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RESOURCE 1 Anne's birth



The wedding of Otto Frank and Edith Holländer, 12th May 1925.

The Frank and Holländer families have lived in Germany for generations. The Franks' are a liberal Jewish family. They feel connected to the Jewish faith, but are not strictly religious. In 1930, about 1% of the German population – around 500,000 people – are Jewish.



The house where Anne Frank was born - Marbachweg 307 in Frankfurt am Main (Germany).



Margot, Anne and their father, August 1931.

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RESOURCE 1 Anne's birth

It's Wednesday 12 June 1929. At half past seven in the morning, a cry sounds in a hospital room in Frankfurt-am-Main in Germany. Anne Frank makes herself heard for the first time. The birth was difficult and lasted all night. But Anne cries just like a new-born baby should cry and everything is fine.

The nurse who has helped mother Edith that night is so tired that she enters 'a boy' in the hospital records by mistake. But it's a girl – a tall, solid baby. Otto and Edith call her Annelies Marie. She's their second daughter.

When Otto comes to see Edith and Anne the next day, he brings his camera with him. Otto likes taking photos and special moments like this must be recorded. Anne is a beautiful girl with lovely black hair and a fine face. Edith holds the baby close to her. Later, she'll make a lovely album with Otto's photos, just like she's done for Margot earlier.

Margot is Anne's sister. She's three years older. Two days after Anne's birth she comes to the hospital with her granny from Aachen, Edith's mother. A little sister! She thinks it's fantastic! She can't wait until her mother and Anne come home but that will take a while yet. Edith and Anne stay in hospital for twelve days.

Once home, little Anne will quickly discover that she's part of two loving German families. When she's a bit bigger, she'll often go to stay with her Granny Holländer in Aachen. Two bachelor uncles, Julius and Walter, live there, too. Granny Frank lives in Frankfurt, like her. When she's a little older, some of her father's family, including both of her cousins, will go to live in Switzerland. Visiting them will be great. But all that comes later.

Now she lives with her parents and sister in a big comfy yellow house with green shutters at no. 307 Marbachweg in Frankfurt. Kathi, the housekeeper, makes sure everything is in perfect order. When she can crawl in a few months' time, there's a whole world to discover in the house. There's a living room and a dining room, kitchen, bedrooms, mother's own room and Kathi's. And then the long wall of father and mother's books of course.

The house is in a pleasant, green neighbourhood. It has a garden and a balcony. As soon as the sun comes out, there are children playing in the street. They're from all kinds of backgrounds. Some are from Christian families. Others are not. Often their parents have good jobs but aren't rich. Virtually none of them are Jews like Anne and her family. Most Jewish families live in other areas of Frankfurt.

When she can walk in a year's time, her mother will take her to the sandpit behind the house. She'll throw the sand where she can. She'll jump in every puddle she sees. She'll smear mud on her dress. Or in her hair. Doesn't matter. The dirtier the better. Mother will shake her head and at home quickly get something clean out of the cupboard. Mother likes neatness. Father will laugh about it. That's Anne. She radiates spirit and a zest for life. How can you be angry with such a child!

Edith will look after her girls to the best of her ability. And after work father Otto will bath them, play with them and tell them stories. Together they'll do everything to give both the girls a safe, happy childhood. They'll want for nothing.

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RESOURCE 1 The rise of Hitler



In 1924, after a failed coup, Adolf Hitler is imprisoned. Whilst there, he begins to write down his thoughts and ideas. The resulting book is 'Mein Kampf' (My Struggle). The book is published and circulated widely.



Adolf Hitler at the annual party rally in Nuremberg, 1927.



The unemployed queue outside the Job Centre in Hannover, spring 1932. The words on the fence read 'vote Hitler.'

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RESOURCE 1 The rise of Hitler

In 1921, Adolf Hitler became the leader of the National Socialist German Workers' Party, the NSDAP. It was only a small political party at the time. He was a man with extremist ideas, and he had a way of speaking that fascinated people. It made him stand out. By that time, Germany had just been through the First World War, a war Germany itself had started. Over two million German soldiers had been killed in the war. Others had returned badly wounded. Austria, Germany's ally, had lost over one million soldiers. Their opponents – including France, Great Britain, Russia, and Italy – had lost millions of people as well. Moreover, many towns and villages had been destroyed in France and in Belgium.

The victors decided that Germany would have to pay for the enormous damage the war had caused in their countries. The arrangements for this were written down in the Treaty of Versailles. Germany was in serious trouble over the treaty, as it was unable to pay the reparations demanded by the other countries. Another consequence of losing the war was that parts of Germany had been taken over by the countries that had won it. That was part of the treaty as well.

Hitler had fought in the First World War. He was very disappointed that Germany had lost. Hitler was a nationalist: he wanted everything about Germany to be truly German. The countries that had usurped parts of Germany after the war had to return the land, Hitler felt. In addition, he wanted to merge Germany and Austria into one big, solid country.

Hitler was an anti-Semite. He discriminated against the Jewish people because of their religion and culture. He said that the Jews were to blame for Germany losing the war. Many Jews had

fought in the German army during the war, so that made no sense. Even so, Hitler felt that the Jews no longer belonged in Germany.

Many people disagreed with him. They believed that Germany had lost the war for completely different reasons. They had other ideas about what was needed to help the country get back on its feet. In the meantime, the German government did not know how to solve the problems. They did not have an answer to the poverty. As a result, there were many rows, and political parties even fought for power in the streets.

In the early years after the First World War, Hitler's party was not very large, but in 1928 the NSDAP got enough votes to be represented in parliament. By the end of 1929, only months after Anne was born, the economy collapsed after the stock market crash in the United States. Within a short period of time, unemployment and poverty went through the roof. In the 1932 elections, the NSDAP received most of the votes. Apparently, many people felt that this party would handle the problems best. And so, at the beginning of 1933, Hitler became the leader of the new government.

In the years before, he had become more and more vocal in his claims that the Jews were to blame for Germany's problems. He wrote about it in his book, *Mein Kampf*. No wonder that the Jews worried about what Hitler and his NSDAP had in store for them.

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RESOURCE 1 Fleeing from Germany



Adolf Hitler becomes the leader of the German government on 30 January 1933. The new rulers soon reveal their true intentions. The first anti-Jewish laws are passed and a witch-hunt is launched against the Jews of Germany.



Anne, Edith and Margot Frank, 10 March 1933. Tietz department store in Frankfurt (Germany) had a Photoweigh photo booth where you could weigh yourself and have your passport photo taken. Together, they weighed just under 110 kilos.



While Otto Frank starts up his business in Amsterdam, Anne, Margot and their mother go to live with grandmother Holländer in Aachen. Edith Frank frequently travels to Amsterdam to look for a house.

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RESOURCE 1 Fleeing from Germany

It's the summer of 1933. Otto and Edith pack their cases. They carefully check the cupboards, as they don't want to forget anything important. What do you take with you when you don't know how long it will be until you have your own home again? Clothes of course and then for the autumn and winter too. Shoes. Some books and photos maybe and the camera. But what else? Margot is seven and Anne is just four. They mustn't forget their toys! Slowly the cases fill up.

For some time Otto and Edith have been thinking about leaving the country and starting afresh elsewhere. Otto's business affairs are doing badly owing to the economic crisis that's about to break. To reduce expenses they temporarily move in with Otto's mother.

But meanwhile their uncertain financial situation is no longer the only reason for wanting to leave. Actually they can't stay. That's the situation. Since Adolf Hitler came to power in late January 1933, Otto and Edith are anxious about the future. Hitler makes it clear that for him and his party, Jews are not fully-fledged Germans. Hitler hates Jews.

A year earlier Otto had heard Nazis, Hitler's supporters, singing on the street, 'When Jewish blood splashes from the knife, only then will things get better. Throw them out of the Fatherland!' He's really shocked by this. And now the Jewish mayor in their city, Frankfurt, has been removed and a Nazi mayor appointed. People who oppose this sort of measures are picked up.

Here, in Germany, Otto and Edith can no longer give Margot and Anne a safe, happy upbringing. That's clear to them now. So they pack their suitcases and leave Germany to begin a new life in the Netherlands.

Otto has received help from his brother-in-law Erich Elias from Switzerland. He has lent him money so that he can set up a branch of Opekta in Amsterdam. This company already exists in other countries and makes a binding agent for jam. Otto has to make sure that Dutch housewives buy it. If he succeeds, Otto will earn a good income and be able to provide for his family again.

At first, Otto goes to Amsterdam on his own. Edith leaves with Margot and Anne for Aachen where her mother and two brothers live. They've agreed that Edith will regularly be with Otto in Amsterdam so that she can look for a house while Otto sets up his business.

So. The cases are packed. Tomorrow it's time to leave. They have to say goodbye to each other for a while. But then they will do their utmost to learn the language and get used to the new city. Margot and Anne will soon make new friends, certainly once they're at a Dutch school. Edith and Otto will make the house comfortable and friendly and encourage Anne and Margot to bring children home with them. It will be difficult for a while but all will be well in the end.

In the Netherlands they will be safe.

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RESOURCE 1 From Democracy to Dictatorship



The Nazis want total control in the raising of Germany's young people. Boys' activities take on an increasingly militaristic tone. Girls are prepared for motherhood and housekeeping. A Hitlerjugend (Hitler Youth) poster saying: "Young people serve the Leader" and "All ten-year-olds in the Hitlerjugend."



'Jews are not welcome here' is written on a banner in Rosenheim (Germany), 1935. The Nazis not only regard the Jews as an inferior people, but also as dangerous. They entertain the illusion that 'the Jews' are in power all over the world and that they are intent on destroying the so-called Aryan race. The list of restrictions imposed on Jews keeps growing, with the sole purpose of isolating them from the non-Jewish population.



On the night of 9-10th November 1938, the Nazis organise a pogrom against the Jews. 177 synagogues are destroyed, 7500 shops are vandalised and over a hundred Jews are murdered. This night becomes known as 'Reichskristallnacht' (Night of the Broken Glass). A synagogue on fire in Frankfurt during 'Reichskristallnacht.'

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RESOURCE 1 From Democracy to Dictatorship

German Jews who survived the war would later tell how shocked they were when Adolf Hitler's NSDAP became the largest political party, and Hitler became the leader of the government. They did not doubt that this would have serious consequences for them, even though they could not foresee what these consequences would be. Hitler had already turned many people against the Jewish community. And he would continue to do so.

Even so, some Jews believed that things would turn out alright. If Hitler would indeed succeed in turning the economy around, the hatred of the Jews would probably blow over. Besides, what could they do? This was their country, too! They lived there and worked there, as did their family and friends. They had built their lives in Germany. How could they leave all that behind? It is not that easy to start over in a new country.

Slowly but surely, everything changed in Germany. After Hitler had become the leader of the government in 1933, Germany changed from a democratic country into a dictatorship. There was only one opinion, one vision, one approach that mattered, and that was Adolf Hitler's. People who were critical of him or his policies ended up in concentration camps.

In 1935, two years after the Frank family had come to the Netherlands, the Nuremberg Laws were passed: laws that made life in Germany even more difficult for the Jews. For instance, German Jews were no longer allowed to marry German non-Jews, and their civil rights were severely restricted.

The violence against the Jews turned nastier and nastier. Jews could be arrested, humiliated or even abused without cause – the fact that they were Jews was reason enough. In the night from 9 to 10 November 1938, the violence hit a dramatic new low. All over the country, Jewish homes, shops, and synagogues were destroyed and looted. This night has gone down in history as the Kristallnacht or Night of Broken Glass. Around thirty thousand Jewish men (including one of Anne's uncles) were put in prison and around one hundred Jews were killed. People who had believed up until then that things would be alright, panicked. Hitler stopped at nothing, not even at murder.

Many Jews tried to leave the country. But by then, the entry requirements of neighbouring countries, such as the Netherlands, had become so strict that this was almost impossible. 'We have our own problems,' the governments of other European countries would say, 'we cannot do more than we are doing now.' And so, most German Jews found themselves trapped.

In 1933, the year in which Anne and her family settled in the Netherlands, there were around 600,000 Jews living in Germany. Around half of them succeeded in leaving the country between 1933 and 1939.

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RESOURCE 1 The invasion



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



On 15 May 1940, the German Wehrmacht enters Amsterdam.



The German army enters Amsterdam near Otto Frank's company, 16 May 1940, Otto and Edith hope that the Netherlands will not enter the war. However, on 10th May 1940, the German army invades the Netherlands. Belgium and France are also occupied.

In contrast to the Polish people, the Nazis regard the non-Jewish populations of these Western-European countries as 'kindred peoples', therefore they do not commit the atrocities inflicted on the Poles.

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RESOURCE 1 The invasion

It's the middle of the night. Otto, Edith, Margot, Anne and Granny Holländer, Edith's mother – who's been living with them for almost a year – wake up to threatening sounds and loud bangs. What's going on? They stand quietly in front of the window. They don't understand. It's not thunder. The sky's too clear for that. Then they see that it's planes flying to and fro. And those loud bangs - it looks like bombs are falling. This can only mean one thing: the German army is attacking Schiphol airport.

It's 10 May 1940 and Otto and Edith are terribly shocked. They do their best not to let Anne and Margot notice. They've been scared about this for a while. They've followed the news closely. They've read that Hitler rules Germany like a dictator. They've heard about the murders committed against Jews, about men who are picked up for no reason and disappear into camps. Six months ago he invaded Poland, a month ago Denmark and Norway. And now he's attacking the Netherlands. What does Hitler want? Does he want to be boss of the whole of Europe?

The hours go by. When it gets light, it goes quiet. It's a strange, sinister silence. Early in the morning a declaration on behalf of Queen Wilhelmina is read out on the radio. Now their fears are confirmed. Germany has indeed invaded the Netherlands. The queen says that the Netherlands will fight back. The Netherlands will not surrender!

Meanwhile the sun is shining brightly. It seems such a lovely spring day. Nothing special. What's going on out there and in the rest of the country? Nobody knows.

Anne and Margot go to school as usual that morning and Otto goes to work. What would they do otherwise? Outside there's

nothing to be seen of the war. But the children are sent home again. The schools close until more is clear.

That evening Anne and Margot watch their parents as they cover the windows with black-out paper. Not a spot of light must be seen. Then the German planes can't see where they are so well, Edith and Otto undoubtedly explain. But they certainly don't say that the paper must also help prevent the windows from shattering if a bomb falls nearby. They've never wanted to make Margot and Anne frightened and now do their very best again to remain calm.

In the days that follow, Dutch and German troops fight vehemently but the Dutch army is too weak. The centre of Rotterdam is largely destroyed by German bombs. The Germans threaten to do this to other cities. Then the Netherlands decides to surrender. From now on Nazi Germany is the boss in the Netherlands.

On 15 May German soldiers enter Amsterdam. They cross the Berlagebrug, a bridge close to where Anne lives. Many people stay at home, worried and anxious. But there are also Amsterdammers who don't want to miss this. It's much too exciting. Some people are even pleased at the arrival of the Nazis. There's much unemployment and poverty in the Netherlands too. Maybe that Hitler can also seriously shake things up here and solve the problems.

A day later a procession of triumphant German soldiers rides through the centre of Amsterdam. They're not far from Otto's office but he and his staff stay inside. Without seeing the troops, they know that from now on they're going to have problems. Serious problems.

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RESOURCE 1 World war II breaks out



On 1st September 1939, the German army invades Poland. Many prominent Poles are murdered. In Western-Europe, little is known about the cruelties being committed in Poland.



An increasing number of countries are closing their borders to refugees. Children are occasionally allowed to pass through but their parents are not. Young Jewish refugees arriving in England.



In Germany and in most of the occupied territories, Jews have to wear a Star of David. Through the registration of the names and addresses of Jews, they become isolated. At an increasing rate, the Nazis take more and more measures against Jews. The strategy is so effective that many non-Jewish people no longer dare to be in the company of Jews, and vice-versa.

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RESOURCE 1 World war II breaks out

What had started in 1938 with the German annexation of Austria and part of Czechoslovakia, quickly turned into a war in which many European countries were involved. In September 1939, Germany invaded Poland. Shortly before, Nazi Germany and Russia had signed a nonaggression pact. It took some of the tension off for Hitler because he did not want to have to fight Russia at the same time.

Great Britain and France declared war but did not intervene. A little over a month later, Poland had been conquered. Six months later, the German army marched on Denmark and Norway. There was fighting, and the British did what they could to help. But once again, the German army was stronger. Only weeks later, the Netherlands, Belgium, and Luxemburg were occupied. The Germany army invaded France as well. Italy now fought on the side of Germany. Europe was at war.

Around 140,000 Jews were living in the Netherlands by then, 30,000 of whom had fled Germany. Over half of all the Jews in the Netherlands lived in Amsterdam. In the neighbourhood where Anne's family lived, the Amsterdam Rivierenbuurt, there were many other Jewish refugees from Germany.

When it became clear that Germany had invaded the Netherlands, many Jews panicked and tried to get out. They would, for instance, try to board ships that could take them to England. Some of them succeeded. Many Jews realised that they were trapped. They felt despondent. Some of them decided to take their own lives. They did not doubt that Hitler wanted them dead, and they decided not to wait until their turn had come. Many others waited with heavy hearts.

At first, the situation in the Netherlands was calm. People were holding their breath. Then, one step at the time, the Jewish Dutch were confronted with measures that made their lives more difficult.

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RESOURCE 1 Going into hiding



"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 Frank writes this text on the first page of her diary which she receives on 12 June 1942 for her thirteenth birthday.



Anne's parents have anticipated the call-up. For some months, Otto Frank has been preparing the 'secret annexe', an empty part of his office building on the Prinsengracht as a hiding place for his family. Only his closest staff members know about this plan. Called-up Jews receive a form with a list of things they are allowed to take to the 'labour camp'.



The office building of Otto Frank's business on the Prinsengracht, with the secret annexe at the back. On 13 July 1942, the van Pels family move in and in November 1942, those in hiding and their helpers decide that there is enough room for an eighth resident, Fritz Pfeffer.

Until 4 August 1944, these eight people live together in the annexe, shut off from the outside world. It is a time full of fear and anxiety, boredom and arguments. Four of Otto Frank's closest staff members provide food, clothing and books.

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RESOURCE 1 Going into hiding

A beautiful, peaceful, sunny Sunday, 5 July 1942. Just under an hour ago Anne was sitting on the roof terrace reading a book in the sun. But the relaxed Sunday morning atmosphere has completely changed. Otto, Edith, Anne and Margot rush from one room to another in their home on Merwedeplein (Merwede Square). They mustn't forget this, or that, or that either. Since the card for Margot arrived this afternoon, all four are furiously busy getting ready. But there's little time.

It says on the card that Margot must report to go to a German work camp. But that is not going to happen. Definitely not. Otto and Edith have heard and read enough not to trust the Nazis. They know that Jews are sent to camps and do not survive. No way are they going to expose Margot to that danger. But ignoring a call-up is an offence. So there is only one possibility - the entire Frank family must go into hiding. They'll leave early tomorrow. Maybe they'll have to disappear for a longer period of time. So it's essential not to forget anything important.

For months Otto has been preparing the hiding place with the help of his employees Kugler and Kleiman. What's more, he'd already planned a date when they would go to the hiding place: 16 July. Now that Margot has been called up, they can't put it off any longer.

Anne knew nothing about father's plans to go into hiding. She also doesn't know where they're going. Perhaps to a farm, somewhere in the country. No idea. She only knows that she must get her things together.

Anne's diary is the first thing she packs. She was given it two weeks ago on her thirteenth birthday. She's immensely pleased with it. In any case she must take the diary. And the fountain pen that Granny Holländer gave her. And what else?

Miep comes round. She works for Otto and often comes to the Frank family home. Miep has brought her husband Jan with her. They're given things to take with them under their jackets and in their pockets. Later they come back for a second load. They say they'll make sure the possessions arrive at the hiding place.

Otto and Edith explain to Anne that she can't take any suitcases. That would attract attention. Jews aren't allowed to travel anymore. Somebody might betray them. In any case, they've got to walk quite a way. So the bags mustn't be too heavy. Mother makes a pile of clothes for Anne, which she has to put on over each other the next morning. The more they can take the better.

But the cat can't go with them. Anne loves Moortje very much. It makes her sad that she has to leave her behind. Otto writes a note to the neighbours asking them to take care of Moortje. They'll definitely do that. In another note, which they'll leave in the house, is an address in Switzerland. The idea is that everyone will think they've gone there. That's what Anne's friend Hanneli will conclude the following day, when she rings the bell to fetch the kitchen scales Edith had borrowed. The family's suddenly gone. The only explanation is that they've found a way to go to Switzerland.

But they don't go to Switzerland. They stay close to home.



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RESOURCE 1 Going into hiding

A short night follows. Miep collects Margot early. They leave together by bike. Jews have had to give up their bikes, so actually Margot isn't allowed to cycle. But she's taken her star off her jacket. The next half hour she's not Jewish. That's an offence but there's no alternative. So they must get to the hiding place as fast as possible. Anne still doesn't know where it is.

Outside it's pouring with rain. Now Anne, Otto and Edith leave too. They pick up their bags and close the front door behind them. To Anne's astonishment they walk to Otto's office on Prinsengracht. Margot and Miep are already there. There, behind the office, is a space where they will live for the coming time. Hermann and Auguste van Pels and their son Peter will also go into hiding there. It's a sort of house behind a house. The Secret Annexe.

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RESOURCE 1 German occupation



A public confrontation between the occupying forces and the Dutch population occurs for the first time in February 1941. During a raid in Amsterdam, 427 Jewish men are rounded up and transported to the Mauthausen concentration camp. The population of Amsterdam and its surroundings go out on strike in protest, but after two days the strike is forcefully crushed.



A swimming pool, 1941. The sign reads: 'No Jews allowed'



All Jewish children over six in the Netherlands are forced to wear the Star of David on their clothes from 3rd May 1942 onward.

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RESOURCE 1 German occupation

At first, the German occupation did not seem to affect most Dutch citizens very much. People went back to work; children went back to school. They were not allowed to leave the country and some products were scarce. But as long as it did not get any worse, it would be bearable.

Dutch Jews who survived the war, related how many Jews had felt that way at first, too: if it does not get worse than this... The measures aimed against the Jews were introduced so gradually, that this feeling persisted for some time. In the autumn of 1940, all Jewish civil servants were fired. After that, all Jews were summoned to register. Later on, when all Dutch people had to carry identity cards, Jews had theirs stamped with the letter J. Jews were banned from specific professions, and could no longer own their own companies either.

In the course of 1941, the list of things forbidden to Jews grew longer and longer. They could not swim, go to the cinema, ride the tram, go to the library or the zoo. When school started in August 1941, Jewish children could no longer attend the same schools as non-Jewish children. They could no longer be members of associations with non-Jewish members. And so, dedicated schools and associations for Jews were set up. From May 1942 onwards, all Jews were obligated to wear a yellow Star of David on their clothes. One month later, they were banned from buying vegetables in non-Jewish shops and had to hand in their bikes. The list went on and on. Jews were increasingly cut off from society - which was exactly what the Nazis had intended.

When the first call-ups for the labour camps went out in July 1942, many Jews were very worried. They were filled with distrust. Many of them wanted to go into hiding. That was very hard because it meant that you would have to depend on others for everything. Who would be prepared to do so much for you? Margot Frank was one out of the first four thousand Jews to receive a call-up to report for labour camp on 5 July 1942. But when the first train left Westerbork for Auschwitz on 15 July, Margot was not on it. Nor were many other Jews who had decided not to heed the call-up.

The German occupiers were outraged and organised roundups to take the Jews who had not reported from their homes. Dutch police officers were ordered to pick them up as well. But there were also Dutch people who arranged hiding places for Jews.

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RESOURCE 1 Writing



Often Anne Frank and Peter van Pels are together in his room. Anne falls in love with Peter. They share a first kiss.



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

Anne Frank and Fritz Pfeffer’s room. Anne pasted pictures on the wall. In 1995, for the purpose of making a film, the secret annexe was refurbished to its original state.



In the summer of 1943, Anne realises that she can write well and that she actually enjoys it. On an almost daily basis she writes about what she thinks, feels and experiences.

Her red checked diary is full by now and she continues to write in notebooks given to her by Bep. Anne also writes short stories which she occasionally reads out to the other people in hiding.

“Writing allows me to record everything, all my thoughts, ideals and fantasies.” [Anne Frank]

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RESOURCE 1 Writing

It's Monday 12 July 1943. In the Annexe it's quiet like it always is during office hours. After all, they're not there! Four of Otto's workers know that people are hiding in the building. They are the helpers. But there are also workers who know nothing. In business premises like these, moreover, many people come and go. So, silence! They can't be too careful.

But silence still doesn't mean that you can be alone with your own thoughts, Anne notices. There are always people around. Often people who are tense. People who, moreover, are certainly not your friends, to put it mildly. Only Peter - Hermann and Auguste van Pels's son, who also lives in the Annexe - has his own room. Well, room. It's a sort of small hall to the attic. But he can close the door. Then he is alone.

Anne also really wants to be alone now and again. Soon she's going to ask Mr Pfeffer if they can make some arrangements about this. Fritz Pfeffer is the eighth person in hiding. He's a dentist, the same age as her father and came in November, three months after they and the Van Pels family went into hiding in the Annexe. Since Pfeffer arrived, Anne no longer shares her room with Margot but with him.

It's a narrow room. Their two beds just fit. It's stuffy because the window must never be opened. Then someone might think that someone was there. For the same reason, the curtains are always closed. Anne sleeps with her head towards the door, Mr Pfeffer towards the window. Otherwise they would be lying extremely close to one another. And he snores.

The nicest spot in the room is the table. When you come in, it's immediately on the left at the foot of Mr Pfeffer's bed. There's a chair next to it and a shelf above it with a few books and a table lamp. It's

a very simple small table but it's unbelievably important to Anne. That's why she wants to ask Mr Pfeffer to be allowed to sit at the table undisturbed a couple of times a week. Without him in the room, that is.

At the table she can write. She can open her diary, pick up her fountain pen and write. And write. And write. There's nothing so wonderful but also nothing so important. If she can, Anne writes every day. She writes about what she's going through, what she feels, about her sorrows, her fears, but also about the crazy happenings in the Annexe.

It's far more than just writing for a while. To Anne, writing means much more than just something to do. It means everything to her. She hasn't got any friends to chatter with. She mustn't talk at all during the day. Let alone shout, cry or slam the doors. Everything that a girl of her age, who's under enormous stress every day, would sometimes want to do. But she can write. She wants to write. Later she'll be a writer. So there's lots to do. But now for some privacy. She must arrange that.

Anne asks it as nicely and in as friendly a way as she can. Whether she please, please may have the room to herself two afternoons a week for a few hours to write at the table. Mr Pfeffer will hear nothing of it. He wants to sit at the table. He's got work to do. His attitude is rather, Who on earth do you think you are?

But Anne doesn't give up and asks father for help. He makes it clear to Mr Pfeffer that the table is very important to Anne, too. An arrangement is made. An arrangement about the little table. Now Anne can sometimes close the door behind her and be alone. Alone with paper, her pen and table.

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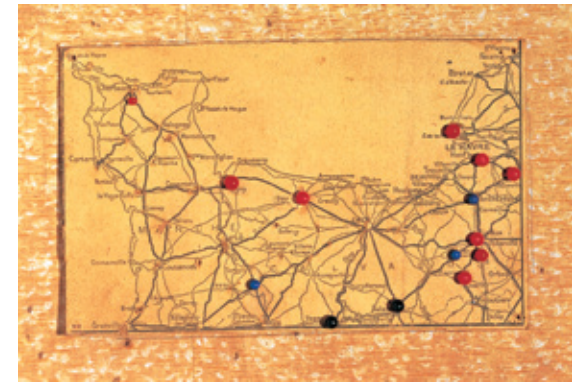
RESOURCE 1 Round ups and Deportations



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.



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.



Otto's map of Normandy can be seen hanging on the wall.

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RESOURCE 1 Round ups and Deportations

While the Frank family, the Van Pels family, and Fritz Pfeffer were hiding in the Secret Annex, the nightmare became reality in the world outside. All over Europe, and in other places as well, there was fighting. American and British airplanes flew back and forth over the Netherlands, day and night, carrying bombs that were meant for German cities. The sound was terrifying.

Sometimes, the Allied Forces decided to bomb targets in the Netherlands that were in German hands. The Fokker airplane factory in Amsterdam-Noord, for instance. However, the first bombs did not hit the factory, but the nearby neighbourhoods. Over one hundred and fifty people were killed. The war took a heavy toll.

To the Jews, the situation had become unbearable. Since the transportations to Westerbork had begun in the summer of 1942, they had been living in constant fear.

At the start of the war, all Jews had had to fill in a form with their background information.

Was one or both of your parents Jewish? And how about your grandparents? Most people had obediently submitted the forms.

It now became clear what the Nazis needed them for: to send all the Jews to Westerbork and on to camps in Germany and in Nazi Germany-occupied Poland. People who did not report voluntarily were picked up in large-scale roundups. No one knew exactly what happened in the camps where the Jews were taken to from Westerbork. But they feared the worst.

By the end of September 1943, the last large-scale roundups were held in Amsterdam. Entire streets had been emptied. Jews who had not been picked up could still be betrayed by so-called 'Jew hunters': Dutch people who sympathised with the German occupying forces and who earned money by betraying Jews. Many people were too afraid to fight the Nazis. Even so, the Dutch Resistance grew stronger. It was well organised. They helped people with fake identity cards and printed illegal newspapers to inform people about the course of the war. The Resistance were not afraid to use force if necessary, for instance, to free people or to stop Jew hunters.

The Resistance arranged for hiding places for Jews as well. It was punishable to go into hiding. All people involved had to be very courageous. Out of the 140,000 Jews in the Netherlands, 27,000 managed to go into hiding.

There was always some hope that the war would soon be over. When Anne wrote about her little table in the summer of 1943, the Germans had already been beaten in North Africa, and the Allied Forces were crossing to Sicilia to continue fighting in Italy. It gave people hope. But they would have to wait for a long time. It took another year to liberate Rome, on 4 June 1944. Two days later, the tide seemed to turn: the allied troops landed in Normandy (France). The large-scale, structured attack on the German army had begun.

In the Secret Annex, Otto Frank stuck a pin in a small map of the French coastline he had put up to follow the progress of the Allied Forces. Normandy! It gave them all such hopes.

4 LEARN

RESOURCE 1 Arrested



A revolving bookcase conceals the entrance to the secret annex. During the day, when staff members are at work in the office, the hiding families have to be deadly quiet because the storage room staff do not know about them. The toilet sewage runs through the warehouse, thus during the day the people in hiding flush the toilet as little as possible.

All windows are carefully covered with rags so that the neighbours cannot suspect anything. During these quiet hours, Anne studies, plays games with the others and writes in her diary.



Karl Josef Silberbauer is tracked down in Vienna in 1963, where he works as a police officer. He is suspended, but he returns to work again after explaining that he does not know who betrayed the people in the secret annex. To this day it remains uncertain as to who informed the police.



The arrested people are taken to the office of the German police and then to prison in Amsterdam. Several hours after the arrest, Miep Gies and Bep Voskuijl go to the hiding place. They find Anne's diary entries on the floor, and take them. Miep puts them away in a drawer of her desk.

4 LEARN

RESOURCE 1 Arrested

Silberbauer he's called, Karl Josef Silberbauer, and he wears the uniform of the SD, the Security Service. He goes by car to Prinsengracht and stops in front of number 263. That morning, the morning of 4 August 1944, the head office of the German Security Service has received a telephone call. There are said to be Jews hiding at this address. Silberbauer has come to pick them up. He's got a couple of Dutch policemen with him who work for the Nazis. Silberbauer has his pistol at the ready. The other men too.

They've been through the whole building and keep one of the workers, Mr Kugler, covered. Now they are standing in a sort of office space where there's a wooden filing cabinet. There are files in the cabinet and a map hangs above it. At first sight, nothing special.

On the other side of the door, those in hiding look at each other in horror. What is happening at the revolving bookcase? At this time of the day it's normally quiet. They hear voices. Strange voices. That one voice, is it German?

The bookcase can evidently turn. And behind it is a door. The door swings open. Silberbauer goes first, holding his pistol in front of him, threateningly. The men spread out – two downstairs, two upstairs. Behind that door there's a whole world. The world where eight people have now lived for more than two years. All that time they were safe here. In a matter of seconds it's over. It is 4 August 1944 and they've been betrayed.

Otto is helping Peter with his English homework in Peter's room. An armed man sends them downstairs. They see Margot, Anne, Edith, and Auguste and Hermann van Pels standing there.

They've all got their hands up. Now Fritz Pfeffer comes in. He too is covered.

'Valuables?' says Silberbauer. Otto points to a small box. The men empty it. They have to hand over everything of value. The men themselves also search for gold, jewellery and other items of value. Cupboards are searched, drawers pulled open. Silberbauer sees a briefcase at the head of Otto's bed. It is where Anne keeps her diaries and other papers. She entrusts them to her father. Every night, for two years now.

In a couple of strides Silberbauer is at the briefcase. He opens it, looks inside and then turns it upside down. Anne's diaries drop to the floor, as do all the other papers. They don't interest him and he leaves them. Then he sees a chest. He's surprised. Isn't it an army chest? How did this man get it? Otto explains that he was an officer in the German army during World War I. That reduces Silberbauer to silence for a moment.

Otto, Edith, Margot, Anne, Mr and Mrs van Pels, Peter, Mr Pfeffer. They're given some time to gather some things together. They scarcely talk to each other. The armed men watch while they pack. Then they go down the stairs one by one, through the hallways to the front door. For the first time in two years they leave the building. There's a lorry outside. As well as those who'd been in hiding, helpers Kleiman and Kugler have to get in too. They feel the wind and the sun. What a long time ago that's been! It's a glorious summer day, 4 August 1944, and they have no idea of what lies ahead.

4 LEARN

RESOURCE 1 From Westerbork to Auschwitz



On 6th June 1944, allied troops land on the beaches of Normandy, France. They intend to liberate Europe from Nazi occupation. This day is called 'D-Day'.



Children in the Westerbork transit camp, 1943.



Nearly all of the arrested Jews in the Netherlands are initially transported to Westerbork, a camp in the east of the Netherlands. There are thousands of prisoners in Westerbork.

4 LEARN

RESOURCE 1 From Westerbork to Auschwitz

By the summer of 1944, people had high hopes that the war would soon be over. After the Allied Forces had landed in Normandy on 6 June 1944, the Dutch followed the developments closely. Although Dutch newspapers reported on the fighting in Normandy, they would only print the German side of the story. That is why people listened to the English station and to Radio Orange, even though it was strictly forbidden. Indeed, people had been ordered to hand in their radios the year before, in the summer of 1943.

Some Dutch people had handed in their old radios and secretly kept another one at home. The people hiding in the Secret Annex had held on to theirs as well. In her diary, Anne described several occasions on which they all listened to the radio together.

After two months of relentless fighting, the Allied Forces reached Paris. The city was liberated by the end of August 1944. The troops then moved on to the east and the north. In early September 1944, the Allied Forces liberated Antwerp. The Dutch were anxiously waiting for their own liberation. It could not be much longer now!

But that was not how it turned out. By the middle of December 1944, only the southern half of the Netherlands had been liberated. The people living there breathed sighs of relief. But the northern part of the Netherlands would face a harsh winter. The Germans did not intend to give up on the rest of the Netherlands and blocked all food transports. Within weeks, there was a shortage of everything in the major cities. The hunger winter had begun.

On Friday 4 August 1944, the people in the Annex have been betrayed. The eight people in hiding and two of their helpers, Johannes Kleiman and Victor Kugler were arrested. After a few days in an Amsterdam prison, they were all put on the train to the Westerbork transit camp. Johannes Kleiman and Victor Kugler ended up in the Amersfoort concentration camp.

Anne and the seven others from the Secret Annex were unaware of the hunger winter. They were put in the prison barracks. These barracks were meant for people who had committed punishable acts, such as going into hiding.

In Westerbork, rumours abounded that the war would not last much longer. Not only were the Allied Forces moving in from the south, the Russians had been at war with Germany since 1941 and were attacking the German army from the east. How would the Nazis ever be able to keep sending people on to the camps in the east?!

The rumours were right in that respect. The Nazis were to come to the same conclusion. But for Anne, Margot, Otto, Edith, and the other people from the Secret Annex, the new developments came too late. On 3 September 1944, they were put on a train with over one thousand others. It would later become clear that theirs would be the very last train to leave Westerbork for Auschwitz.

4 LEARN

RESOURCE 1 Anne's death



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



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



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

4 LEARN

RESOURCE 1 Anne's death

It's cold. So terribly cold. It's February 1945. Who still takes notice of the time? It's cold. That's it. And there's almost nothing. Nothing to eat, nothing to drink, no warm clothes, no blankets, no decent bed to sleep in. There are only many, many hungry, completely crushed people. Wherever you look, they wander around aimlessly looking for... well, what actually? Only death, disease, misery and hopelessness are to be found.

'Anne!'

One of the people in the middle of the shadows in the camp is Auguste van Pels. She's just had an extraordinary meeting and can't wait to tell Anne about it.

Anne and Margot, like Auguste van Pels, have ended up in Bergen-Belsen in Germany. About seven months ago they were taken from the Annexe to Westerbork transit camp. From there they had to go to Auschwitz, the German concentration camp in Poland. Margot and Anne were unexpectedly moved on again. Mother's still in Auschwitz.

Since arriving in Auschwitz they haven't seen father. That applies to Peter, Mr van Pels and Mr Pfeffer too. They've lost everyone. But Mrs van Pels has news for Anne. She's found someone who's very dear to Anne. That'll certainly do her good.

Anne's ill. She's got typhus. It's an infectious disease that you catch extra quickly if you're weakened and conditions are dirty. You get a fever and stomach ache and have to vomit. Because everyone is weak and hygiene is virtually non-existent, more or less everyone has typhus. Margot too.

'Anne, I've found your friend. It's Hanneli. She's here too!'

Hanneli. That's unbelievable news. In the Annexe Anne had dreamed about her. In her dream Hanneli had ended up in a dreadful camp, while Anne was safe in the Annexe. They haven't seen or spoken to each other for two and a half years. Now she's here. In the middle of all those ten thousand people, Mrs van Pels has found her.

Hanneli will come to the barbed wire that evening. She'll stand on one side and Anne on the other. At least, if it works. They'll run a huge risk. People from different parts of the camp aren't allowed contact with each other and there are watch towers everywhere. Reeds have been woven through the barbed wire to form a high fence between Anne's part of the camp and Hanneli's. So they won't be able to see each other. And they'll have little time. But they're going to try.

That evening both of them walk along the barbed wire and softly call each other's name. 'Anne.' 'Hanneli.' They keep walking along the barbed wire until they find each other. Then they quickly whisper something to each other. Hanneli says she is in the camp with her granny, father and sister. And she thought that Anne was safely in Switzerland. Anne says that her father and mother are dead. It can hardly be otherwise. That Margot is very sick. And that she's terribly hungry.

Hanneli's in a part of the camp where it's a bit better because they sometimes get food parcels. She promises Anne to go and look for something to eat. A couple of days later they'll meet each other again.



4 LEARN

RESOURCE 1 Anne's death

'Hanneli.'

'Anne, are you there?'

'Yes, here.'

'I'll throw a package over the barbed wire. Here it comes.'

Hanneli has scraped together some food. It's not much but for Anne and Margot, who are now extremely weak, it's of vital importance. Then Hanneli hears someone crying. It's Anne. She didn't catch the package. Another woman did and she's sped off with the loot.

Hanneli tries to lift Anne's spirits. And she promises to try again. Two days later they succeed. Anne has found Hanneli again and this time she catches the package. She'll open it quickly with Margot, who is now so ill. 'We'll talk here again at the barbed wire,' they agree.

How could they know that this would be the last time they would hear each other's voices?

4 LEARN

RESOURCE 1 Death camps



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 chamber, on the platform at Auschwitz.



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.

4 LEARN

RESOURCE 1 Death camps

The winter of 1944 - 1945 was terribly hard on the northern part of the Netherlands, which had not yet been liberated. In the cities and in the west, there was a dire shortage of food. People would go on food-finding trips to the countryside, with things they hoped to trade for food: wedding rings, silver cutlery, and watches. After the war, it turned out that over ten thousand people had died of hunger during those months.

From 1942 onwards, Dutch men were forced to work for the Germans. Anyone who did not report for duty was likely to be arrested. The people in the Netherlands were afraid and often desperate. When would this horrible war come to an end? The Allied Forces seemed unable to cross the major rivers. The winter was bitter cold, and there was a serious shortage of fuel.

Meanwhile, in eastern Europe, the Russians kept marching on to Germany. The Nazis, convinced that the war was lost, started to erase the traces of their unprecedented cruelties. The gas chambers and crematoriums of Auschwitz were destroyed. Documents were burned. The world was not to find out that over one million people had been killed there. In as far as possible, prisoners were transported to other camps in Germany and Austria.

In the midst of these developments, Anne and Margot arrived in the German Bergen-Belsen camp in November 1944. The facilities were inadequate to receive the overwhelming flood of new prisoners from other camps. The misery was indescribable. Two months after Anne and Margot had been sent to Bergen-Belsen, the remaining prisoners were sent from Auschwitz to other camps. Completely exhausted, they were put on open trucks or trains. Or left on foot. In the freezing cold. With barely

enough clothes or shoes. With hardly any food. Many were left to die along the roads. Those who could not keep up were shot.

Otto Frank was ill and remained in the camp when the last of the Nazis left. It was to be his rescue. The Auschwitz concentration camp was liberated on 27 January 1945 by the Russians. Otto was exhausted, but alive and free. On his way home, he learned that Edith had died. When he arrived months later in the Netherlands, liberated since May 1945, he had only one goal: to find his daughters. But his daughters had suffered the same fate as six million other Jews. It turned out that they had died from hunger and disease, only weeks before the liberation of Bergen-Belsen.

The unrivalled cruelty of the Nazi regime was brought to light during the march of the Allied Forces through Germany, Austria and the occupied territories. People reacted with shock and disbelief. When Bergen-Belsen was liberated by the English in April 1945, they had a hard time believing what they saw. How was it possible that this had taken place? They did their utmost to save as many people as possible. However, many people were so sick and undernourished that 12,500 of them still died.

4 LEARN

RESOURCE 1 Anne's diary

It's spring 1947. Otto Frank is holding a book, Anne's diary. On the cover there are dark clouds and the title, *Het Achterhuis*. The author's name is at the top in yellow letters, Anne Frank. In a few months she would have been eighteen. And she would have been unbelievably proud of this book, this real book, which she worked on while hiding in the Annex. So many times she'd asked herself if she could write well enough to publish a book. And whether people would find her stories interesting enough to read them. But now there is a book. Anne's dream has come true.

There would not be a book if the helpers Miep and Bep had not gone back to the Annex after those hiding there had been arrested. Shortly after the Security Service had picked up the Frank family, the Van Pels family and Pfeffer the dentist, Miep and Bep sneaked back to the Annex. They took the diary and other note books, cash books and papers that Anne had filled with writing. Miep put them in a drawer to give back to Anne after the war. But Anne did not come back.

And that's why Otto Frank was given them, now almost two years ago, on the day he heard that Margot and Anne were no longer alive. While they were in hiding, every evening Anne had put her diary notes in an old briefcase and put that beside his bed. He may, no, he had to take care of them. He had never read a line of her diaries. He could still see before him how the SD officer turned the briefcase upside down on the day of the arrest and how Anne's papers had fallen to the ground. So much had happened since then.

At first he had only read tiny bits. Anne's stories about life in the Annex moved him so much, it was almost too difficult. Of the eight who hid in the Annex he was the only one still alive. As he read, they came alive again. It was too painful.

After some time his daughter's stories gripped him. Couldn't Anne write superbly! She had an eye for the smallest of details and could describe people's characters well. She reported events so well that he saw them all before him again. She wrote with humour, but also seriously and sorrowfully. He was surprised, amazed even, that she had thought about so many things. He had had no idea that her thoughts and emotions went so deep.

He was so enthralled by the diaries that he had to talk about them! He showed parts of them to friends and translated sections into German for the family. 'You must hear what Anne's written now,' he often said to Miep and Jan who had affectionately taken him into their home after the war. But they also found it dreadfully difficult to hear Anne's words.

Some friends said to him that he must publish the diaries. Because people should know what it had been like. Because young and old could learn from Anne's story. And above all, because it was Anne's deepest wish. He really had to get used to that idea. Anne's diaries were so private. Some parts were of no concern to anyone else, such as when she wrote unpleasant things about her mother. He knew that they didn't always have a good relationship but did everybody else have to know? Anne and Edith were no longer here. His friends had convinced him. Anne's diaries were so special that more people had to read them. Since then he had done his best to find a publisher.

It's now spring 1947. Otto Frank is holding Anne's diary in his hands. Three thousand copies were printed. Anne so wanted to become a writer. Now she is.

4 LEARN

RESOURCE 1 After the war



The manuscript of the Diary of Anne Frank is given to historian and Dutch scholar, Dr Annie Romein-Verschoor, who passes it on to her husband, historian Dr Jan Romein. Both of them are deeply impressed by the Diary. Dr Romein writes a front page article entitled *Kinderstem* or 'A Child's Voice', for the widely circulated daily Dutch newspaper *Het Parool*, formerly a Resistance newspaper.



Anne Frank doesn't just keep a diary, but starts writing short stories during the summer of 1943. Some are entirely fictional, others are based on actual events in the Secret Annex.



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

4 LEARN

RESOURCE 1 After the war

During the Second World War, many people kept a diary, just like Anne Frank. Others wrote letters about their experiences, hunger, sadness, and sorrow to family and other loved ones. Still others wrote poems or stories or took photographs in secret. During the war, people started to realise that these personal documents would be very important after the war, to give an impression of the way in which people had survived those hard years. Moreover, the publication of personal stories would remind people that this should never happen again.

In March 1944, in a broadcast of Radio Orange, Gerrit Bolkestein, the Minister of Education, the Arts and Sciences, called on the public to keep such personal documents safe. When Anne and the others in hiding heard his appeal, Anne understood straight away that this applied to her diary as well. At first, she hesitated, not sure that her stories would interest others, but after a few weeks, she decided to rewrite her diary. She planned to turn it into a real book after the war. However, Anne never got a chance to finish her work, as she was arrested in August of that same year.

Anne's diary is now known all over the world. Even so, in the early years after the Second World War, publishers were unresponsive when it came to publishing war diaries. The tendency was to look to the future and to forget about the war as soon as possible. Moreover, the country was in utter confusion. The stories that surfaced about the inhuman suffering that had been inflicted on the Jews, were almost too much to bear. People were shocked by the level of evil. It was more or less by coincidence that Jan Romein, a historian, got his hands on a typed-up version of Anne's diary in 1946. He was moved and wrote a column about it for *Het Parool*, an

Amsterdam newspaper. The column was printed on the first page.

Romein wrote: 'After I finished reading, it was night, and I was surprised that the lights were still on, that bread and tea were available, that I did not hear the roaring airplanes or the soldiers' boots in the streets. That is the extent to which the diary had captivated me and taken me back to that surreal world that has been behind us for over a year now.'

By then, a National Institute for War Documentation had been established, where the personal documents Bolkestein had called for on Radio Orange were researched and kept. Anne's diary was very special, Romein concluded. He wrote that he had a hard time imagining there to be another document at the Institute that was 'so very pure, so very intelligent, and yet so very human' as Anne's diary. After all this praise, it was easy to find a publisher.

Many stories have been published since that time. To this day, personal documents surface that paint a picture of the horrors people had to endure in the Second World War. Out of all these publications, Anne's diary is the most famous. Millions of people in dozens of countries have read her work. And millions more have visited the place where Anne and her family lived in hiding: The Secret Annex.