

ANNE FRANK DAY 2026

Nationwide Day of Action against Antisemitism and Racism



Telling history

A project of the Anne Frank Zentrum

#AnneFrankTag2026
www.annefranktag.de

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aufgrund eines Beschlusses des Deutschen Bundestages



Anne's childhood in Germany

1929–1934



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



This photo shows Anne, Edith, and Margot in Frankfurt's city centre in 1933.

Anne Frank is born on 12 June 1929. Her parents, Edith and Otto, and her older sister Margot are very happy. The family is Jewish and lives in a house with garden in Frankfurt am Main. They have a lot of friends in the neighbourhood.

In 1933 the Nazis come to power in Germany with Adolf Hitler at the head of the government. They persecute people who do not fit into their worldview. Jews, Sinti and Roma, queer people, and those with different political views are particularly affected by this. Life changes dramatically for these people. Jewish people are declared the Nazis' greatest enemies. This hostility is called antisemitism. The Nazis increasingly ban Jews from doing things and threaten them with violence.

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



Antisemitism has existed in Germany for a long time. This postcard shows a hotel in Frankfurt around 1900. The hotel used it to advertise that it did not accept Jews as guests.



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



Otto holds his daughters on his lap in 1931. At that time, Margot is five years old and Anne is two.



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



German Sign Language Video



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Their early years in Amsterdam

1934–1939

The family finds an apartment in Amsterdam. Margot and Anne go to school, learn Dutch and find new friends. Edith does the housework. Otto starts a new company named Opekta.

In Germany, Jews are threatened more and more. In November 1938 the Nazis destroy synagogues and Jewish shops throughout the country. They arrest 30,000 Jewish men and put them in concentration camps. This violence is referred to today as the November pogroms.

On 1 September 1939 the German army invades the neighbouring country of Poland. This marks the beginning of the Second World War. Edith and Otto worry about their family. They wonder how safe they still are from the Nazis in the Netherlands.



In March 1938, Otto and Anne take a boat trip in the Dutch city of Leiden.



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



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



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



Adolf Hitler is welcomed by Frankfurt residents and the city's mayor in March 1938. As in previous years, Hitler gives a speech in the festival hall.



On 10 November 1938 the Nazis burn down the synagogue at Börne Square in Frankfurt am Main.



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Anne's life is threatened

1940-1942



In February 1941 Dutch and German Nazis raid Amsterdam's Alcazar Theatre. 23 people are injured. Jewish artists perform at the theatre.



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



Margot, Otto, Anne, and Edith stand in front of their apartment. This photo from 1941 is the only one that shows all members of the family.

The German army invades and occupies more and more European countries. In May 1940 it conquers the Netherlands.

The Nazis also pass laws in the countries they occupy. These discriminate against Jewish people. From January 1941 on, a new rule applies in the Netherlands: All Jews have to register their address with the Nazis. German police arrest more than 300 Jewish men in Amsterdam in June 1941. They intern them in concentration camps. Friends of the Frank family were among those arrested.

As of the summer of 1941, Jewish children are no longer allowed to attend state schools. Margot and Anne have to transfer to a Jewish school. In July 1942 Margot receives a letter from the Nazis. She is told to register for forced labour in Germany. Edith and Otto fear for Margot's life. In order to save their family, they come up with a plan.



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



Rowing is an important hobby for Margot. She and her team win this medal in a rowing match in September 1940.



As of 1941, the antisemitic laws prohibit Margot (right) from participating in competitions. In solidarity, her girlfriends also decide to not take part in competitions anymore.



Anne receives this diary as a present for her thirteenth birthday. She writes her first entry on the very same day.



Life in Hiding

1942-1944



Fritz Pfeffer and his partner Charlotte Kaletta keep in touch by letter while he is in hiding. Miep Gies, one of the helpers, delivers the letters. This photo shows them together in 1939, when they were still free.



This photo shows Auguste and Hermann van Pels and Victor Kugler in the summer of 1941. The two men work for Opekta. Victor helps those in hiding.



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

Anne's parents set up an apartment in the annex of Otto's company. This is where the Frank family hides. After a short time, they take in other persecuted Jews.

The family lives in very tight quarters together with Auguste and Hermann van Pels, their son Peter, and the dentist Fritz Pfeffer.

Anne has to share a small room with Fritz.

For more than two years they can't go outside. To avoid being discovered, they often have to remain quiet. Otto's closest employees help them during this time. They bring food for those in hiding and report on what is happening outside. Anne keeps a diary about living together in the Secret Annex and about her dreams and fears.

While in hiding, they listen to the radio and hear how the war progresses. They all hope that the Allies defeat the Germans, so they can live in freedom.



Fritz Pfeffer practices Jewish traditions. He brings this challah cover into the Secret Annex. These are used to cover the challah bread that is eaten on Jewish Sabbath, the day of rest.



On 20 June 1943 the German and Dutch police arrest 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 are taken away.



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



German Sign Language Video



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The Final Months

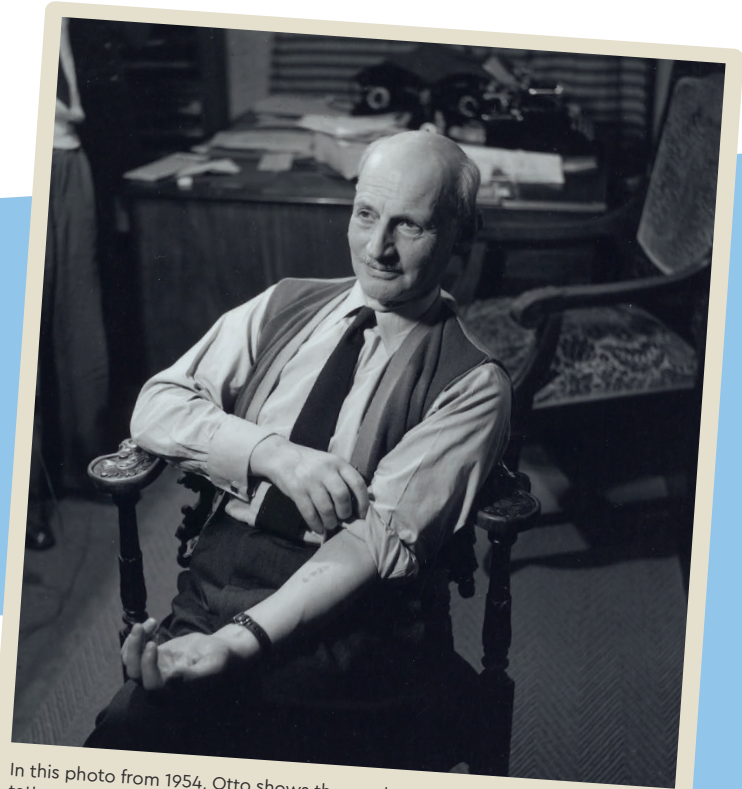
1944–1945



The German Order Police take arrested Jewish residents of Amsterdam to a train station. From there, a train deports them to the Westerbork transit camp. This photo is taken in 1943 by a Nazi photographer.



Arrested Jews are transported in train wagons from the Westerbork transit camp to concentration and extermination camps. This photo is taken in 1943 on behalf of the Nazis.

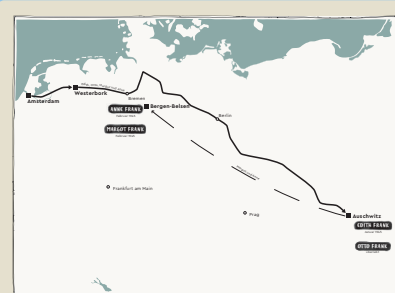


In this photo from 1954, Otto shows the number »B 9174« on his arm. The Nazis tattoo numbers into the skin of prisoners in the Auschwitz concentration and extermination camp. Their aim is to demoralize and dehumanize the prisoners.

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

The Frank family is taken first to the Westerbork transit camp and then to the Auschwitz concentration camp. Here Edith, Margot and Anne are separated from Otto. Edith dies in the Auschwitz concentration camp. In the autumn of 1944, Anne and Margot are deported to the Bergen-Belsen concentration camp. A few months later they die from diseases and the harsh conditions in the camp.

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



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



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



The British Army liberates the Bergen-Belsen concentration camp on 15 April 1945. This photo is taken a few days later and shows the barracks where prisoners were forced to live.



The Significance of the Diary

After 1945

Otto returns to Amsterdam in the summer of 1945 and learns of the death of his wife and his daughters. Miep gives him Anne's diary. In it, Otto reads about Anne's wish to become a writer. He manages to fulfil his daughter's wish. The book is published in 1947 titled »The Annex«.

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

Anne's story is one of many persecuted people. The Nazis exterminate millions of lives. In addition to queer people, political dissidents, and people with disabilities, more than six million Jews and 500,000 Sinti and Roma are murdered.

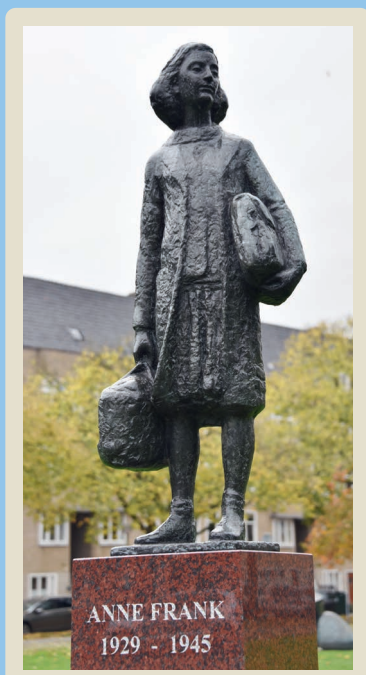
The diary also tells the story of those who helped the Frank and van Pels families and Fritz Pfeffer. They risked serious punishment in their effort to help people who were threatened.



Otto in October 1945 with the Opekta employees who supported those hiding in the Secret Annex. Johannes Kleiman and Victor Kugler stand behind him, Miep Gies and Bep Voskuijl sit next to him.



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



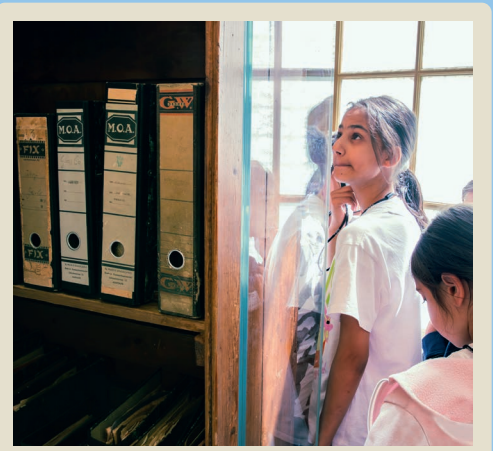
There are many monuments commemorating the victims of the Holocaust. This sculpture of Anne is located near her last home in Amsterdam.



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



Otto uses this newspaper advertisement to try to find his daughters. He learned of Edith's death in the Auschwitz concentration camp through another Holocaust survivor a short time earlier.



Today a museum is located in the Amsterdam Secret Annex. Here, visitors from all over the world can get an impression of the former hiding place of the eight people.

The exhibition was developed as part of Anne Frank Day 2026.
Responsibility for Content: Veronika Nahm
Editors: Alina Welp, Alisa Warnecke
Design: Irene González Chana
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