

ANNE FRANK DAY 2025

Nationwide
Day of Action
against
Antisemitism
and Racism

Schools for
democracy!



Welcome!

Remember & get involved digitally!



#AnneFrankTag2025 | www.annefranktag.de

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Our sincere thanks to Menno Metselaar (Anne Frank House) for his support.

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Anne Frank Day 2025 is a project of the Anne Frank Centre in cooperation with the Anne Frank House, the Anne Frank Educational Centre, the Anne Frank Fund, the Bergen-Belsen Memorial, the »Schule ohne Rassismus – Schule mit Courage« (School without Racism – School with Courage) network, and the Meet a Jew project of the Central Council of Jews in Germany.



German
Sign
Language
Video



Anne's childhood in Germany

1929–1934



Edith and her daughters in March 1933 in Frankfurt's city centre.



Edith and Margot had this photo taken in a photo booth in 1928 or 1929.



Margot, Anne, and Otto in August 1931.

Anne Frank was born on 12 June 1929. Her parents, Edith and Otto, and her older sister Margot were very happy. The family was Jewish. The Franks lived in a beautiful house with a garden in Frankfurt am Main. They had a lot of friends in the neighbourhood.

In 1933 the Nazis came to power in Germany with Adolf Hitler at the head of the government. They persecuted people who did not fit into their worldview and said that Jews were the enemy. This hostility is called antisemitism. Life changed dramatically for Jews in Germany. The Nazis increasingly banned Jews from doing things and threatened them with violence.

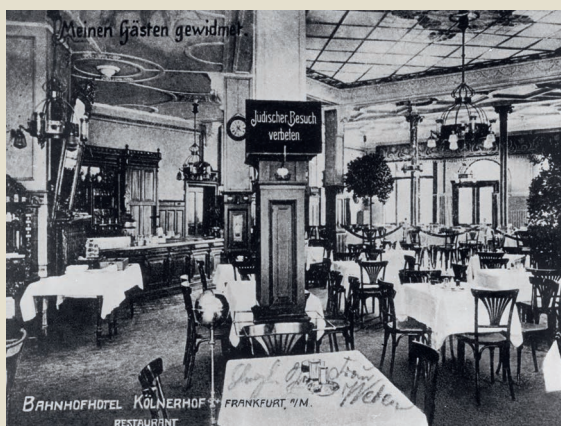
Otto and Edith Frank decided to leave the country. Together with their daughters, they started a new life in the Netherlands in 1934.



Otto already went to the Netherlands in 1933. In the autumn he promoted products from his new company at a trade fair in Rotterdam. As an exhibitor, he needed this card.



Find out more



This postcard shows a hotel in Frankfurt around 1900. The hotel used it to advertise that it did not accept Jews as guests.



Edith and Otto travelled to San Remo, Italy, after getting married in May 1925.



German Sign Language Video



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Their early years in Amsterdam

1934-1939

The family found an apartment in Amsterdam.
Margot and Anne went to school
and learned Dutch.
Edith did the housework.
Otto started a new company named Opekta.

In Germany, Jews were threatened more and more.
In November 1938 the Nazis destroyed
synagogues and Jewish shops throughout the country.
They arrested a lot of Jewish men
and put them in concentration camps.
This violence is referred to today as the November pogroms.

Anne's grandmother Rosa and her uncles Walter and Julius
survived the violence.
They fled from Germany.
Rosa moved to her family in Amsterdam.

On 1 September 1939 the German army
invaded Poland.
This marked the beginning of the Second World War.
Edith and Otto asked themselves: Are we safe from the Nazis
in the Netherlands?



Otto and Anne on an excursion boat in the Dutch city of Leiden in March 1938.



Anne attended the Montessori school from 1935 to 1941. This class photo shows her and her classmates in 1938.



The Franks moved to the south of Amsterdam. This skyscraper was nearby. At the time it was the tallest and most modern building in the city.



More about
antisemitism
here



On 10 November 1938 the Nazis burned down the synagogue at Börne Square in Frankfurt.



Opekta sold the gelling agent used to make jam in packages like this.



Adolf Hitler was cheered by Frankfurt residents and the city's mayor in March 1938. Hitler gave a speech in the festival hall, as he had done in previous years.



German Sign
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Anne's life is threatened

1940–1942



In February 1941 Dutch and German Nazis raided Amsterdam's Alcazar Theatre, which had a large number of Jewish guests.



The Frank family often went to the Zandvoort beach resort on holiday. As of May 1941, Jews were no longer permitted on beaches.



Margot, Otto, Anne, and Edith in front of their apartment in 1941.

On 10 May 1940 the German army invaded the Netherlands.
After the Dutch surrendered, the Germans passed anti-Jewish laws there too. In January 1941 all Jews had to register their address with the Nazis.
German police arrested more than 300 Jewish men in Amsterdam in June 1941. They interned them in concentration camps. Friends of the Frank family were among those arrested.

As of the summer of 1941, Jewish children were no longer allowed to attend state schools. Margot and Anne had to transfer to a Jewish school.
In July 1942 Margot received a letter from the Nazis. She was told to register for forced labour in Germany. Anne's parents feared for Margot's life. But they had a plan.



Starting in May 1942, all Jews in the Netherlands were required to wear a cloth yellow star badge on their clothing.



Anne's diary as a video



Margot (right) was a member of a rowing club. As of 1941, the antisemitic laws prohibited her from participating in competitions. In solidarity, her girlfriends also decided to stop rowing.



Margot and her team won this first-place medal in a rowing match in September 1940.



Anne received this diary as a present for her thirteenth birthday.



German Sign Language Video



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Life in hiding

1942–1944

The Frank family went into hiding. Anne's parents set up an apartment in the annex of Otto's company. The family lived in very tight quarters together with four other persecuted Jews: Auguste and Hermann van Pels, their son Peter, and Fritz Pfeffer. Anne had to share a small room with Fritz.

For more than two years they could not go outside and they had to remain quiet most of the time. Otto's closest employees helped them during this time. They brought food for those in hiding and reported on what was happening outside. Anne kept a diary. She wrote about life in the Secret Annex and about her dreams and fears.

While in hiding they could listen to the radio and hear how the war was progressing. They all hoped that the Germans would be defeated and then they would be free.



This is what Anne's room in the Secret Annex looked like. In 2020 it was recreated for a movie. Anne hung cards and pictures from magazines on the wall. She sat at her desk to write in her diary.



Fritz Pfeffer and his non-Jewish partner Charlotte Kaletta in 1939. They wrote letters while Fritz was in hiding. Miep Gies, one of the helpers, delivered the letters.



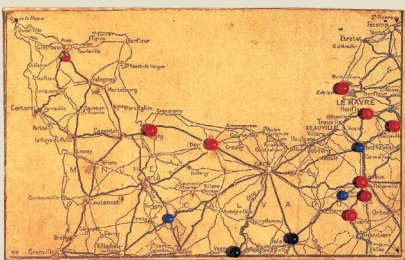
Fritz Pfeffer brought this challah cover into the Secret Annex. Covers like this one are used to cover the challah bread that is eaten at the beginning of the Jewish Sabbath, the day of rest.



This photo shows Auguste and Hermann van Pels and Victor Kugler (with cigarette) in the summer of 1941. The two men worked for Opekta. Victor helped those in hiding.



More about the Secret Annex here



While in hiding, they used pins to mark the course of the war on a map. They hoped for peace, since the Allied armies fighting against the Germans were continuing to advance.



On 20 June 1943 the German and Dutch police arrested more than 5,500 Jews in Amsterdam. They put them in the Westerbork transit camp. This photo was taken secretly. It shows the Jewish neighbours before they were taken away.



This picture postcard shows the Prinsengracht canal and the nearby Westerkerk church. The ringing of the church bells was calming for Anne.



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The final months

1944-1945

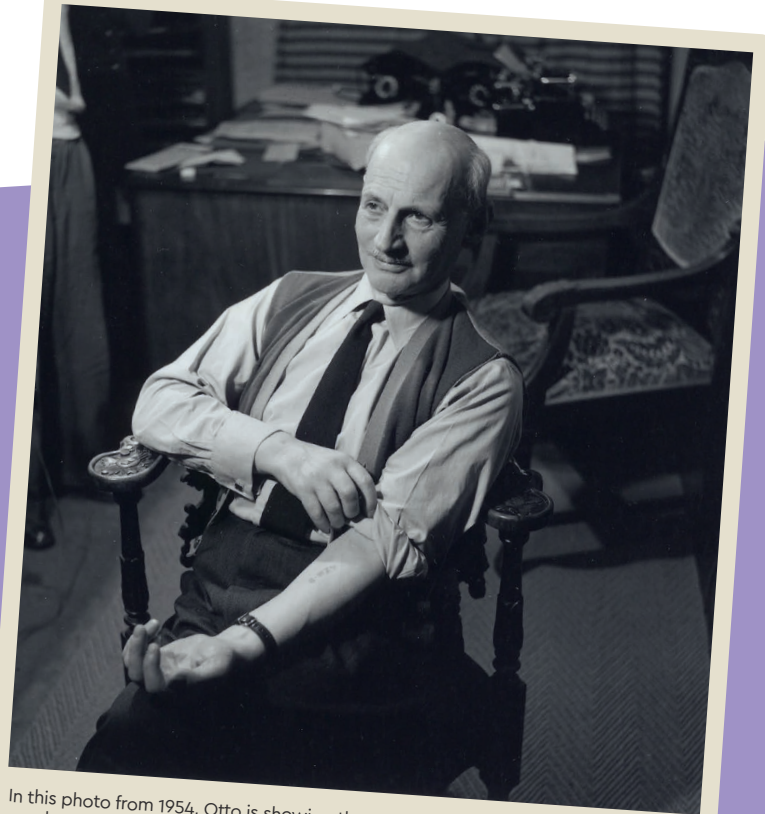


These texts by Anne have survived. Many others were lost, including Margot's diary.

On 4 August 1944 the eight people in hiding were discovered. Police arrested them and two of their helpers. Two other helpers, Miep Gies and Bep Voskuijl, found Anne's diary in the apartment in the Secret Annex. Miep kept it safe.

The Frank family was taken first to the Westerbork transit camp and then to the Auschwitz concentration camp. Edith died there. In the autumn of 1944, Anne and Margot were deported to the Bergen-Belsen concentration camp. They died a few months later.

Otto was in the Auschwitz concentration camp when it was liberated in January 1945. He was the only one from the Secret Annex to survive. The Allied armies liberated the occupied territories little by little. The Second World War ended in Europe in May 1945.



In this photo from 1954, Otto is showing the number on his arm. The Nazis tattooed numbers onto the arms of most prisoners in the Auschwitz concentration and extermination camp.



Jewish prisoners were transported in trains without seats or windows from the Westerbork transit camp to concentration and extermination camps.



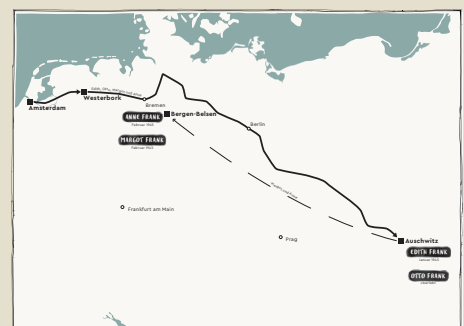
What is the Holocaust?



Jews were transported from a train station in Amsterdam to the Westerbork transit camp.



In August 1945, Otto used this newspaper advertisement to try to find his daughters. He had learned of his wife's death a short time earlier.



This map shows the places the Frank family was deported to.



German Sign Language Video



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The significance of the diary

After 1945

Otto returned to Amsterdam in the summer of 1945. There he learned of the death of his daughters. Miep gave him Anne's diary. In it, Otto read that Anne wanted her texts to be published. He satisfied her wish. The book was published in 1947 titled *Het Achterhuis* in Dutch (The Annex).

Today Anne's diary is known around the world. Many people read it and then want to know more about the Nazis, National Socialism, and the Holocaust.

Anne's story is one of the many stories of persecuted people from throughout Europe. More than six million Jews were murdered during the Holocaust.

The diary also tells the story of those who helped the Frank and van Pels families and Fritz Pfeffer. They risked serious punishment or even death in their effort to help people who were threatened.



Otto in October 1945 with the office workers who supported those hiding in the Secret Annex.



Het Achterhuis (The Annex) was the first edition of Anne's diary, published in Dutch.



The helpers were honoured as Righteous Among the Nations in 1973. This is how Israel honours people who helped Jews during the Holocaust.



Listen to Miep Gies talking about the help she provided



There are many monuments commemorating the victims of the Holocaust. This sculpture of Anne is located in Amsterdam.



Anne's diary has been translated into more than seventy languages.



In an interview, Victor Kugler was asked why he helped the people in the Secret Annex. He responded, »I had to help them; they were my friends.«



German Sign Language Video



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