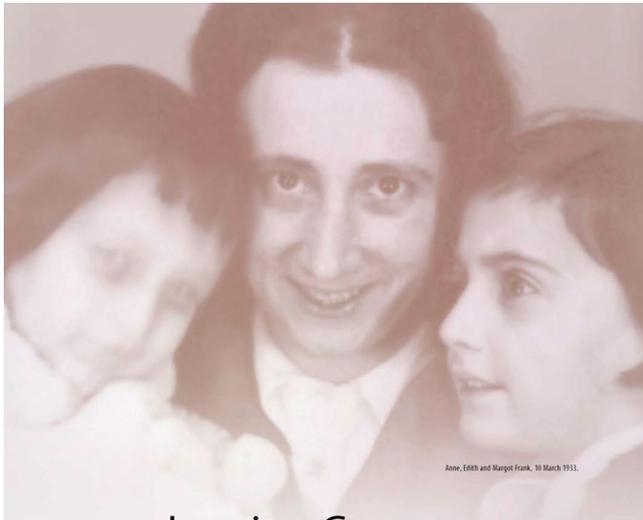
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Members of the SA (*Sturmabteilung*) marching in the streets of Berlin, 1932.



Anne, Edith and Margot Frank, 10 March 1933.

Leaving Germany

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Many Germans place their trust in Hitler and the NSDAP, and hope that they will solve all their problems. In the elections of July and November 1932, the NSDAP becomes the largest party. On 30 January 1933, President Paul von Hindenburg appoints Adolf Hitler Chancellor, leader of the German government. Germany is now ruled by hatred.

On this 30th of January, Otto and Edith Frank are visiting acquaintances. They hear a radio broadcast announcing that Hitler has been appointed Chancellor. Their host is oblivious to the danger: 'Let's see what that man can do!' he says. Otto does not know what to say, and Edith is petrified. A few months later, their plans for leaving Germany take shape.

Hitler has been appointed Chancellor and waves to the enthusiastic crowds in Berlin, 30 January 1933.



1929 – 1933

Panel 3

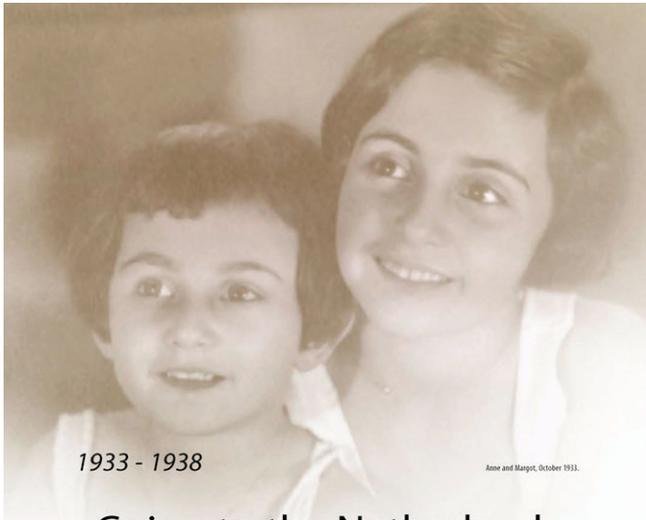
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1933 - 1938

Anne and Margot, October 1933.

Going to the Netherlands

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In the summer of 1933, Otto Frank goes ahead to the Netherlands. Through Erich Elias, his brother-in-law, he has the opportunity to start a company in Amsterdam: Opekta, selling pectin for jam making. Edith stays with Margot and Anne at her mother's house in Aachen, near the Dutch border. She travels back and forth to Amsterdam to find them a house. At the end of 1933, Edith finds an apartment at the Merwedeplein, in a new estate in the southern part of Amsterdam. Margot comes to the Netherlands in December, Anne joins them in February 1934. Through their family, friends and the media, Otto and Edith keep close track of the developments in Nazi Germany.

With the support of a large part of the German population, the Nazis quickly change the democratic Weimar Republic into a dictatorship. They do not tolerate opposition, and arrest thousands of political opponents, who are then imprisoned in concentration camps. Many of them will be killed in these camps. From 14 July 1933 onwards, the NSDAP is the only political party; all other parties are banned. A special youth organisation is launched for boys and girls: the *Hitlerjugend* (Hitler Youth).

On 10 May 1933, NSDAP supporters, many of whom are students, burn books by Jewish writers and political opponents in Berlin. The same happens in many other German cities.



1933 – 1938

Panel 4

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Early 1934, Anne goes to a Montessori kindergarten. In her school are other Jewish children who have also left Nazi Germany.

A new home

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Otto works long hours in his company, Edith runs the home and takes care of the children. Margot and Anne attend a Dutch school and make new friends quickly. They have no trouble learning the new language. Otto and Edith feel free in Amsterdam, but they worry about the relatives they have left behind in Germany.

From April 1933 onwards, the Nazis slowly but surely deprive the Jews of their rights. Jewish teachers and public servants are fired. In September 1935, the Nazis use official racial laws to determine who is 'Jewish'; that Jews have fewer rights, and that Jews and non-Jews are no longer allowed to marry or to have relationships. Jewish Germans become second-rate citizens in their own country.

A school class in Germany, 1938.



1933 – 1938

Panel 5

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Anne at a summer camp for city children in Laren, close to Amsterdam, 1937.

1933 – 1938

Panel 6

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Dramatic news

6

After a difficult start, the company of Otto Frank starts to pick up. In 1937, Hermann van Pels, who is also Jewish, immigrates to the Netherlands with his family. In Germany, Van Pels had a company in food and meat ingredients. Otto Frank hires him and starts a second company: Pectacon. In late 1938, they receive dramatic news from Nazi Germany. In the night from 9 to 10 November, there is an explosion of violence against Jews. During this *Kristallnacht*, Nazis murder over one hundred Jews and imprison 30,000 Jewish men in their concentration camps. Anne's uncle Walter is one of them. Over 1,400 synagogues are set on fire, thousands of Jewish shops are destroyed.

Many Jewish citizens of Nazi Germany are terrified. They want to leave as quickly as possible, but most countries allow only limited numbers of refugees or apply strict entry requirements. Uncle Walter is released shortly after his arrest. Like his brother Julius, he succeeds in fleeing to the US via the Netherlands. Grandmother Holländer comes to Amsterdam in March 1939 and moves in with her daughter and son-in-law. From this moment on, there are no direct relatives of Edith Frank living in Nazi Germany. Otto's mother and his sister Helene have moved to Switzerland, his brother Robert has gone to London, and his brother Herbert is in Paris.

The burning synagogue of Ober-Ramstadt (Germany), 10 November 1938.



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« The burning synagogue of Ober-Ramstadt (Germany), 10 November 1938.



War!

7

On 1 September 1939, Otto and Edith hear bad news: the German army has invaded Poland. France and Great-Britain declare war on Nazi Germany right away, but fail to offer military help. Russian troops invade Poland from the east. The Soviet-Union and Nazi Germany divide Poland under a secret treaty. Otto and Edith wonder whether the Netherlands will stay neutral. For how long will they be safe in Amsterdam? Will they be able to get out in time?

Even before the war, Otto Frank has tried to leave the Netherlands with his family. In 1937, his efforts to start a business in Great-Britain came to nothing. In 1938, Otto applied with the American consulate in Rotterdam for emigration to the United States, and from April 1941 onwards, he tries fervently to emigrate to the US with the support of his old American study friend Nathan Strauss, and Julius and Walter Holländer. At this point, this is still an option, as the US are not yet involved in the war.

German soldiers look at the remains of a Polish army column after an attack by German airplanes, 20 September 1939.



1939 – 1940

Panel 7

« Anne Frank, 1939.

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

'Never safe'

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Otto and Edith hope that the Netherlands will remain neutral – just like in the First World War. The Dutch population is unaware of the cruelties committed on a large scale by the Nazis in Poland. In the spring of 1940, Margot and Anne correspond with penfriends in the US. On 27 April 1940, Margot writes to her penfriend Betty Ann Wagner: 'We often listen to the radio as times are very exciting, having a frontier with Germany and being a small country we never feel safe.'

During the first months of the war, *Einsatzgruppen* (special SS units) execute more than 60,000 – often prominent – citizens in Poland. The Nazis force the Jewish inhabitants of occupied Poland to live in special ghettos, packed closely together, under poor hygienic circumstances and with little food. Thousands of men, women and children die. Eventually, hundreds of thousands Polish Jews will be deported from the ghettos to concentration and extermination camps, where they will be murdered.

Jewish men are deported by an *Einsatzgruppe* consisting of members of the *Sicherheitsdienst* (SD) and police officers, Poland, September 1939.



1939 – 1940

Panel 8

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Anne, May 1940.

Trapped...

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On 10 May 1940, the nightmare of Otto and Edith becomes reality: German soldiers cross the Dutch border. The fighting between the German army and the Dutch army takes five days. Queen Wilhelmina, members of the Royal Family and the full cabinet flee to London. After the city centre of Rotterdam has been bombarded, the fighting is over: the Dutch army command surrenders. Some Jewish inhabitants are so desperate and scared that they kill themselves. The Netherlands is now an occupied country.

Anne and Margot go to school as though nothing has changed. In October 1940, Jewish entrepreneurs are forced to register their companies with the German authorities and as from the spring of 1941, they are no longer allowed to own their own companies. Otto Frank succeeds in keeping his company out of the hands of the Germans by relinquishing his interests and by transferring his directorship to Johannes Kleiman, an employee. For Pectacon, he starts a substitute company, appointing his employee Victor Kugler as its director and Jan Gies, the husband of his employee Miep Gies, as its commissioner. Behind the scenes, Otto Frank is still closely involved with both companies.

German soldiers enter the destroyed city centre of Rotterdam, May 1940.



1939 – 1940

Panel 9

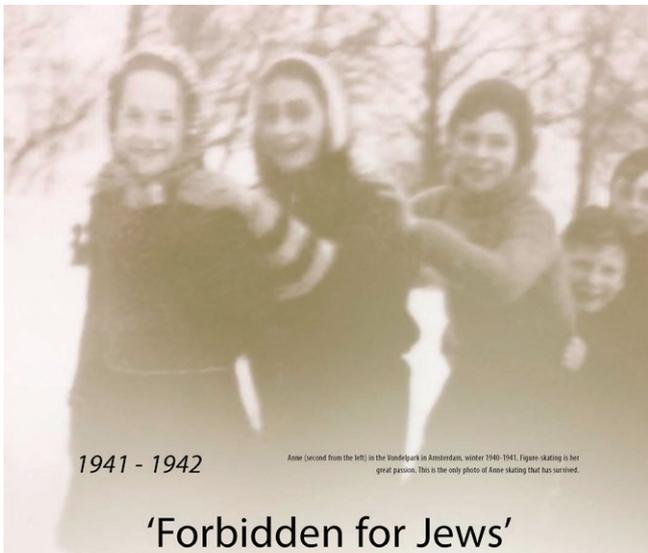
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1941 - 1942

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

'Forbidden for Jews'

10

In 1941, the atmosphere in the occupied Netherlands becomes grimmer. Fights ensue between Dutch National-Socialists and Jews. A Dutch Nazi is killed in such a fight in February 1941. Shortly afterwards, the Germans arrest 421 Jewish men during a raid in Amsterdam. In protest, part of the Amsterdam population goes on strike. After two days, the Germans violently break the strike. In 1941, the war expands. On 22 June 1941, Nazi Germany attacks the Soviet-Union. German troops conquer large parts of the Soviet-Union, but in the autumn of 1941, the Russian mud slows the German advance.

After the 1941 summer holiday, the Nazis force Jewish students to attend separate schools. Anne and Margot go to the Jewish Lyceum founded for the purpose. The Nazis step up the isolation of the Jews in the Netherlands. In the autumn of 1941, more and more places are branded *Voor Joden verboden* ('Forbidden for Jews'), such as cinemas, parks and libraries. Jews are not allowed to play sports in public or to be members of sports clubs. And so, much to her chagrin, Anne can no longer go figure-skating in the winter of 1941-1942. Her parents have concerns of their own. When Japan, an ally of Nazi Germany, attacks American ships near Pearl Harbor (Hawaii) on 7 December 1941, this means that the United States are automatically at war with Nazi Germany. This puts an end to the efforts of Otto and Edith to immigrate to the United States.

A German soldier guards Jewish men who have been arrested during the first round-up in Amsterdam, 25 February 1941. The men are deported to the Mauthausen concentration camp; only a few will survive.



1941 – 1942

Panel 10

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

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1941 – 1942

Panel 11

« This is the diary Anne received for her thirteenth birthday.

A diary

On 12 June 1942, Anne celebrates her thirteenth birthday. She is very keen to have a diary, and has been allowed to pick one herself. Anne is enthusiastic and starts writing in it straight away. A few weeks later, she receives her school report. Anne is fairly satisfied, apart from failing algebra. She writes that Margot's report is 'excellent, as usual'. The summer holiday starts for Anne and Margot. Their parents worry: rumour has it that all Jews will be sent to labour camps in Nazi Germany.

The Nazis are secretly planning to kill all the Jews in Europe. As early as September 1941, the Nazis use Zyklon-B, a poisonous gas, to gas the first Russian prisoners. From October 1941 onwards, the Nazis deport groups of Jews from Germany to the east, where most of them will be executed. On 20 January 1942, high Nazi officials meet in a villa on the Wannsee in Berlin. They work out Hitler's plan to systematically murder all the Jews in Europe.

« Jewish children watching a show in Amsterdam, 1943. Starting from 3 May 1942, all Jews over the age of five have to wear a yellow Star of David with the word *Jood* (Jew) sewn onto their clothing.



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Margot Frank, December 1941.

The summons

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On Sunday 5 July 1942, a police officer comes to the door with an official summons for Margot Frank. She will have to report to the authorities and be sent to work in Nazi Germany. On that same day, hundreds of Jewish residents of Amsterdam receive the same summons. Otto and Edith are suspicious. They will not let Margot go and decide to go into hiding the very next day. Margot and Anne have to pack their things. One of the first things Anne packs, is her diary. She does not know where their hiding place will be...

Otto and Edith have secretly prepared a hiding place in the empty part – the Annex – of the company premises. Room has been made for the Van Pels family as well. Otto has asked his employees in the spring whether they would help him if he would have to go into hiding with his family. Miep Gies, Johannes Kleiman, Victor Kugler and Bep Voskuijl immediately promised to help, even though they know that the punishment for helping Jews is severe. Together with Johannes Kleiman and his brother Willy, Otto has moved food, furniture and other necessities, such as bedding, to the hiding place. Johan Voskuijl, Bep's father, who works in the warehouse, is let in on the secret as well. The other warehouse staff is not informed.

Arrested Jews wait in Amsterdam for the train to the Westerbork transit camp (in the north-east of the Netherlands). Many Jewish men and women believe that they are really going to labour camps and that they will survive somehow.



1941 – 1942

Panel 12

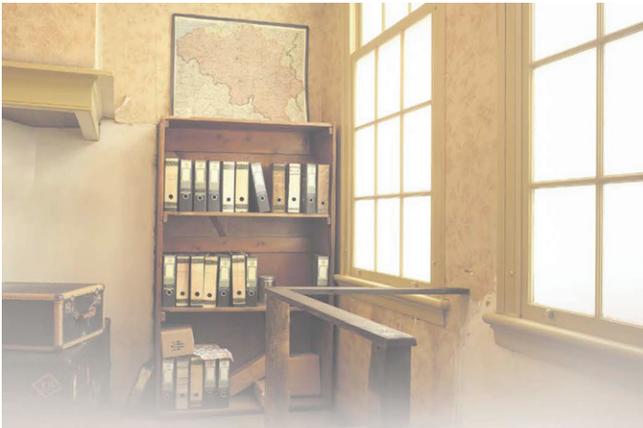
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1942 – 1944

Panel 13

« A revolving bookcase hides the passage to the Secret Annex.

The secret hiding place

On 6 July 1942, the Frank family goes into hiding in the annex of Otto Frank's business premises. One week later, they are joined by Hermann van Pels, his wife Auguste, and their son Peter. In November they decide that there is room for one more, and Fritz Pfeffer, an acquaintance of the Frank family, joins them. He tells them how many friends of the Frank family have been arrested in round-ups. 'It is so sad to learn what he knew,' Anne writes in her diary. She feels guilty for being in a safe hiding-place, while her friends 'are in the hands of the cruellest executioners that ever lived.'

1942 - 1944

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Hundreds of Jews who receive these summonses do not report to the authorities. The Germans respond by organising round-ups: streets or entire blocks are closed off and searched systematically. Jewish residents are taken away. Dutch police officers often assist in these round-ups. In addition, there is a group of some fifty bounty hunters, the infamous Henneicke Column, who are actively looking for Jews in hiding. Between March and September 1943, they track down and arrest 8,000 to 9,000 Jews in hiding. They usually receive a bounty for each captured Jew.

A round-up in Amsterdam, May 1943. During this round-up, the Nazis and their henchmen arrest 3,000 Jews. The picture was taken illegally by H.J. Wijnne.



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The room of Hermann and Auguste van Pels, doubling as joint living room and kitchen (reconstruction, 1998).

1942 – 1944

Panel 14

« The room of Hermann and Auguste van Pels, doubling as the joint living room and kitchen (temporary set-up, 1998).

‘Tension and despair’

The eight people in hiding try to pass the long days in the Annex as best they can. They read and study, and there is cooking to be done for eight people as well. Sometimes, there are tensions, and they have arguments. There are merry times as well, when birthdays and holidays are celebrated. The fear of discovery is always felt. On 26 May 1944, Anne writes in her diary: ‘One day we’re laughing at the comical side of life in hiding, and the next day (and there are many such days) we’re frightened, and the fear, tension and despair can be read in our faces.’

‘Tension and despair’

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The Dutch resistance against the Nazis and their henchmen is a ray of hope in the lives of the people in the Annex. Anne feels that they should ‘never forget the heroic courage’ - the courage of their helpers and the courage of those actively fighting the Nazis. However, the majority of the Dutch remain bystanders, neither actively collaborating, nor taking part in the resistance. Anne writes about the collaboration: ‘Fortunately, only a small percentage of the Dutch people are on the wrong side.’ In reality, more than 25,000 Dutchmen are fighting on the German side, and the NSB, the Dutch Nazi party, at its peak has about 100,000 members.

In March 1943, members of the resistance place an attack on the municipal register of Amsterdam, in order to make it harder for the Nazis to track down Jews and members of the resistance. Only a small part of the register is actually destroyed. Anne mentions the attack in her diary.



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The small table in the room of Anne and Fritz Pfeffer (reconstruction, 1998).

'Friends are on the way'

15

It goes without saying that the people in the Annex follow the news on the war closely. The defeats suffered by the German army give them hope. From 1943 onwards, the Soviet army succeeds in driving back the German troops. In the west, other allied troops do the same after landing on the coast of Normandy (France) on 6 June 1944. The people in the Annex are overjoyed. 'Friends are on the way', an exhilarated Anne writes in her diary. Margot tells Anne that she might be going back to school in September or October...

Just like the people in the Annex, other Jewish men, women and children in hiding are fervently hoping for a swift liberation of the Netherlands. The situation of the people in the Annex is in many ways exceptional: parents and children are usually hiding at different addresses and moving often, for instance, when they have been betrayed. On the other hand, there are Jewish children who still go to school and play outside, using forged papers or false identities.

On 6 June 1944, allied troops land on the coast of Normandy (France). Their aim is to liberate the occupied countries in Europe and to ultimately defeat the Nazis. This day will go into history as D-Day.



1942 – 1944

Panel 15

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Just like the people in the Annex, other Jewish men, women and children in hiding are fervently hoping for a swift liberation of the Netherlands. The situation of the people in the Annex is in many ways exceptional: parents and children are usually hiding at different addresses and moving often, for fear of impending betrayal. At the same time, there are Jewish children who still go to school and play outside, using forged papers or false identities.

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1944 - 1945

It is still unknown who betrayed the people hiding in the Annex.

Betrayed!

16

On Friday 4 August 1944 at 10:30 am, a car halts in front of 263 Prinsengracht. Karl Josef Silberbauer, an SS-Oberscharführer, and a number of Dutch police officers get out. The people in the Annex have been betrayed. They arrest the eight people in hiding and two of their helpers, Johannes Kleiman and Victor Kugler. Silberbauer empties a document case he finds in the Annex to take jewellery and other valuable possessions. The papers from Anne's diary fall to the ground. After a few days in an Amsterdam prison, they are all put on the train to the Westerbork transit camp. Johannes Kleiman and Victor Kugler end up in the Amersfoort concentration camp.

In Westerbork, the eight people from the Annex are placed in the prison barracks for not coming forward of their own accord. Margot, Anne and their mother have to do filthy work: taking apart batteries. From 15 July 1942 onwards, trains with prisoners depart from Westerbork to the concentration and extermination camps in Nazi Germany and in the east of Europe. 'Criminal cases', such as the people from the Annex, are put on the first train leaving the camp. On Sunday 3 September 1944, the last train leaves Westerbork for Auschwitz-Birkenau, the largest concentration and extermination camp in Nazi-occupied Poland. On the list of prisoners on this train are the names of the eight people from the Annex.

Children in the Westerbork transit camp, 1943.



1944 – 1945

Panel 16

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Jewish prisoners from Hungary on the platform at Auschwitz-Birkenau, May 1944.

1944 – 1945

Panel 17

« Jewish prisoners from Hungary on the platform at Auschwitz-Birkenau, May 1944.

The last time

In the night from 5 to 6 September 1944, the Frank family, the Van Pels family and Fritz Pfeffer arrive at the Auschwitz-Birkenau concentration camp. On the platform, an SS doctor decides who will live and who will die. Families are torn apart, the men have to go to one side, the women and children to the other. It is the last time that Anne and Margot will see their father. About one third of the one thousand Jewish men, women and children from the train are killed in the gas chambers straight away. Most of the other prisoners have to do hard labour under atrocious circumstances. The eight people from the Annex escape the first selection round for the gas chambers.

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In Germany and the occupied territories, the Nazis build hundreds of concentration camps where millions of prisoners have to do hard labour. In these camps, thousands of prisoners die of exhaustion from doing heavy labour or from illnesses. The hygienic circumstances in these camps, such as Bergen-Belsen, are poor and there is not nearly enough food. And then there are the extermination camps, where all prisoners are murdered in the gas chambers immediately upon their arrival.

Jewish mothers and children on their way to the gas chambers in Auschwitz-Birkenau, May 1944.



In Germany and the occupied territories, the Nazis build hundreds of concentration camps where millions of prisoners have to do hard labour. There are extermination camps, where all prisoners are murdered in the gas chambers immediately upon their arrival. In concentration camps without gas chambers, such as Bergen-Belsen, thousands of prisoners die of exhaustion from doing heavy labour or from illnesses. The hygienic circumstances in these camps are poor and there is not nearly enough food.

« Jewish mothers and children on their way to the gas chambers in Auschwitz-Birkenau, May 1944.



Survivors from the Bergen-Belsen camp, April 1945. After the Liberation, many people die yet from the consequences of their imprisonment.

1944 – 1945

Panel 18

« Survivors from the Bergen-Belsen concentration camp, April 1945. After the Liberation, many people still die from the consequences of their imprisonment.

'You could see them die'

In the autumn of 1944, the German army in eastern Europe is pushed back. As a result, the Nazis decide to move part of the prisoners from Auschwitz-Birkenau to the west by the end of October. After a horrid journey by train, Anne and Margot arrive with hundreds of others at the Bergen-Belsen concentration camp (North-Germany). Circumstances are horrible. Many prisoners, including Margot and Anne, contract typhus. Rachel van Amerongen-Frankfoorder, a fellow prisoner, recalls after the war: 'They would get those drawn faces, all skin and bones. They were terribly cold. They were in the worst places in the barracks (...). You would hear them yelling all the time: "Close the door, close the door," and the sound grew a little weaker every day. You could literally see them die (...).'

In March 1945, Margot succumbs first; Anne follows a few days later. While Margot and Anne are dying in Bergen-Belsen, Otto Frank is released: Auschwitz-Birkenau has been liberated by Russian soldiers on 27 January 1945. He cannot return to the Netherlands right away and has to make a long detour, as there is still fighting in the west of Europe. Shortly after his liberation, Otto learns that Edith has succumbed to illness and deprivation in Auschwitz. All his hopes are on Anne and Margot: will they still be alive? When the Netherlands is once again a free country, on 5 May 1945, Otto Frank is waiting in Odessa for a ship to Marseille.

« On 27 January 1945, Russian soldiers release the Auschwitz prisoners. Red Cross staff carry 15-year-old Ivan Dudnik from the camp. He is too weak to walk.

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1945 - present

Otto with the helpers, October 1945. From left to right: Miep Gies, Johannes Kleiman, Otto Frank, Victor Kugler and Bep Voskuijl.

The return

19

After a long journey, Otto Frank returns to Amsterdam on 3 June 1945, ten months after the arrest. He immediately goes to see Miep and Jan Gies. To his delight, he hears that the helpers all have made it through the war. But there is sad news as well: Hermann, Auguste, and Peter van Pels, and Fritz Pfeffer have not survived the camps. Otto does his utmost to find out what happened to his daughters. He places advertisements in the newspapers and talks to the few survivors returning from the camps. Has anyone seen Anne or Margot?

Out of 107,000 Jews deported from the Netherlands, only around 5,000 return. More than 18,000 Jews have escaped deportation and death by going into hiding. After the war, it transpires that the Nazis and their henchmen have murdered six million Jewish men, women and children in Europe. Other groups have fallen victim to their ideology as well: Roma and Sinti, disabled people, Jehovah's witnesses and homosexuals.

Return of Ernestine van Witsen-Weinberg, a Jewish survivor of the Bergen-Belsen concentration camp, at Amsterdam Central Station, May/June 1945.



1945 – present

Panel 19

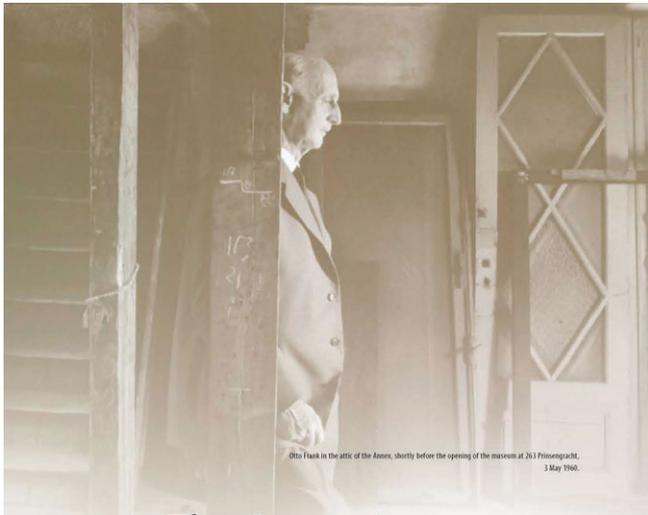
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Otto Frank in the attic of the Annex, shortly before the opening of the museum at 263 Prinsengracht, 3 May 1960.

The Secret Annex

20

In July 1945, Otto Frank learns that Anne and Margot have been killed in Bergen-Belsen. When he tells Miep the awful news, she gives him Anne's diary notes. Miep and Bep found her notes after the arrest in the Annex, and Miep has kept them all this time. At first, he lacks the strength to read Anne's texts, his grief is too deep. But once he starts reading, Anne's diary is 'a revelation' to him. He 'had no idea of the depths of her thoughts and feelings.' When he allows friends to read the diary, they urge him to have it published. Otto Frank compiles a book from Anne's notes. With some effort, he finds a publisher. The book is published in 1947, titled *Het Achterhuis* (The Secret Annex).

The allied forces want the Nazis to be punished for their crimes. In numerous places, there are trials. The most well-known take place in Nuremberg (Germany), where a number of top-level Nazis are sentenced to death in 1946. But in spite of all the trials, many Nazis still escape punishment. One of them is SS-Oberscharführer Karl Josef Silberbauer, who arrested the eight people hiding in the Annex. He is tracked down in 1963. After a short suspension, he is allowed to resume his work with the Vienna police.

The dock at the Trial of Nuremberg (Germany) in November 1945: on the left, Hermann Göring, responsible for the construction of the first concentration camps, to his right, Rudolf Hess, Hitler's deputy.



1945 – present

Panel 20

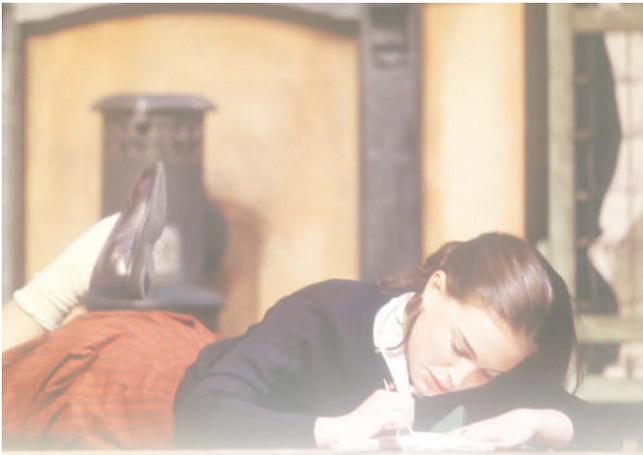
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Natalie Portman as Anne Frank in the play 'The Diary of Anne Frank', 1997.

'Learning from the past'

21

After the Dutch publication of *The Secret Annex*, other languages are quick to follow. After that a play, a film, Anne Frank schools, streets, television series... Anne Frank has become the most famous victim of the Holocaust. One out of one and a half million Jewish children murdered by the Nazis and their henchmen. The Italian Primo Levi, himself a Holocaust survivor, wrote: 'One single Anne Frank moves us more than the countless others who suffered just as she did but whose faces have remained in the shadows. Perhaps it is better that way; if we were capable of taking in all the suffering of all those people, we would not be able to live.'

Worldwide, there are thousands of monuments, museums and organisations reminding us of the horrors of the persecution of the Jews and the Second World War. They are often inspired by the need to learn from the awful history of the Holocaust. After the war, Otto Frank dedicated himself to reconciliation and human rights. In 1970, he said in an interview: 'We cannot change what has happened. All we can do is learn from the past, and realise what discrimination and persecution will do to innocent people. In my opinion, everyone has an obligation to fight prejudice.'

'Jewish victims of fascism' (1957) by Will Lammert, at a Jewish cemetery in Berlin (Germany).



1945 – present

Panel 21

« Natalie Portman as Anne Frank in the play 'The Diary of Anne Frank', 1997.

'Learning from the past'

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PILLAR 1 NEXT TO PANEL 2

The NSDAP party programme

According to the 25-point programme of the NSDAP, Jews cannot be German citizens, and they can never be more than guests in Germany. They are to be excluded from public office, and if a crisis should make it impossible to sustain the population, they will be expelled from the country, just like other foreigners living in Germany. In order to prevent immigration by non-Germans, the NSDAP plans to close the borders. In addition, the party wants abrogation of the Treaty of Versailles, and more land for the German people.

PILLAR 2 NEXT TO PANEL 11

Star of David

In Germany and most of the occupied territories in Europe, the Nazis introduce a mandatory Star of David badge. In the Netherlands, all Jews over the age of five have to wear such a badge from 3 May 1942 onwards. They have to pay for the badges (to a maximum of four each) themselves.

Why didn't the Jews just take the badges off?

'Six months' imprisonment or a fine of 1,000 guilders' was the punishment awaiting Jews not wearing the badges. Moreover, the Nazis could easily check whether someone was in breach of the law: from early 1941 onwards, all Jews had had to register, and from May 1941 onwards, their identity cards were marked with a 'J'.



How did non-Jews respond to the mandatory badges?

There was general indignation about the introduction of the badges – except in Nazi circles. Many non-Jewish Dutch people showed support in their actions (emphatic salutes, offering their seats in the tram, verbal support) or in some cases by wearing a Star of David themselves out of solidarity. For the latter group, a swift arrest was often the result.

PILLAR 3, OUTSIDE ROOM

Prinsengracht 263

A scale model of the business premises of Otto Frank at 263 Prinsengracht in Amsterdam. The hiding-place is in the Annex. The helpers make sure that the company stays in business, and take care of the people in hiding. Of course, they cannot give anything away.

Johan Voskuil, Bep's father, works in the warehouse. He is the only one of the warehouse staff who knows about the people in the attic, and he is a big support. He keeps an eye on the other warehouse staff and he builds the bookcase that hides the passage to the Annex. In the summer of 1943 he becomes seriously ill. Anne calls it a 'disaster' when Johan Voskuil is no longer around.

'Bep took care of the bread and milk. Kugler and Kleiman kept things going and brought books and magazines for the people in hiding. It was my job to bring them vegetables and meat.'

Miep Gies

'Mr Gies and Mr Kleiman would buy us ration cards on the black market, and when we ran out of money after some time, they sold some of our jewellery. In addition, Mr Kugler sold spices without entering the sales in order to finance our daily necessities.'

Otto Frank, 1971

'And we have to be quiet, so the people downstairs can't hear us.'

Anne Frank, *The Diary of a Young Girl*, 11 July 1942

'Believe me, if you've been shut up for a year and a half, it can get to be too much for you sometimes. But feelings can't be ignored, no matter how unjust or ungrateful they seem. I long to ride a bike, dance, whistle, look at the world, feel young and know that I'm free, and yet I can't let it show.'

Anne Frank, *The Diary of a Young Girl*, 24 December 1943

'Nobody can imagine what it meant to us to have four of my employees turn out to be such self-sacrificing helpers and loyal friends in a time when evil had the upper hand. (...) Their daily visits to us upstairs were a great comfort.'

Otto Frank, 1968

PILLAR 4, INSIDE ROOM

A facsimile of the diary

A facsimile of the diary Anne got for her thirteenth birthday. From December 1942 onwards, she writes in notebooks brought by the helpers. When Anne hears on the radio that diaries will be collected after the war, she decides to rewrite her diary with an eye to publication. This is her dream: to become a famous writer or journalist.

'Mr Bolkestein, the Cabinet Minister, speaking on the Dutch broadcast from London, said that after the war, a collection would be made of diaries and letters dealing with the war. Of course everyone pounced on my diary. Just imagine how interesting it would be if I were to publish a novel about the Secret Annex.'

Anne Frank, *The Diary of a Young Girl*, 29 March 1944

'I finally realized that I must do my schoolwork to keep from being ignorant, to get on in life, to become a journalist, because that's what I want! I know I can write. A few of my stories are good, my descriptions of the Secret Annex are humorous, much of my diary is vivid and alive, but ... it remains to be seen whether I really have talent.'

Anne Frank, *The Diary of a Young Girl*, 5 April 1944



OUTSIDE ROOM 1

The hiding place

The business premises

- 1 Warehouse
- 2 Company kitchen
- 3 Door to Otto Frank's private office
- 4 Victor Kugler's office
- 5 Office of Johannes Kleiman, Miep Gies and Bep Voskuilj
- 6 Storage area
- 7 Attic
- 8 Landing with the revolving bookcase leading to the Secret Annex

The Annex

- 9 Washroom
- 10 Otto, Edith, and Margot Frank's room
- 11 Room shared by Anne Frank and Fritz Pfeffer
- 12 Common living and dining room, at night the bedroom of Hermann and Auguste van Pels
- 13 Peter van Pels's room
- 14 Attic
- 15 Loft



The hiding place

A scale model of the business premises of Otto Frank at 263 Prinsengracht in Amsterdam. The hiding place is in the Annex. The helpers make sure that the company stays in business, and take care of the people in hiding. Of course, they cannot give anything away.

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'Bep took care of the bread and milk, Kugler and Kleiman kept things going and brought books and magazines for the people in hiding, it was my job to bring them vegetables and meat.'

Miep Gies

'Mr Gies and Mr Kleiman would buy us ration cards on the black market, and when we ran out of money after some time, they sold some of our pieces of jewellery. In addition, Mr Kugler sold spices without entering the sales in order to finance our daily necessities.'

Otto Frank, 1941

'And we have to be quiet, so the people downstairs can't hear us.'

Anne Frank, The Diary of a Young Girl, 11 July 1942

'Believe me, if you've been shut up for a year and a half, it can get to be too much for you sometimes. But feelings can't be ignored, no matter how unjust or ungrateful they seem. I long to ride a bike, dance, whistle, look at the world, feel young and know that I'm free, and yet I can't let it show.'

Anne Frank, The Diary of a Young Girl, 24 December 1943

'Nobody can imagine what it meant to us to have four of my employees turn out to be such self-sacrificing helpers and loyal friends in a time when evil had the upper hand. (...) Their daily visits to us upstairs were a great comfort.'

Otto Frank, 1968

OUTSIDE ROOM 1

The people in hiding

Otto speaking of the helpers:

'I realised early on that the time would come for us to go into hiding to escape the risk of deportation. After discussing the matter at length with Mr Van Pels, we decided to go into hiding in the annex of our premises. This would only be possible if Mr Kleiman and Mr Kugler were willing to take the responsibility for everything connected with our hiding and if our two secretaries were willing to cooperate as well. They were Miep Gies and Bep Voskuijl. All four of them promised to help us straight away, even though they were fully aware of the dangerous task they were taking on. Under Nazi law, anyone helping Jews would be severely punished, and risked imprisonment, deportation or even execution.'

Otto Frank in a letter to Yad Vashem, 10 June 1971. In this letter, he requests the Yad Vashem honorific of 'Righteous Among the Nations' for five of the helpers: Jan and Miep Gies, Johannes Kleiman (posthumous), Victor Kugler and Bep Voskuijl. They receive this high Israeli honour in 1973.

Otto Frank (1889 – 1980)

Edith Frank (1900 – 1945)

Margot Frank (1926 – 1945)

Anne Frank (1929-1945)

Anne speaking of the helpers:

'They come upstairs every day and talk to the men about business and politics, to the women about food and wartime difficulties and to the children about books and newspapers. They put on their most cheerful expressions, bring flowers and gifts for birthdays and holidays and are always ready to do what they can. That's something we should never forget; while others display their heroism in battle or against the Germans, our helpers prove theirs every day by their good spirits and affection.'

Anne Frank, The Diary of a Young Girl, 28 January 1944

Hermann van Pels (1898 – 1944)

Auguste van Pels (1900 – 1945)

Peter van Pels (1926 – 1945)

Fritz Pfeffer (1889 – 1944)



Otto Frank
1889 - 1980

Edith Frank
1900 - 1945

Margot Frank
1926 - 1945

Anne Frank
1929 - 1945



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1898 - 1944

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The people in hiding

Otto Frank

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Anne Frank, The Diary of a Young Girl, 28 January 1944

about it, I told Jan: "This is how I see it. We have to move on. No matter how hard it is. We cannot stand still; once you stand still, you are out of the game." But in the end, we are only human. And humans have to have something to hold on to. So I continued: "In those dark days in the war, we did not stand by, but we did what we could to help people. Risking our own lives. We could not have done more."

Johannes Kleiman (1896 – 1959)

Otto Frank had known Johannes Kleiman for a long time. They first met when he founded a bank in Amsterdam in 1923. This was the beginning of a long and close cooperation and friendship. In 1940, Johannes Kleiman started working for Otto Frank. After the war, he said in an interview about his support of the people in hiding:

'The reason I participated in taking care of Otto Frank and his family when they had gone into hiding, was that I had come to know him as a serious business man and a most decent and helpful man, for which characteristics he is generally respected.'

Bep Voskuil (1919 – 1983)

Bep Voskuil had been working for Otto Frank's company before the war. She was the youngest employee. When the Frank family went into hiding, she had just turned 23. According to Otto Frank, Anne and Bep got along very well and could often be seen whispering together in a corner. After the war, Bep was often asked questions about Anne and the Annex. As she wrote in a letter to Otto Frank:

'This always causes me to think back to everything that has happened and that I witnessed myself. This great sadness will never leave my heart.'

Victor Kugler (1900- 1981)

Victor Kugler had been working for Otto Frank's company since 1933. At first, he sold pectin, and from 1940 onwards, he mainly sold spices. When the Frank family went into hiding, Victor often brought them magazines and newspapers, to make sure they had something to read. Every week, he would make Anne very happy by bringing her 'Cinema & Theater', a magazine. After the war, he was very succinct in explaining why he had helped the people in hiding:

'I had to help them: they were my friends.'



Miep Gies 1909 - 2010 Jan Gies 1905 - 1993 Johannes Kleiman 1896 - 1959 Bep Voskuil 1919 - 1983 Victor Kugler 1900 - 1981

The helpers

Miep Gies

Miep Gies started working for Otto Frank in 1933. Her husband Jan was involved with the company from 1941 onwards. After the war, Miep said in an interview about the help they had provided to the people hiding in the Annex:

'I often wonder how it happened and why. I have truly struggled with it. One time, when we were talking about it, I told Jan: "This is how I see it. We have to move on. No matter how hard it is. We cannot stand still, once you stand still, you are out of the game." But in the end, we are only human. And humans have to have something to hold on to. So I continued: "In those dark days in the war, we did not stand by, but we did what we could to help people. Risking our own lives. We could not have done more.'

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The helpers

Miep Gies (1909 – 2010)

Jan Gies (1905 - 1993)

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De kamer van Anne Frank en Fritz Pfeffer
(tijdelijk ingericht, 1998)

'Het Achterhuis is als schuilplaats ideaal. Hoewel vochtig en scheefgetrokken zal men in heel Amsterdam, ja in heel Holland misschien, voor onderduikers niet meer zo iets gerieflijks ingericht hebben.'

Anne Frank, Het Achterhuis, 11 Juli 1942

INSIDE ROOM 1

'The Annex 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.'

Anne Frank, The Diary of a Young Girl, 11 July 1942

^ The room shared by Anne Frank and Fritz Pfeffer (temporary set-up, 1998).



De kamer van de familie Van Pels, tevens woonkamer en keuken
(tijdelijk ingericht, 1998)

*'Ik zie ons acht samen met het Achterhuis
alsof wij een stukje blauwe hemel waren,
omringd door zwarte, zwarte regenwolken.
Het ronde afgebakende plekje waar wij op
staan is nog veilig, maar de wolken rukken
steeds dichterbij ons toe en de ring die ons
van het naderende gevaar scheidt, wordt
steeds nauwer toegehaald.'*

Anne Frank, Het Achterhuis, 8 november 1943

INSIDE ROOM 2

*'I see the eight of us in the Annex as if we were a patch
of blue sky surrounded by menacing black clouds.
The perfectly round spot on which we're standing is
still safe, but the clouds are moving in on us, and the
ring between us and the approaching danger is being
pulled tighter and tighter.'*

Anne Frank, The Diary of Young Girl, 8 November
1943

^ The room of the Van Pels family, doubling as living room and
kitchen (temporary set-up, 1998).

May 1935



May 1936



May 1937



'LET ME BE MYSELF...'

May 1938



Stories from young people today

'I know what I want, I have a goal, an opinion. I have a religion and love. Let me be myself and then I am satisfied.'
Anne Frank, The Diary of Anne Frank, the critical edition, 11 April 1944

Anne Frank is one out of one and a half million Jewish children that were killed by the Nazis and their henchmen. Because she was Jewish, Anne only lived to the age of 15. The story of her life is told in the first part of this exhibition.

We live in another time. The differences with the days of Anne Frank are enormous. Yet some people are still discriminated against. People still exclude others based on who they are or what they look like. Discrimination is still a daily occurrence, all over the world.

In this part of the exhibition, Batja, Büsra, Dylan, Jim, Kim, and Michiel tell something about themselves and how they deal with prejudice and discrimination.

Why do people discriminate against others? Why can't we just be ourselves without trampling all over others? Aren't we all born equal?

May 1939



May 1940



May 1941



May 1942



May 1943

May 1944

INTRO CONTEMPORARY

'Let me be myself...'

Stories from young people today

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Büsra

'I don't have all that many friends, but the ones I consider my friends, mean a lot to me.'

'To me, being Muslim means being at peace, sincere and open-minded. It makes me sad that some people abuse the Islam religion and give it a bad name. They create an image that others will see as applying to all Muslims.'

'My family plays an important part in my life. In spite of many setbacks, we are all very close.'

I am...

22

What is your name? Are you a boy or a girl? Where were you born? Where did you grow up? Are you religious? What do you do in your spare time? What do you like to eat? What do you want to be when you grow up? Your answers to these questions paint a picture of who you are and how you see yourself. It is your identity. And it is always changing, for you will answer some questions differently when you are 21 than you did when you were 12. Of course, some answers will stay the same. The place where you were born or the colour of your skin will never change.

But your identity is made up of so many aspects. You are never just religious, or a girl, or funny or a vegetarian, you are many things at the same time. You would probably like to decide for yourself who you are and how others get to see you. You introduce yourself differently, depending on the situation. In a job interview, you will not describe yourself as you would to new friends. Who am I?

'I am Jim! I like scouting, slogging through the mud with friends. It doesn't get much better.'

'Friendship is very important to me. A true friend is someone you have known for a long time, who lets you be yourself, but also gives you room to change.'

'I like gaming. It irritates my mum, but she just doesn't get it. It's a generation thing.'



I am...

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Jim

'I am Jim! I like scouting, slogging through the mud with friends. It doesn't get much better than that.'

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panel 22



Her father:
Büsra is very ambitious, you can see it in her eyes. Her drive will help her to get where she wants to go. I am very proud of her. If she would only stop smoking... it is very bad for her.'

A friend:
'She is passionate and not always easy-going. She has a positive outlook. The other day, we went to the Gay Pride Parade together. People wanted to take their picture with her: "A Muslim girl at Gay Pride, how could that be?" Büsra wasn't fazed and just put on a big smile for the camera.'

A stranger:
'I don't know her, but I think that she's from a strict family and that her father makes her wear a headscarf. Oppressed?'

You are...!

23

What are you like at a party? How do you respond in an argument? What is your relationship with your parents like? Who knows and understands you best? How do you come across to people who do not know you? People around you, such as your friends, colleagues, classmates, all have formed pictures of you in their heads. The way you see yourself may not be the way others see you. Different people may see different sides of you. You may behave in one way with your friends and in another with your brother or sister.

People who don't know you will often define you based on their first impressions. In one second, just one of your characteristics may be blown up. The colour of your skin, for instance, or your piercings, your clothes or your attitude. They will place you, based on this one characteristic. If you look like this, you are expected to act, or even be, like that. How do others see you?

His mother:
'Jim is social and laughs a lot, but he prefers to avoid conflicts and arguments. He doesn't see the point. But if someone is hurt badly, he will try to support that person afterwards.'

A friend:
'Jim is very funny. He has a great sense of humour and he makes it hard not to laugh out loud in class.'

A stranger:
'What a nerd, with those thick glasses. I think he's from a rich family, somewhere in the countryside!'



panel 23

Büsra

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I belong to...

24

In describing yourself, you pick words that connect you with others, with a group. We all belong to different groups. You belong to a group on account of your nationality or because you are a member of a club. You can pick most of the groups you are a part of, such as your group of friends, your sports club or your favourite football club. The groups to which you belong may shift as you grow older. Some groups are very important to you, others less so.

Your group identity plays an important part in who you are. It is great to belong to different groups, especially when your group is perceived in a positive manner. When you get a standing ovation after a concert, for instance, you all share the euphoric feeling and feel strong as a group.

Which groups do you belong to?

Playing the violin is my greatest passion. I go to the conservatory and love playing with other violinists. My violin gives me energy.



word cloud

friends – authors – athletes – family – Dutch people – trainers – Indonesian people – Christians – fathers – actors

Michiel

'I have been fascinated with the theatre from a young age. Acting has always been my dream. Working with other actors on the set makes for strong ties. You need each other for a fantastic performance.'

I belong to...

In describing yourself, you pick words that connect you with others, with a group. We all belong to different groups. You belong to a group on account of your nationality or because you are a member of a club. You can pick most of the groups you are a part of, such as your group of friends, your sports club or your favourite football club. The groups to which you belong may shift as you grow older. Some groups are very important to you, others less so.

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Which groups do you belong to?

word cloud

violinists – Dutch people – artists – disabled people – young people – music lovers – speech writers – family – students – girls – friends

Kim

'Playing the violin is my greatest passion. I study music at the conservatory and love playing with other violinists. My violin gives me energy.'

panel 24



Working as an actor, I am often cast in the same roles. Foreigners, refugees, illegal immigrant, or someone whose Dutch is poor. Just because I am black and fit in with their ideas about those roles.

In some cases, your skin colour determines who you are. That is just sad. Everyone should be able to decide for themselves which part of their identity is the most important, the most uplifting, the best.

You belong to...

25

You cannot pick every group you belong to. The family you grow up in, the nationality you are born with, or whether you are in a wheelchair: none of these are your own choice. Yet these groups can be an important part of who you are. Or not. People tend to classify others. It happens automatically and it isn't wrong in itself. However, it is wrong to take a negative view of people simply because of the group they belong to.

People may be seen as part of a group that they don't feel any connection with, or that is not that important to them. Everyone is biased against certain groups in society. Prejudices are preconceived notions about a group or someone from a group. Prejudices are usually negative. When you are considered part of a certain group, people label you on account of that one aspect of your identity.

Which groups do people think you belong to?

In school, the other children felt that I didn't belong and they treated me differently on account of my wheelchair. In puberty, that was hard to deal with. They almost convinced me that I was abnormal!

Some people think that disabled people will never get anywhere. That you cannot do anything and don't have your own dreams. They just feel sorry for you.



panel 25

foreigners

Michiel

'Working as an actor, I am often cast in the same roles. Foreigner, refugee, illegal immigrant, or someone whose Dutch is poor. Just because I am black and fit in with their ideas about those roles.'

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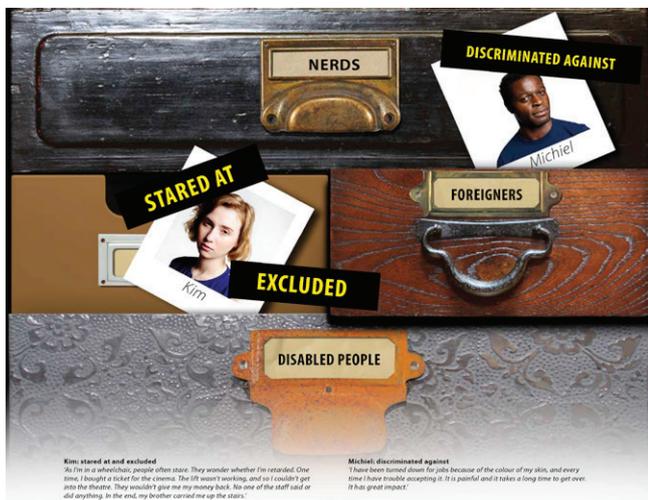
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disabled people

Kim

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'Some people think that disabled people will never get anywhere. That you cannot do anything and don't have your own dreams. They just feel sorry for you.'



Kim: stared at and excluded

'As I'm in a wheelchair, people often stare. They wonder whether I'm retarded. One time, I bought a ticket for the cinema. The lift wasn't working, and so I couldn't get into the theatre. They wouldn't give me my money back. No one of the staff said or did anything. In the end, my brother carried me up the stairs.'

Michiel: discriminated against

'I have been turned down for jobs because of the colour of my skin, and every time I have trouble accepting it. It is painful and it takes a long time to get over. It has great impact.'

Spit on and excluded

26

If you are pigeon-holed by others and labelled negatively, you don't get a chance to show your other sides. Your background may frequently be a topic of discussion, but that is not something you can change. Even worse, people may be prejudiced or label you 'bad' because of the pigeon-hole they have put you in.

Prejudices are just thoughts in our heads. As long as we don't express them, we won't hurt anyone. Discrimination is behaviour directed against others. With discrimination, people are treated differently based on prejudices about the way they look, their ethnic descent, sexual preferences, religion or skin colour. Discrimination may come out as verbal abuse, exclusion, or physical abuse, such as spitting or hitting. Do you ever discriminate against others? Or have you been discriminated against yourself?

Batja: hurt

'People rarely say something to me directly about my Jewish identity. However, the media are filled with stories about people hating Jews. I take that personally and even feel hurt.'

Dylan: called names and spit upon

'I am just a feminine man. People want to be able to place me, but there is no pigeon-hole for people like me. I am not a transgender. When people hear that, some become insecure, others get angry. Someone spat in my face. Because I am who I am. It is the worst. I would rather have a black eye. Spitting feels as though you're not even worth hitting. As though it would take too much of an effort.'



panel 26

labels drawers

nerds – foreigners – disabled people – Muslim girls
– troublemakers – gays – Jews – hooligans

Kim: stared at and excluded

'As I'm in a wheelchair, people often stare. They wonder whether I'm retarded. One time, I bought a ticket to see a film. The lift wasn't working, and so I couldn't get into the theatre. They wouldn't give me my money back. No one of the staff said or did anything. In the end, my brother carried me up the stairs.'

Michiel: labelled over and over again

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Michiel:
In some cases, it is best to ignore it and to use humour in dealing with it.



Kim:
My disability is a part of me, I cannot change that. But I want to take a positive approach. I have my own dreams and goals, and I want to reach them, in spite of the fact that I'm in a wheelchair.

Dealing with...

27

How do you deal with discrimination if you are the victim? Do you react? Ignore it? How you experience and respond to discrimination, differs from one person to the next. Getting discriminated against has great impact on the victim. If you are discriminated against, for instance on account of the way you look or your sexual preferences, it is important for you to report it and talk about it.

In the Netherlands, as in many other countries, discrimination (unjustified unequal treatment) is against the law. The number of prosecutions and convictions in discrimination cases amounts to several hundreds a year. Only a fraction of the people who are discriminated against file a report with the police. Some are afraid of the consequences, others – and that is probably the majority – figure that it won't do any good.

Dylan:
I cannot let it get to me. I really cannot, I would go mad. I don't mind what you think about me, I just don't want to hear it!



Batja:
People who humiliate Jews or call them names usually don't realise what it means to be Jewish. I love the Jewish culture, and try to show as many friends as I can what it entails.



Michiel:

'In some cases, it is best to ignore it and to use humour in dealing with it.'

Kim:

'My disability is a part of me, I cannot change that. But I want to take a positive approach. I have my own dreams and goals, and I want to reach them, in spite of the fact that I'm in a wheelchair.'

Dealing with...

How do you deal with discrimination if you are the victim? Do you react? Ignore it? The way you experience and respond to discrimination differs from one person to the next. Getting discriminated against has great impact on the victim. If you are discriminated against, for instance on account of the way you look or your sexual preferences, it is important for you to report it and talk about it.

In the Netherlands, as in many other countries, discrimination - unjustified unequal treatment - is against the law. The number of prosecutions and convictions in discrimination cases amounts to several hundred a year. Only a fraction of the people who are discriminated against file reports with the police. Sometimes because they are afraid of the consequences, and sometimes (and that is probably the main reason) because they figure that it won't do any good...

Dylan:

'I cannot let it get to me. I really cannot, I would go mad. I don't mind what you think about me, I just don't want to hear it.'

Batja:

'People who humiliate Jews or call them names usually don't realise what it means to be Jewish. I love the Jewish culture, and try to show as many friends as I can what it entails.'

panel 27



28

Michiel:
"If people take the time to be there for one another and to listen to one another, it will lead to positive things. It's about someone's story, not about the colour of their skin."

Kim:
"I would like it if people allowed themselves to be surprised by others. They would broaden their own horizons in the process."

Jim:
"Everyone is an individual. Judge someone by his actions, not by anything else."

Baija:
"Open yourself up to others. It doesn't matter to whom. Everyone."

Büsra:
"Be aware of your own prejudices and turn them around. Treat others as your equals, because they are!"

Dylan:
"Everyone can fall victim to injustice. If you do what others did for you when you were in trouble, everything will be alright, don't you think?"

How about you?

What can you do to prevent exclusion and to fight discrimination? Which prejudices do you yourself have? Everyone is prejudiced against certain groups. Don't act upon them. Catch yourself. Ask questions! Why do you have negative views about someone or a specific group? Where do they come from? You may also be confronted with discrimination as a bystander. It is important to say something to the victim, after the fact or during the conflict. You cannot always stand up to the offender. You can only help others if the situation allows for it and if it's safe.

What will you do to counter prejudice and discrimination?

panel 28

How about you?

What can you do to prevent exclusion and to fight discrimination? What prejudices do you yourself have? Everyone is prejudiced against one group or another. Catch yourself. Ask questions! Why do you have negative views about someone or a specific group? Where do they come from?

You may also be confronted with discrimination as a bystander. It is important to say something to the victim, after the fact or during the conflict. You cannot always stand up to the offender. You can only help others if the situation allows for it and if it's safe.

What will you do to counter prejudice and discrimination?

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'Everyone is an individual. Judge someone by his actions, not by anything else.'

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'Open yourself up to others. It doesn't matter to whom. Everyone.'

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'Be aware of your own prejudices and turn them around. Treat others as your equals, because they are!'

Dylan:

'Everyone can fall victim to injustice. If you do what others did for you when you were in trouble, everything will be alright, don't you think?'

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Glossary

Historical part

ANTI-SEMITISM

Prejudice against or hatred of Jews. The Holocaust is history's most extreme example of anti-Semitism.

AUSCHWITZ-BIRKENAU

A concentration and death camp near Oświęcim in Nazi-occupied Poland. More than 1.1 million people lost their lives in Auschwitz-Birkenau, including approximately 1 million Jews, 75,000 Poles, 21,000 Sinti and Roma, and 15,000 Soviet prisoners of war.

BERGEN-BELSEN

A concentration camp in north-western Germany, originally established in 1940 for prisoners of war. Tens of thousands of Jewish prisoners were evacuated from Auschwitz to other camps such as Bergen-Belsen in late 1944 and early 1945, leading to catastrophic overcrowding, starvation and a typhus epidemic.

CONCENTRATION CAMP

A prison camp in which inmates were often forced to do hard labour. Some well-known Nazi concentration camps were Dachau, Sachsenhausen, Buchenwald and Mauthausen. Most inmates were political opponents of the Nazis or so called 'asocials' (such as gay men, beggars and habitual criminals).

D-DAY

On 6 June 1944, the allied troops landed on the beaches of Normandy in order to liberate the occupied countries in Europe. This day is called Decision Day, or D-Day.

DEATH CAMP

A Nazi camp set up specifically for the mass murder of Jews, primarily by poison gas. Four camps were created in occupied Poland in 1941-42 which existed solely for the murder of Jews: Bełżec, Chełmno, Sobibór and Treblinka. In addition, Majdanek in 1941 and the already existing Auschwitz-Birkenau camp became a death camp in the spring of 1942.

DISCRIMINATION

Discrimination is unjustified, unequal treatment. It is against the law. The grounds on which you are not

allowed to discriminate are listed in the law: religion or belief, political opinion, racial origin, sex, nationality, heterosexual or homosexual orientation, and civil status.

FIRST WORLD WAR

The First World War was a world war that took place mainly in Europe; it started on 28 July 1914 and lasted until 11 November 1918.

GHETTO

A section of a town or city where Jews were forced to live. Many were surrounded by walls and could not be exited. Ghettos were characterised by overcrowding, hunger, disease and exploitation.

'GYPSIES'

Commonly used term, often considered pejorative, to describe the Romani people. The principal Romani groups are Roma and Sinti. The Nazis regarded the 'Gypsies' as racially inferior and a danger to 'Aryan' society. Hundreds of thousands of Roma and Sinti were murdered by the Nazis.

HENNEICKE COLUMN

The Henneicke Column was a group of Dutch Nazi collaborators who acted as bounty hunters between March and October 1943. The group consisted of more than fifty Dutch men who tracked down Jewish people in hiding for a bounty. The group was led by Wim Henneicke. In the short period of its existence, the organisation was responsible for the deportation of eight to nine thousand people.

HITLERJUGEND

The Hitlerjugend (Hitler Youth) was a National-Socialist youth movement in Germany. The Bund Deutscher Mädel, an organisation for girls, was part of the Hitlerjugend.

KILLINGS SQUADS (EINSATZGRUPPEN)

Mobile SS killing squads made up of members of the Gestapo and other police units. Their task was to carry out special duties in which they tracked down, persecuted and murdered political opponents or those deemed 'racially inferior', such as Jews, Poles, and Roma and Sinti throughout Europe.

'KRISTALLNACHT'

An anti-Jewish pogrom, staged by the Nazis on the night of 9 November 1938. Nearly 30,000 Jews were arrested

and deported to concentration camps. Throughout Germany, synagogues were set on fire and countless Jewish businesses and homes were ransacked and destroyed.

MEIN KAMPF

The German title of Hitler's book, meaning 'My Struggle'. In this book, he discusses his political views.

NSB (NATIONAAL-SOCIALISTISCHE BEWEGING)

Abbreviation of the Dutch National Socialist Movement. This movement was founded in 1931 by Anton Mussert and largely shared the Nazi ideas.

NSDAP

The National Socialist German Worker's Party (NSDAP) also referred to as the Nazi party.

NUREMBERG LAWS

Anti-Jewish laws enacted in September 1935 during the Nazi Party conference in Nuremberg. The laws deprived Jews of their German citizenship, associated rights, outlawed marriage and sexual relations between Jews and non-Jews, and defined who was a Jew, with a range of categories created for Germans of mixed ancestry.

NUREMBERG TRIALS

During the Nuremberg Trials (20 November 1945 to 1 October 1946) 22 prominent members of the Nazi leadership were tried and convicted. In October 1946, a number of those convicted were put to death. The NSDAP, the SS, the SA, the German army command, the SD, the Gestapo, and other Nazi organisations were tried as well. They were declared criminal organisations and dissolved.

PREJUDICE

Preconceived opinion about a group or someone from that group. Prejudice is usually emotionally charged, often negative, sometimes positive.

ROUND-UP

A raid in which streets or districts were closed off, houses were searched, and people were arrested and taken away.

SA (STURMABTEILUNG)

Formed in 1921, it consisted of members of the NSDAP who had volunteered to organise into military units.

SOVIET UNION

The Soviet Union (officially: Union of Soviet Socialist Republics USSR) was founded in 1922 after the Russian revolution, and consisted of fifteen republics. In 1991, the Soviet Union was dissolved.

SS (SCHUTZSTAFFEL)

Nazi Party organisation that was originally created as Hitler's bodyguard. It was partly responsible for the killing squads that murdered political opponents and 'racial' minorities. They were responsible for the systematic murder of millions of people in the death camps.

STAR OF DAVID

During the Second World War the Star of David (Magén David in Hebrew) is used as a distinctive sign, which Jews were forced to wear in Germany and most countries under Nazi control, beginning with occupied Poland in 1939.

SYNAGOGUE

A synagogue is a room or building where Jews come together to pray, celebrate and study from Jewish religious books.

TRANSIT CAMP

Camp in which Jews were held prior to their deportation to death camps. Examples included Drancy (France), Mechelen (Belgium) and Westerbork (the Netherlands).

TREATY OF VERSAILLES

The Treaty of Versailles (1919), also called the Versailles Peace Treaty, was a treaty concluded between Germany and the Allied Forces that formally concluded the First World War. According to the Treaty, Germany had been primarily responsible for all the loss and damage of the First World War. As a consequence, Germany lost part of its territory and was forced to pay large amounts to the countries that had suffered the most from the war.

WANNSEE CONFERENCE

Meeting of senior Nazi leaders and officials, on 20 January 1942 at a villa outside Berlin to discuss the 'Final Solution'. The aim of the meeting was to discuss the murder of the European Jews, its organisation, logistics and material requirements.

TIMELINE OF EVENTS

12 May: Otto marries Edith Holländer in Aachen.	1925	18 July: The first edition of Adolf Hitler's 'Mein Kampf' is released.
16 February: Margot Frank is born in Frankfurt am Main.	1926	15 February: The unemployment rate reaches a new peak in Germany: one million people are without jobs.
12 June: Anne Frank is born in Frankfurt am Main.	1929	25 October: The stock market crash in New York results in the start of the economic crisis.
March: The Frank family moves to Aachen to live with Edith's mother.	1933	30 January: Hitler becomes Chancellor of Germany, leading a coalition of Nazis and conservatives. 1 April: First officially organised boycott of Jewish shops.
15 September: Otto Frank launches Opekta, his new business in Amsterdam. Edith, Margot and Anne come to Amsterdam between September 1933 and February 1934.	1934	30 June – 2 July: Night of the Long Knives: Hitler sanctions the murder of his Nazi and conservative opponents.
	1935	Nuremberg Laws passed.
	1937	May: The Dutch Government decides to close the borders for Jewish refugees.
	1938	5 October: Passports of German Jews stamped with letter 'J'. 9 November: Kristallnacht
12 June: Anne celebrates her 10th birthday with her girlfriends.	1939	1 September: German invasion of Poland begins the Second World War. Immediately followed by mass killings of Polish intellectuals and others.
	1940	10 May: The Germans invade The Netherlands, Belgium and Luxemburg. 14 June: German troops occupy Paris. First transport of Polish political prisoners to Auschwitz.
Summer: When trying to get a visa for his family to America, Otto Frank's efforts are unsuccessful. October: Margot and Anne start going to the Jewish Lyceum. December: Otto Frank formally resigns from leading the company in order to protect it from being seized by the Nazis. From that point on, his colleagues are leading it. Otto continues working in the background.	1941	25 February: General strike in Amsterdam in protest against the persecution of the Dutch Jews. 22 June: Operation Barbarossa. Germany starts the invasion against the Soviet Union. 11 December: Germany declares war on the USA, following Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor (7 December).
12 June: Anne receives a diary for her 13th birthday. 5 July: Margot receives a call-up for 'Work expansion in Germany'. 6 July: Otto, Edith, Margot and Anne go into hiding. 13 July: Hermann, Auguste and Peter van Pels move into the hiding place. 16 November: The 8th person arrives at the hiding place: Fritz Pfeffer	1942	20 January: Leading National Socialists meet in Wannsee, a suburb of Berlin. The topic is the systematic extermination of the European Jews (the so called 'Final Solution'). 29 April: The Star of David is implemented in The Netherlands. 11 June: Adolf Eichmann orders the start of the deportation of Jews from The Netherlands, Belgium and France within the next weeks. 14 July: The systematic transport of Dutch Jews to Westerbork starts.

	1943	<p><i>18 February:</i> After the defeat of the German army in Stalingrad, Propaganda minister Joseph Goebbels announces the 'total war'.</p> <p><i>April:</i> The Bergen-Belsen concentration camp in the north-west of Germany is set up.</p>
<p><i>4 August:</i> The eight people in hiding are betrayed and arrested.</p> <p><i>8 August:</i> They are taken from prison in Amsterdam to the Westerbork transit camp.</p> <p><i>3 September:</i> They are deported to Auschwitz-Birkenau by the last train leaving Westerbork to this camp.</p> <p><i>Beginning of October:</i> Hermann van Pels dies in the Auschwitz gas chambers.</p> <p><i>Around 28 October:</i> Anne and Margot Frank and Auguste van Pels are moved to the German Bergen-Belsen concentration camp.</p> <p><i>20 December:</i> Fritz Pfeffer dies in the Neuengamme concentration camp.</p>	1944	<p><i>6 June:</i> D-Day. The Allies land in Normandy.</p>
<p><i>6 January:</i> Edith Frank dies in Auschwitz-Birkenau.</p> <p><i>27 January:</i> Otto Frank is liberated from Auschwitz by the Red Army.</p> <p><i>February:</i> Auguste van Pels is deported from Bergen-Belsen to Buchenwald and further on to Theresienstadt. She dies there in the spring of 1945.</p> <p><i>February:</i> Margot and Anne die in Bergen-Belsen.</p> <p><i>5 May:</i> Peter van Pels dies in Mauthausen.</p> <p><i>3 June:</i> Otto Frank returns to Amsterdam.</p>	1945	<p><i>27 January:</i> Auschwitz-Birkenau is liberated by the Red Army.</p> <p><i>15 April:</i> Bergen-Belsen is liberated by the British Army.</p> <p><i>7 May:</i> Germany surrenders to the Allies.</p> <p><i>14 August:</i> After the first atomic bomb has been dropped on 6 August, Japan accepts the Allies' conditions of the ceasefire. The Second World War is over.</p>

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