"Writers on a story 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. Soon after, the conflict of war will erupt and her life will take a turn. For several months she will keep a record of her thoughts, feelings, and experiences in her diary. She had no idea that her writings would one day be recorded and read by millions of people around the world.
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, were Jewish.

"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.”
Crisis in Germany

The First World War ended in 1918 with Germany’s defeat. The Treaty of Versailles drawn up at the end of the war imposed harsh reparations on Germany. Millions of people lost their jobs and were thrown into desperate poverty. Inflation ran out of control by 1923, the currency was practically worthless. Most Germans had literally nothing, they saw the world splintered into extremes; either a rich citizen, or Germany in especially bad luck. The NSDAP (National Socialist German Workers Party), a small extremist nationalist political party led by Adolf Hitler, became the strongest of all Germany’s civil society groups. Hitler also claimed to have the solution to the problems of unemployment and poverty.

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

“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.”

(quoted from Otto Frank’s book)

“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. While in the news, 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.
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 society’s problems. Political differences are often fought out on the streets. The National Socialists exploit this violence to their own advantage, and in the November 1932 elections they become the largest party in parliament, with 33% of the vote.

Hitler: Our Last Hope

Hitler wins the elections.

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

Anne, Edith and Margot Frank, 10 March 1933. Tietz department store in Frankfurt (Germany) had a Photoweight 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 make their intentions clear. The first anti-Jewish laws are introduced, and the persecution of the Jews in Germany begins in earnest.

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Adolf Hitler becomes Chancellor on 30 January 1933. 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.
The NSDAP does not terrorize only the Jews, but its political opponents as well. Communists and Social Democrats in particular are persecuted and confined to concentration camps. Gentiles who are Jews are also branded, and books are burned in the streets. Many writers, artists and scientists flee abroad. Democracy is abolished. Jewish civil servants and teachers are dismissed.

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. Many of the authors 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.
“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 Merveideplein, 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 school and quickly learn Dutch.
R rigidly organised m ass rallies m ake a big im pression.

The N aziﬁcation of G ermany

In G ermany, ‘law  an d order’ h ave retu rn ed, an d th e econ om y is on  th e uptu rn . Th e N azis take control of the upbringing and education of young people, with th e aim  of tu rn in g th em  in to ‘good N azis’. Th e media (radio, n ewspapers an d ﬁlm ) on ly reﬂect N azi ideology.

There is great enth u siasm  for H itler an d h is party. Th ere are som e oppon en ts too, bu t most of th em  rem ain  silen t for fear of violen ce an d im prison m en t. A  variety of an ti-Jew ish  m easu res are in trodu ced. Th ere is little resistan ce.

The unem ployed are put to w ork on the construction of highw ays, governm ent buildings and civil projects. H itler also begins to build up a w eapons industry and a large arm y. U nem ploym ent falls dram atically.

Y oung and old alike are full of enthusiasm  for the N azis.

‘Y outh Serves the F üh r e r’

‘A ll ten-year-olds in the H itler Y outh’

Th e N azis w ant com plete control of young people’s upbringing. B oys’ activities take on a m ilitary ﬂavour, w hile girls are prepared for their roles as housew ives an d m others.

The unem ployed were sent to work on construction projects, highw ays, governm ent buildings and civil projects.

The N azis wanted complete control over the education of young people. Boys were trained with a m ilitary ﬂavour, while girls were prepared for their roles as housew ives and m others.

The N azis wanted complete control over the education of young people. Boys were trained with a m ilitary ﬂavour, while girls were prepared for their roles as housew ives and m others.
There go Anne, Hanne and Sanne

Hanneli and Sanne used to be my two best friends. People who saw us together used to say, ‘There go Anne, Hanne and Sanne.’

Hanneli 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 neighborhood. Almost half of the children in Anne’s class are Jewish.

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

There are many Jewish children in Anne’s class now.
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'.

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 Nazi view the Jews not only as inferior, but also as dangerous. They believe 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 are one purpose: to isolate the Jews from the non-Jewish population.

Schoolchildren are given lessons in ‘racial studies’.

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.

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

Thirty-nine Roma (‘Gypsy’) children are brought to the ‘St. Josephspflege’ clinic in the German town of Mulfingen 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.
A nne (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 A nne skating that has survived.

“O ur lives were not without anxiety...”

(A nne F ran k)

“O ur lives were not without anxiety, since our relatives in G ermany were suffering under H itler’s anti-Jewish laws. A fter the pogroms in 1938 m y two uncles (m y m other’s brothers) fled G ermany, finding safe refuge in N orth A merica. My elderly grandmother came to live with us. She was seventy-three years old at the time.”

O tto an d E dith F ran k get to kn ow oth er G erman refu gees. T h ey m eet H erm an an d A u gu ste van P els an d th eir son Peter, an d F ritz Pfeffer, all of w hom w ill later go in to h idin g w ith th em . T h e Van P els fam ily fled O snabrük in 1937, an d H erm an van Pels becom es a partn er in Otto F ran k’s business. Like A n n e’s u n cles, F ritz Pfeffer left G erman y follow in g ‘K ristalln ach t’.

A nne’s G randm other Holländer leaves for A m sterdam in M arch 1939 and com es to live w ith the Frank fam ily. She di es in 1942.

Peter van P els (centre) w ith friends at the Jew ish Boy Scouts in O snabrück, G ermany, in 1936.

F ritz Pfeffer w ith his non-Jew ish fiancée C harlotte K aletta. In G ermany, m arriages betw een Jew s and non-Jew s have been illegal since 1935 . T hey cannot m arry in the N etherlands either, since G erman law s are respected there.

(1)

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The persecution of the Jews begins

On the night of 9-10 November 1938, a series of anti-Jewish attacks were carried out across Germany, known as the Night of Broken Glass or Kristallnacht. Nineteen hundred synagogues were destroyed, seventy thousand shops were looted or burned, and one thousand Jews were murdered. Around thirty thousand people were 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.

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 Oldeburg, 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.
In September 1939, the Second World War breaks out. 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 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.

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.

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

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.
“...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.

Dutch Nazis marching through the Jewish quarter of Amsterdam. This happens multiple times a day.
In Germany and in most of the occupied territories Jews are forced to wear a yellow star.

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, such as the order that many non-Jews no longer dare to associate with Jews, or vice versa.

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.

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

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.

In the Netherlands, from 3 May 1942 onwards, all Jewish children over six years old have to wear a yellow star.
"...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 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."
Anne’s diary. On some pages she pastes passport photos of herself and comments on them.

**Anne’s diary**

“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 as the diary of Betty, her imaginary friend. Betty’s life is about school, her friends and her being a teenage girl. Betty cannot foresee that three weeks later her life will change completely.

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 was stunned. A call-up...”

At three o’clock... the telephone 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 July 5, 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 Annex’, a part of his offices on the Prinsegracht. 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 Annex’, is at the rear. "…an ideal place to hide in."

Anne Frank

"The Annex is an ideal place to hide in. It may be dingy and cramped, 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 hiding 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.

The Franks

Margot Frank

Anne Frank

Otto Frank

Edith Frank

The helpers

Johannes Kleiman

Bep Voskuijl

Miep Gies

Victor Kugler

Hermann van Pels

Auguste van Pels

Peter van Pels

Fritz Pfeffer

3

2

1

20
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… I’m terrified our hiding place will be discovered and that we’ll be shot.”
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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 stone steam floor is so thick, it is nearly soundproof. When the windows are closed, the soundproofing is even better. The entrance to the Secret Annex is hidden behind a hinged bookcase. During these long, silent hours, Anne reads her schoolbooks, plays games with the other children, and writes in her diary.

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

"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.”

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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.

"...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 Annex inhabitants receive news from the outside world via means that are being monitored. On the radio they hear about gasings. They feel anxious and powerless, since communication with the outside world is conducted. However, they still try to resist and are determined.
Anne begins to rewrite her diary on loose sheets of paper. Anne also writes short stories, and sometimes reads them to the others.

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

From Anne

“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 rewrite her diary in the hope that it may one day be published as a book. She has even thought of a title: 'The Secret Anne'. Hopes of liberation are raised in the Secret Anne by the news that the Allies have landed in Normandy and are advancing.

Anne falls in love with Peter van Pels. Anne and Peter spend hours together in Peter's room.
Anna 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 at times like these, dreams and cherished hopes can 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 entirely possible for us to hold our lives on a foundation of hate, ambition and death. Yet 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 all people, and yet, when I look up at the sky, I somehow feel that everything will change for the better, that the cruelty too will end, that peace and tranquillity 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 realize them!”

On 1 August 1944 Anne writes the final entry in her diary. Three days later, on 4 August 1944, the moment everyone in the Secret Annex has been dreading arrives.
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 Annex inhabitants are taken completely by surprise. They are given just enough time to pack their bags. Silberbauer pulls a briefcase and shakes out the contents so he can use it to take away money and jewels. 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 Voskuil return to the Secret Annex, where they find Anne's diaries. They take them away with them, and Miep locks them in her desk drawer.

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 Annex inhabitants.

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. “...we knew what was happening” (Otto Frank)

“We were together again, and had even grown a little fond 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 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.

Transport departs from Westerbork. 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.
Hungarian Jews, selected for the gas chambers, on the platform at Auschwitz.

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

“I can no longer talk about...”

On the night of 6 September, the train arrives at Auschwitz. The prisoners have to leave their belongings behind on 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 of the people on Anne’s train. They are the human inhabitants among whom, dressed in shaved heads and camp uniform, are taken to a labour camp.

With the Russian army advancing, the Nazis are beginning to evacuate Auschwitz. After ten months, Anne and Margot are moved to the Bergen-Belsen concentration camp.

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

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

“She wasn’t the same Anne.”

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 schoolmate Hannah Goslar, who is being held in another part of the camp. There they became inseparable by a chain of hatred and terror and never see each other again.

Hannah mentions to Anne a package with some clothes and a letter from someone she misses. Anne and Hannah share the same fate. 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.
My entire hope..."

"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 Basel 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 is the only person from the Secret Annex 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.
"...deaths of my children"

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

"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 until this time, now hands it to Otto, saying: “This is your daughter’s legacy.”

"One in a hundred men, Miep Gies, who has kept Anne’s diary until 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"

"...my greatest wish is to be a journalist, and later on, a famous writer. In any case, when the war is over 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.

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Institut für Stadtgeschichte, Frankfurt am Main
Koninklijk Museum van het Leger en van Krijgsgeschiedenis, Brussel
Landesbildstelle, Berlin
Maria Austria Instituut, Amsterdam
Nederlands Instituut voor Orlogsdocum entatie, Amsterdam
Arnold Newman, New York
Prentenkabinet der Rijksuniversiteit Leiden/Foto: Emmy Andriesse
Eric van Rooselaar, Retranchement
Spaarnestad Fotoarchief, Haarlem
United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, Washington DC
Verzetsmuseum Amsterdam
Yad Vashem, Jerusalem

The Anne Frank House

The Anne Frank House is dedicated to honoring 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 seeks to inspire each one of us to combat 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 combat discrimination and these ideals.

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