

SYNOPSIS

ACT I

On a rainy night in 1942, the Frank family is on the run from the Nazis. Margot, the eldest Frank daughter, has received a notice to report to a work camp—a notice of certain death—and the family has decided to go into hiding.

As the family arrives at secret apartments above Otto Frank's business, each character reacts differently to the family's changed circumstances. Mrs. Frank is overwhelmed, Margot is depressed, Otto is businesslike, but Anne, the youngest daughter, seems delighted and full of a sense of adventure.

Miep Gies, an employee of Otto Frank, has agreed to help the family find food and supplies, and helps them to settle in. A short time later, the van Daan family arrives with their shy son Peter. He has brought his cat, which delights Anne. A discussion about the repressive conditions Dutch Jews have been forced to endure ensues as the residents get to know each other.

Life in the annex is difficult and irritating, and made more so by the addition of another resident, a disagreeable dentist called Albert Dussel. Mr. Dussel and Anne get on each other's nerves when they are forced to share a room. The friction between Anne and Mr. Dussel increases the friction between Anne and her mother, who bicker constantly. Anne's nightmares of the war are a particular source of irritation to Mr. Dussel.

The residents of the annex celebrate their first Hanukkah together, with Anne providing scrounged and homemade presents for everybody. But that night, a sound is heard below the annex in the warehouse, and the annex residents fear discovery. The joyful celebration of Hanukkah turns into terrified speculation about the noise, and somber reflection upon the reality of the residents' lives.

ACT II

Life in the annex has returned to "normal." Miep remains loyal, bringing goods from outside, but times are growing harder and food is scarce. A friendship between Anne and Peter begins to grow.

Mr. Kraler, another loyal employee of Otto Frank, arrives to inform the residents that a blackmailer may know the family's whereabouts and has requested money. They speculate about whether the Hanukkah burglar heard them upstairs. Peter and Anne's friendship deepens, blossoming into first romance. They talk about their plans for the future while sitting in the annex's attic.

Meanwhile, conditions in the attic grow worse. Food is getting scarcer, and Mr. van Daan infuriates the other residents by stealing bread in the night. While they are arguing about whether or not to expel the van Daans, Miep arrives with the news that the invasion of Normandy has begun and that the war will soon be over.

Peter and Anne retreat to the attic to discuss their plans for the future and to eat some strawberries that Miep has brought. As they talk, a Nazi soldier and two Dutch collaborators enter the annex and round up the residents.

Otto Frank describes their fates. Anne's diary all that remains of his family.

CHARACTER LIST, IN ORDER OF APPEARANCE

To avoid hurting the feelings of real people and to avoid the potent, Anne gave pseudonyms to many people in her diary. The names below are the names used in the play and diary. Real names follow.

Anne Frank: the central character a girl in her early teenage years.

Real Name: Annelies Marie Frank

Otto Frank: Anne and Margot's father a resourceful man

Real Name: Otto Frank

Edith Frank: The mother of the girls and increasingly depressed at their situation

Real Name: Edith Frank

Margot Frank: Anne's well-behaved older sister, in her late teens

Real Name: Margot Betti Frank

Miep Gies: a former employee of Otto Frank, who is the annex resident's link to the outside world

Real Name: Miep Gies, called Miep van Santen in the diary

Peter Van Daan: The son of Mr. and Mrs. Van Dann, Anne's eventual love interest.

Real Name: Peter van Pels

Mr. Kraler: a former employee of Mr. Frank

Real Name: Viktor Kugler

Mr. Van Daan: father of Peter

Real Name: Hermann van Pels

Mrs Van Dann: mother of Peter.

Real Name: Auguste van Pels

Mr. Dussel: A cantankerous former dentist

Real Name: Fritz Pfeffer

THE NAZI PARTY AND ITS POLICIES

The National Socialist German Workers' Party or NSDAP, known as the Nazi Party, controlled Germany from 1933 to 45. Nazis labeled and isolated Jews, Gypsies, Slavs, homosexuals, political prisoners, and the mentally and physically disabled. Some were passively killed by starvation and widespread disease. Millions were murdered in and around Nazi concentration, and later death camps.

Although Adolf Hitler is often perceived as the chief perpetrator, there were others. Perpetrators were Nazi party leaders, bankers, professors, military officials, doctors, journalists, engineers, judges, authors, lawyers, salesmen, police, and civil servants. Perpetrators committed crimes against Jews and other undesirables for many reasons: They wanted power; they believed in an ideology of racial cleansing; they profited financially; or they were merely "following orders."

Hitler's war against Germany's domestic enemies was waged with court decrees, a continuous flow of propaganda, and ever-present violence.

Legal policies

Nazis began to whittle away at the rights of Jews and other party enemies soon after Hitler became Chancellor in January of 1933. A series of laws were created banning "non-Aryans" from civil service, the legal, medical, and dental professions, teaching positions, cultural and entertainment enterprises, and the press.

At the 1935 party rally, the Nuremberg Laws were announced, completing the disenfranchisement of the Jews. Jews no longer were German citizens; they were subjects. They were forbidden to marry Aryans and forbidden to fly the Reich and national flags. Jews were separated politically, socially, and legally from the Germans. A third phase of restricting Jewish rights took place in 1938-39. In July 1938, Jews were required to carry identification cards. Later, Jewish children were banned from school and curfews were instituted. Jews were also excluded from businesses, parks, resorts, and forests. A one billion-mark penalty was levied against the Jews for "the hostility of Jewry toward the German people and Reich..."

Propaganda

Propaganda employs techniques that assume that the masses are not individuals capable of forming their own opinions. Propaganda relies on emotion rather than on logic, concentrates on a few points, which are presented in simple terms, and then hammers those points repeatedly.

Adolf Hitler helped establish the Nazi party in 1920 and was the propaganda director of the Party before becoming its leader. In his book, *Mein Kampf* (My Struggle), written in 1924, Hitler wrote:

The function of propaganda is to attract supporters, the function of organization to win members... Propaganda works on the general public from the standpoint of an idea and makes them ripe for the victory of this idea...

Until 1929, the technical equipment available to the Nazi propagandists was rather primitive, so propaganda trucks carried posters and people shouting slogans. As microphones, loudspeakers, and other mass media developed, so did the sophistication of Nazi propaganda.

Hitler, a highly skilled orator, spoke at a number of mass rallies. These mass meetings created a sense of community, kept emotional levels high, and were a psychologically fertile environment in which to deliver propaganda. Rallies often took place in the

evening when Hitler thought that people were most suggestible and least resistant. Carefully timed stage effects including: marching music, spotlights, torchlight processions, parades, flags fluttering, shouts of "Heil!", and impassioned oratory created the feeling of national unity, strength, and purpose.

Propaganda was used throughout the Nazi Party's lifetime; in its rise to power and while Hitler was Führer. Several weeks after Hitler was named Chancellor, Joseph Goebbels was appointed the Minister of People's Enlightenment and Propaganda. He had total control of radio, press, publishing, cinema, and the other arts.

The weekly newspaper, *Der Stürmer*, was an anti-Semitic newspaper with a circulation of around 500,000 at its peak in 1927. Julius Streicher, a friend of Hitler, was the founder of the anti-Semitic journal.

Violence--terror and death

Hitler's philosophy about terror was clear-cut:

Terror is the most effective political instrument... It is my duty to make use of every means of training the German people to cruelty, and to prepare them for war... There must be no weakness or tenderness.

The SS (*Schutzstaffeln* or guard squadrons), the SA (*Sturmabteilung* or storm troops), the SD (*Sicherheitsdienst des Reichsführers-SS* or security service of the SS), and the Gestapo (*Geheime Staats Polizei* or Secret State Police) were all Nazi instruments of terror.

The SA was founded in 1921 as the Nazi Party militia. It lured new recruits with promises of adventure: participating in parades and secret meetings, painting slogans on buildings, fighting with opponents, and wearing the Brown Shirt uniforms. The SA recruited 15,000 members by 1923, and by the end of 1933, the SA was four-and-a-half million men strong.

The SS began in 1925 as a small personal guard unit to protect Hitler and other party leaders. It developed into the elite corps, the Black Shirts, under the direction of Heinrich Himmler. There were about 100,000 members in 1933. A power struggle occurred in 1934, called the "Night of the Long Knives," between the SA and the SS. The SS won. Himmler was made chief of the German police as well as the head of the SS; able to act within the law as head of the police and outside the law as head of the SS. Germany was truly a police state in which almost any act of terror could now be interpreted as legal.

Himmler established the Nazi Party's intelligence service, the SD, in 1931. This section of the SS was created to uncover the Party's enemies and keep them under surveillance. After the outbreak of the war, the SD was assigned operational tasks, joined the *Einsatzgruppen* (Special Duty groups), and played a central role in organizing and implementing the "Final Solution."

The Gestapo was composed of professional police agents, unlike the SS or SA. The Gestapo, in addition to their own agents, had block wardens, who kept close watch on the tenants of their block. The Gestapo was everywhere. Even a hint of criticism of the National Socialist Regime could result in arrest.

The Nazi party military and police agencies wielded their power violently, leaving a wake of terror and fatalities. Joseph Goebbels and Reinhard Heydrich orchestrated a night of terror in Germany, destroying synagogues, smashing windows of Jewish businesses and homes, looting, physically beating Jews, and arresting thousands of Jews who were then sent to concentration camps. On November 9 and 10, 1938,

Kristallnacht, or "The Night of Broken Glass," was a turning point in the escalation of terror against Jews.

Concentration camps were a part of the perpetrators' systematic reign of terror. The SA and the SS units, during the first months following the Nazi seizure of power, established a camp at Dachau in March 1933. Initially, Communists, Socialists, labour leaders, and other political opponents were the prisoners. Jews and homosexuals were sent next. By 1934, a unit of the SS, named the Death's Head Formations, was in charge of all the concentration camps. Prisoners were starved, forced into labour, tortured, and sometimes murdered in these camps.

Following the successful German invasion of Poland in 1939, the Nazis had more than two million additional Jews under their administration. Heydrich was in charge of the *Einsatzgruppen* (Special Duty group), a military group that was responsible for implementing the Final Solution. In Poland, the *Einsatzgruppen* were to move Jews from the countryside to larger cities, where ghettos were established. Their tactics included mocking, beard cutting, beating, torture, and arrest. As Jews were evacuated from the smaller towns, some were randomly seized from the streets and their homes, deported for forced labour, and brutally shot or beaten to death.

The day after the army advanced into the Soviet Union in 1941, the *Einsatzgruppen* followed. Their task was to kill masses of Jews. From 1941-42, the *Einsatzgruppen* massacred over one million Jews with guns or in mobile killing vans.

While the *Einsatzgruppen* murdered Jews in the Soviet Union, Hitler constructed death camps to efficiently murder massive numbers of Jews in the rest of Europe. Hitler gave Himmler the task of creating the death camps. Six major annihilation camps were established in what is now Poland: Auschwitz, Chelmno, Belzec, Sobibór, Majdanek, and Treblinka. Trains transported Jews, first from the Polish ghettos, and then from France, Belgium, Holland, Norway, Austria, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, Greece, and Hungary. Each day, gas chambers killed thousands of people.

GLOSSARY

Some of these terms appear in the play, and some are relevant to a wider-ranging discussion of WWII and Nazism.

Allies: The twenty-six nations, led by the United States, Great Britain, and the Soviet Union, who united to oppose the Axis powers--Germany, Italy, Japan, and their allies, in the Second World War.

Annihilation: The act or process of being completely destroyed.

Aryan: A central myth of the Nazi ideology was the belief in Aryan racial superiority. An Aryan was supposed to be a person of pure Teutonic German background with distinct racial characteristics including fair skin. In *Mein Kampf* (My Struggle), Hitler wrote about the war between the Aryan and non-Aryan races. The Nazi extermination policy was enacted to eliminate those races deemed inferior or threatening to Aryan racial purity. The term was originally used to describe the family of languages of the Indo-European peoples.

Auschwitz-Birkenau: The largest of the Nazi death camps, which was located in southwestern Poland near the city of Krakow. Over one million Jews, as well as Poles and others, were murdered there. Tens of thousands were put to work as slave labourers for nearby industrial complexes. Also, Auschwitz 11 or Monowitz, was a huge slave labour complex where workers serviced the industrial company, I.G. Farben, in the manufacture of Buna, a synthetic rubber. All the inhabitants of the Secret Annex were sent from Westerbork to Auschwitz in September 1944.

Bergen-Belsen: A concentration camp in northern Germany for the detainment of prisoners of war and other "exchangeable" prisoners. As the number of prisoners increased, housing conditions deteriorated and food became scarce. Anne and Margot Frank were among the over 30,000 people who died of starvation or disease in Bergen Belsen. The camp was liberated by British troops in April, 1945.

Call-up notice: A government order to report to the military or police. During the Nazi era a call-up notice could mean anything from reporting to work to being deported to death camps. Rather than report to the authorities, the Franks went into hiding when Margot Frank received a call-up notice.

Collaboration: Co-operation between citizens of a nation and its occupiers. Throughout Europe, individuals collaborated with the Nazis by carrying out their orders and goals.

Death Camps: As the Nazis perfected assembly line killing, they constructed death camps to be able to kill large numbers of people more efficiently.

Deportation: The forced removal of Jews from their homes in Nazi-occupied countries under the pretext that they would be resettled in the east. Most were deported via cattle cars to concentration and death camps.

Dolchstoßlegende: The stab in the back theory. During the Weimar Republic, the belief that the German military had not been defeated in World War I, but had been stabbed in the back by the civilian government, Jews, Communists and others. Military leaders like Hindenburg promoted this theory. Hitler and the Nazis made the stab in the back theory a central tenet of their regime and they vowed to destroy those who had betrayed Germany.

Einsatzgruppen: SS mobile killing units that moved in directly behind the advance units of the German military forces during the German invasion of Russia which began on June 22, 1941. Jews, Gypsies, and Communists were among those targeted and the result was the death of 1.5 million Jews on the Eastern Front.

Euthanasia: The action of killing an individual for reasons considered merciful. The Nazi euthanasia program was designed to kill people who were considered undesirable because of physical or mental infirmities. The myth of Aryan racial purity called for the elimination of individuals considered inferior.

Final Solution: A Nazi euphemism for their plan to annihilate the Jews.

Forced labour camps: Camps where prisoners were used as slave labour. Mauthausen in Austria is an example of one.

Genocide: From the word *genus* (race) and *(cide)* killing. Coined by Raphael Lemkin, a Russian Jewish jurist, in 1944, it refers to the intentional, systematic murder of all of the people in a targeted group. The 20th century has seen recurrent episodes of genocide including that of the Armenians in World War I, the Jews during World War II; and post-1945, genocides took place in many areas including Cambodia, Rwanda, Guatemala and the former Yugoslavia.

Gestapo: The Secret Police of the Third Reich, which used terror and torture to eliminate political opposition in Germany. The Gestapo also orchestrated the arrest and deportation of Jews.

Gypsies: The nomadic Roma or Sinti people. They had been discriminated against for centuries and the Nazis considered them to be an inferior race. They persecuted and murdered hundreds of thousands of Gypsies during World War II.

Hidden Children: Jewish children who were hidden from the Nazis during World War II. Anne Frank's situation was unusual in that she was able to hide with her entire family and remain in one place for over two years. Most children were separated from family members and had to move frequently.

Holocaust: From the term 'total burnt offering'. The systematic, state-directed, genocide of six million Jews, as well as the murder of five million other civilians, including Slavs, gypsies, homosexuals, the disabled, and others, during World War II. Shoah is another term that is used to refer to the killing of the six million Jews by the Nazis.

Judenrein: A Nazi term for "Jew-free."

Kristallnacht: The state-sponsored pogrom unleashed by the Nazis onto the Jewish communities in Germany and Austria on November 9th and 10th, 1938, that included the vandalism and burning of Jewish shops. Ten thousand Jewish men and boys were arrested and sent to concentration camps.

Mein Kampf (My Struggle): Adolf Hitler's autobiography, written during his imprisonment in 1924. Mein Kampf details his plan to restore Germany to its former greatness and to make Europe judenrein.

National Socialist German Workers' Party (Nationalsozialistische Deutsche Arbeiterpartei) (NSDAP): The Nazi Party, a right wing, anti-Semitic, nationalist party led by Adolf Hitler from 1921-1945.

Nuremberg Laws: Racial laws, passed in the fall of 1935 in Germany, which stripped Jews of their political and civil rights by making them non-citizens. As the Nazi armies advanced in Europe, racial laws were instituted in the occupied countries. Anne Frank describes in her diary the effect that these laws had on her life in Holland.

Occupation: Control of a country by a foreign military power. The Netherlands was occupied by the Nazis from 1940-45.

SS (Schutzstaffel): Hitler's black-shirted, elite guards. They also ran the concentration and death camps.

Swastika: A hooked cross that became the official symbol of the Nazi Party. Originally an ancient religious symbol, the swastika is still used by neo-Nazi groups.

Third Reich: Nazi term for Germany and the Nazi-occupied territories in Europe from 1933-1945. Nazi propaganda stated that there would be a Nazi dominated 1000 year Reich that would control the world.

Totalitarianism: The total control of all the aspects of life, of a people or state, by one person or party. Opposing parties are not permitted to exist.

Weimar Republic: The German democratic state from 1919-1933. With Weimar as its capital city, it was the first parliamentary democracy in Germany's history.

Westerbork: A transit camp for Dutch Jews in Holland. Between 1942 and 1944, about 100,000 Jews, including all those who were hiding in the Secret Annex, were transported from Westerbork to concentration and death camps.

Yellow star: The six-pointed Star of David is the Jewish symbol that the Nazis forced all Jews above the age of six, to wear as a mark of shame, and to make them visible. In the Netherlands the star carried the Dutch word Jood, meaning "Jew".

ANNE FRANK: A BIOGRAPHY

Anne Frank wrote one of the most remarkable of all published diaries. Anne was a German Jewish girl, whose family fled the Nazi Persecution of Jews in Germany in the 1930s, settling in what they hoped was the safety of Amsterdam, Holland. When the Nazis invaded Holland in 1940, the terror returned and the Franks went into hiding in a "secret annex"—hidden rooms at the back of Otto Frank's business premises in Amsterdam.

"Little bundle of contradictions": that is how her family described Anne. She herself felt strongly the idea that she had a dual personality: the "pure" being that she wanted to be, and the "frolicsome little goat" that others judged her to be.

Otto Frank, Anne Frank's father was born in 1889. Otto was brought up in a pleasant suburb of Frankfurt. When Otto left school he studied at the University of Heidelberg. However, he left university when he was given a chance to go the United States. There he spent a year in New York before returning to his family in Germany.

During World War I (1914-18) Otto and his two brothers served in the army, as did millions of other German citizens. Otto rose to the rank of lieutenant. When the war ended, he left the army and went to work for his father's banking firm.

In 1925 Otto married Edith Hollander. The following year Otto and Edith had their first child Margot Betti. Their second daughter Annelies Marie (Anne, for short) was born June 19, 1929. In 1933 Adolf Hitler and the Nazi party came into power in Germany. As soon as the Nazis were in power they began persecute the nation's Jews. Many Jews decided to leave Germany before they lost more than their jobs. Otto Frank was fortunate to still have a job and a nice house in a bright, modern suburb. Even so, he decided to leave his job, his home and his country, to take Edith and the two girls to live in Holland.

Otto believed his family would be safe in Holland, as Holland took no part in fighting during World War I. In April 1940 Germany invaded Denmark and Norway. A month later Germany attacked France, Belgium, Luxembourg—and Holland.

With the Nazis making life unbearable for Jewish people in Holland, Otto Frank decided to go into hiding with his family. He prepared a hiding place in the upstairs rooms of the Prinsengracht building. Margot's order to report to a labour camp hastened their move to the "secret annex" in July 1942.

The Frank's "secret annex" consisted of six rooms. For two years this was not just their home, but the whole world for no less than eight people: Mr. and Mrs. Frank, Margot and Anne, Mr. and Mrs. van Pels and their son Peter, and Mr. Pfeffer, a dentist who joined them in November 1942. It was here that Anne started writing in her diary about her life in the annex. Although Anne was hidden away from the daily world, the radio kept her in contact with events, and her own powerful sympathetic imagination allowed her to understand the sufferings of her fellow Jews in Europe.

"In the evening when it is dark, I often see rows of good, innocent people accompanied by crying children, walking on and on, bullied and knocked about until they almost drop. No one is spared - each and all join in the march of death."

Life in the annex settled down to a monotonous routine. They woke at 6:45 am and all used the bathroom. By 8:30 they had to be quiet, as work began in the warehouse beneath them. Breakfast was served at 9:00, and this was normally eaten in the van Pels's room, on the top floor, where they were least likely to be heard. After breakfast all movement was kept to an absolute minimum until 12:30, when the warehouse closed for lunch. At this time, the inhabitants of the annex had lunch and listened to the BBC. At 2 pm the warehouse reopened

and there was silence once again. Between 2:00 and 5:30 pm time was spent resting or reading. After 5:30 pm, everyone could move around again and the evening meal was prepared and served. At 9:00 pm, everyone prepared for bed. At weekends the routine varied, but with even more need to keep quiet to avoid attracting the slightest attention to what supposed to be an empty building. This routine went on for two years until they were captured in 1944. The Nazis somehow found out about the people living in the secret annex and arrested them. The Franks, the van Pels, and Mr Pfeffer were taken to Westerbork labour camp. From there Mr Pfeffer was taken to Neuengamme concentration camp where he died. The Franks and van Pels were loaded onto the last train to Auschwitz, the most well known and feared of the German concentration camps.

At Auschwitz Mr. van Pels was gassed to death. Mrs. Frank, weak and ill, died shortly before the Russians liberated the camp. Peter van Pels died in Mauthausen concentration camp on the day it was liberated by the Americans.

Mr. Frank survived Auschwitz, and went to the women's section to find out what had happened to his wife and daughters. Here he learned that his wife had just died and that Margot and Anne, together with Mrs. van Pels, had been taken to Bergen-Belsen, a work camp. There was cruelty, hunger and disease; but there were no gas chambers, and this gave Mr. Frank some hope that his daughters might still be alive.

Mrs. van Pels died in Bergen-Belsen. Between February and March 1945 Margot caught typhus and died. Anne was now completely alone. Shortly afterwards, she too died of typhus. In March 1944 Anne Frank had listened to the Dutch programme from London and had heard the broadcaster say that, after the war, the Dutch people ought to make a national collection of diaries and letters to record what they had been through. Anne put her own immediate thoughts in her diary.

In 1947 Mr. Frank managed to publish Anne's diary, titled *Het Achterhuis* (The Annex), a title Anne herself had chosen. Anne wanted to grow up to be a writer. She never had the chance. Anne wanted to live after her death through her writing. She has.

THE DIARY

"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." (June 12, 1942).

In June 12, 1942, Anne Frank's parents gave her a small red-and-white plaid diary for her thirteenth birthday. She named her diary "Kitty." More than 50 years later, this diary has become one of the most widely read personal journals of all time. It has been translated into 67 different languages and has sold more than 31 million copies.

The diary became a way for Anne Frank to express her feelings and dreams, to explore how she felt about becoming a woman, and her evolving identity. Through writing she gave voice to her inner self. She records the fear and trauma of living during World War II and the "hunting" of the Jews.

On July 6, 1942, Anne and her family were forced to go into hiding. She wrote on July 8, 1942: "Margot and I started packing our most important belongings into a school bag. The first thing I stuck in was this diary.... Preoccupied by the thought of going into hiding, I stuck the craziest things into the bag, but I'm not sorry. Memories mean more to me than dresses."

For over two years, Anne wrote about her life with seven other people in hiding, her parents, her sister, the van Pels family, Mr. Pfeffer, the helpers, the war going on around her, and her hopes for the future.

On March 29, 1944, Anne heard over the radio that the Dutch government wanted people to save their wartime diaries for publication after the war. Mr. Bolkestein, the Cabinet minister, speaking on Dutch broadcast from London, said that after the war a collection would be made of diaries and letters dealing with the war. She decided to rewrite her diary entries as a novel that would be entitled *Het Achterhuis*, generally translated as "The Secret Annex."

"Of course, everyone pounced on my diary. Just imagine how interesting it would be if I were to publish a novel about the Secret Annex. The title alone would make people think it was a detective story." (March 29, 1944.)

As Anne rewrote whole sections of her diary on loose sheets of paper, she gave pseudonyms to the residents of the Annex: Mr. Pfeffer became Albert Dussel, Mr. and Mrs. van Pels became Mr. and Mrs. van Daan, and Peter van Pels became Peter van Daan. The helpers' names were also changed: Miep Gies became Miep van Santen, Bep Voskjuil was Elli Vossen, Johannes Kleiman became Mr. Koophuis, and Victor Kugler was Mr. Kraler.

On August 4, 1944, the Nazis raided the Secret Annex and arrested the residents. Anne's entire diary, notebooks, and loose sheets of paper, remained behind in the Annex.

Otto Frank survived Auschwitz and returned to Amsterdam after the war ended. After Otto found out that Anne, Margot, and Edith had died, Miep Gies gave him Anne's diary. As he read the entries, he was deeply moved by his daughter's descriptions of life in the Annex, her thoughts and her feelings. He decided to publish the diary to honor his daughter's wish to be a writer.

It was not easy for Otto to find a publisher for Anne's work. He was told that no one wanted to read about what happened to the Jews. Finally, a newspaper called *Het Parool* printed a story about Anne's diary that captured the interest of Contact, a Dutch publishing house. In June 1947, Contact published 1,500 copies of the first Dutch edition of the diary. Within a few years the Contact edition was translated into German, French, and English.

The first edition omitted almost 30 percent of Anne's original diary. Otto Frank deliberately excluded some sections in which Anne expressed negative feelings about her mother, believing that Anne would not want such views made public. Additionally, Contact was a conservative publishing house and was uncomfortable printing Anne's entries concerning her sexuality.

Otto Frank bequeathed the diary to The Netherlands Institute for War Documentation (Rijksinstituut voor Oorlogsdocumentatie, or RIOD). RIOD received Anne's writings after Otto's death in 1980. Scholars associated with RIOD were particularly interested in refuting the accusations, by neo-Nazi Holocaust deniers, that the diary was a hoax. To prove it was written during the 1940's, RIOD performed tests on the paper, ink, and glue used in the diary. Tests were also performed on Anne's handwriting, comparing samples from the diary with her other writings, which included letters with dated stamp cancellations.

In 1986 RIOD published the Critical Edition of Anne's diary. This edition contains a series of essays about the diary and about the Frank family. It also contains all of the entries Otto and the Contact publishers had removed from the original 1947 edition. Entries that Anne rewrote after March 1944 are placed next to the original entries to show Anne's development as a writer. The 1986 edition also includes transcripts of the tests verifying the authenticity of the diary as well as some of Anne's short stories and sketches written in the Annex.

In 1995, 50 years after Anne Frank's death and the end of World War II, Bantam Doubleday Dell published the Definitive Edition. This edition is based on a new English translation of the original Dutch text, and contains entries that both Otto Frank and Contact Publishers omitted from the 1947 edition. By restoring sections from the original unpublished diary, the 1995 edition makes readers aware of the complexity and sensitivity of Anne Frank, an adolescent struggling to find her own identity amidst turbulent and tragic times. As a writer and a chronicler of the history of her times, the richness of Anne Frank's voice is conveyed in the Diary.

TIMELINE: THE FRANK FAMILY AND THE RISE OF THE NAZI MOVEMENT

1923

January – The National Socialist German Workers' Party (Nationalsozialistische Deutsche Arbeiterpartei), known as the Nazi Party, holds its first rally in Munich.

1925

May 12 - Otto Frank and Edith Hollander are married in Aachen, Germany.

July 18 - *Mein Kampf*, Hitler's autobiography and anti-Semitic plan, is published.

1926

February 16 - The Franks' first daughter, Margot, is born in Frankfurt, Germany.

1929

June 12 - The Franks' second daughter, Anneliese Marie or Anne, is born in Frankfurt am Main, Germany.

1932 Anne and Margot

July 31 - The Nazis receive 37.3 percent of the vote and are asked to form a coalition government.

1933

January 30 - Hitler is appointed Chancellor of Germany.

February - Freedom of speech and assembly is suspended by the Nazi government

March - The Gestapo, or Secret State Police, is established. Dachau, the main concentration camp for political prisoners, is built.

April 1 - The Nazis declare a boycott of Jewish businesses and medical and legal practices. A law excluding non-Aryans removes Jews from government and teaching positions.

May 10 - Books by Jews, political enemies of the Nazi state, and other 'undesirables' are burned in huge rallies throughout Germany.

Summer - The Franks decide that the family must move to the

July 14 - Hitler bans all political parties except for the Nazi Party

Netherlands because of increasing tensions in Germany. Edith, Margot and Anne Frank join Grandmother Hollander in Aachen. Otto Frank travels to Holland.

September 15 - Otto Frank establishes his firm Opekta Werke in Amsterdam.

October - Alice Frank-Stern, Anne's paternal grandmother, moves to Basel in Switzerland.

December 5 - Edith and Margot Frank move to Holland.

1934

February - Anne Frank joins her family in Holland. Anne Frank attends the kindergarten of the Montessori School.

January 1 - Forced sterilization of the racially 'inferior', primarily Gypsies and African-Germans, and the 'unfit', the mentally and physically disabled, begins.

1935

September - The Nuremberg Laws are passed defining Jews as noncitizens and making mixed Aryan and Jewish marriage illegal.

1936

March 7 - Germans march into the Rhineland, violating the Versailles Treaty

Summer - Olympic games are held in Berlin, Germany. The United States participates

1937

Summer - The van Pels family flees from Osnabruck to Holland.

1938

March 12 - Germany annexes Austria

November 9, 10 - Kristallnacht. Jewish businesses and synagogues are looted and destroyed in Germany and in Austria by order of the strike.

December 8 - Fritz Pfeffer flees Germany and arrives in Holland.

1939

March - Grandmother Hollander comes to live with the Frank family.

March 15 - Germany occupies

Czechoslovakia.

September - Hitler implements the T-4 program, authorizing killing of the institutionalized, the physically disabled and the mentally handicapped,

September 1 – Hitler invades Poland and starts World War II.

1940

April, May - Germany invades Denmark and Norway, the Netherlands, France, Belgium, and Luxembourg.

December 1 - Otto Frank's company moves into the premises at number 263 Prinsengracht.

1941

May 8 - Opekta-Werke changes its name to Messrs. Gies & Company.

Summer - Anne and Margot attend the Jewish School Amsterdam.

July 31 - Hermann Goering authorizes Reinhard Heydrich to find a "Final Solution to the Jewish question."

December 11 - Germany declares war on the United States.

1942

January - Death of Grandmother Hollander

January 20 - Heydrich, at the Wannsee Conference, mobilizes Nazi bureaucratic support for a 'Final Solution'

February, March, April - Auschwitz, Belzec and Sobibor all become fully operational death camps.

June 12 - Anne receives a diary for her thirteenth birthday.

July 5 – Margot Frank, 16, receives a callup notice to report for deportation to a labour camp. The family goes into hiding the next day.

July 6 - The Frank family leaves their home forever and moves into the 'Secret Annex'.

July 13 - The van Pels family, another Jewish family originally from Germany, joins the Frank family in hiding.

November 16 - Fritz Pfeffer, the eighth and final resident of the Secret Annex, joins the Frank and

van Pels families.

1943

February 2 - The encircled German Sixth Army surrenders to Soviet forces at Stalingrad, Russia. The tide of the war begins to turn against Germany.

June - SS leader Heinrich Himmler orders the complete liquidation of all Jewish ghettos in the Soviet Union and Poland.

1944

June 6 - D Day. The Allies invade Western Europe.

August 4 - The residents of the Secret Annex are betrayed and arrested. They are taken to a police station in Amsterdam.

August 8 - They are all taken to the transit camp at Westerbork.

September 3 - The eight prisoners are transported in a sealed cattle car to Auschwitz, on the last transport ever to leave Westerbork. Hermann van Pels is gassed on September 6, 1944.

October 6 - Anne and Margot Frank are sent to Bergen-Belsen concentration camp in Germany.

November 26 - To hide Nazi war crimes, the demolition of the crematoria at Auschwitz begins.

December 20 - Fritz Pfeffer dies in Neuengame.

1945

January 26 - Edith Frank dies at Auschwitz-Birkenau.

January 27 - Otto Frank is liberated from Auschwitz by the Russian Army. He is taken first to Odessa and then to France before he is allowed to make his way back to Amsterdam.

February or March - Anne and Margot Frank die at the Bergen-Belsen concentration camp within days of each other.

April 30 - Adolf Hitler commits suicide.

Spring - Mrs. van Pels dies in Theresienstadt concentration camp in Czechoslovakia.

May - Peter van Pels dies in Mauthausen.

May 7 - Germany surrenders, and the war ends in Europe.

June 3 - Otto Frank arrives in

Amsterdam, where he is reunited with Miep and Jan Gies. He concentrates on finding the whereabouts of Anne and Margot.

October 24 - Otto Frank receives a letter telling him that his daughters died at Bergen-Belsen

November - The Nuremberg Trials of Nazi war criminals begin.

ABOUT THE PLAY

The Diary of Anne Frank, adapted from Anne Frank's famous diary, made its theatre debut in 1956. Since then, it has been reproduced countless times on stages across North America and abroad (the script, with extensive notes, is readily available from Dramatists Play Service). Collaborators Frances Goodrich and Albert Hackett, longtime Hollywood writers, had little experience with such a story as that of the Frank family. Previous scripts included sophisticated comedies such as *The Thin Man* or lively musicals such as *Easter Parade*. However, Goodrich and Hackett researched the play meticulously, drawing not only on Anne's diary but also on the experience of visiting Otto Frank and the attic hideout. As Evelyn Ehrlich noted in *Dictionary of Literary Biography*, Hackett in 1956 said, "We all felt we were working for a cause, not just a play."

The Diary of Anne Frank was an immediate critical and popular success, with reviewers particularly enthusiastic about Anne's spirit, optimism, and nobility. The play represented the pinnacle of Goodrich and Hackett's career. However, over the years, criticism mounted against the play for inaccurately representing Anne's own words as well as the Jewish experience of the Holocaust. Wendy Kesselman revised the script and mounted a production in 1997, but the commentary brought about by this new version of Anne's life in hiding contributes to the reader's understanding of the monumental task that faced Goodrich and Hackett in the 1950s, as they attempted to bring together the contradictory aspects of Anne Frank.

Kesselman's 1997 adaptation has been called "transcendently powerful". Kesselman added new material that was not published in the '50s editions of the Diary, introduced more Jewish and religious content, and modified the previously upbeat ending. The adaptation fits the tragedy — with all its bleakness intact — into its historical context. Hollywood actress Natalie Portman created the role of Anne on Broadway, and the show was a critical and audience hit. As *Curtain Up Reviews* states "the play remains upbeat and inspirational simply by virtue of the diary's survival as a symbolic document—whether in book, film or theatrical form."

MIEP GIES IN HER OWN WORDS

Miep Gies, the woman who helped the Frank family by obtaining supplies, food and news of the outside world worked in Otto Frank's office from 1933. When Margot Frank received a call-up notice to report to Westerbork work camp, he came to his loyal employee and friend with a question that would, in a split second, change her life forever. "Miep," he said, "Are you willing to take on the responsibility of taking care of us if we go into hiding?" There was an immediate reply: "Of course. Of course," she said without asking for details. She agreed to help the Franks go into hiding in the secret annex despite threat of imprisonment, deportation or execution.

On July 16, 1941, Miep Santrouschitz married her boyfriend, Jan Gies, a social worker and member of the Dutch underground. Miep, Jan, and three others risked their lives daily and acted as helpers for the people in the annex, and brought them food, supplies and news of the world outside the darkened windows.

Miep's friendship with Anne Frank was especially strong. When she wrote the diary, Anne changed all the names of the people in it, to protect them from Nazi retribution—except for Miep, whose first name remained the same. Miep brought her blank accounting books so Anne could continue to scribble her thoughts after she filled the checkered diary. Miep even supplied some lavender peonies to Peter, who presented them to Anne as a sign of his affection.

From *Anne Frank Remembered* by Miep Gies with Alison Leslie Gold (Simon & Schuster /Touchstone)

"I am not a hero. I stand at the end of the long, long line of good Dutch people who did what I did or more—much more—during those dark and terrible times years ago, but always like yesterday in the hearts of those of us who bear witness. Never a day goes by that I do not think of what happened then. More than 20,000 Dutch people helped to hide Jews and others in need of hiding during those years. I willingly did what I could to help. My husband did as well. It was not enough.

There is nothing special about me. I have never wanted special attention. I was only willing to do what was asked of me and what seemed necessary at the time. When I was persuaded to tell my story, I had to think of the place that Anne Frank holds in history and what her story has come to mean for the many millions of people who have been touched by it. I'm told that every night when the sun goes down, somewhere in the world the curtain is going up on the stage play made from Anne's diary. Taking into consideration the many printings of *Het Achterhuis* ('The Annex')—published in English as *Anne Frank: The Diary of a Young Girl*—and the many translations that have been made of Anne's story, her voice has reached the far edges of the earth...

My story is a story of very ordinary people during extraordinary terrible times. Times the like of which I hope with all my heart will never, never come again. It is for all of us ordinary people all over the world to see to it that they do not."

NAZISM TODAY

The term Neo-Nazism refers to any social or political movement seeking to revive Nazism (National Socialism) and postdates the Second World War. Most of those who are part of this movement do not use the term to describe themselves, either eschewing the term Nazi (out of either: tactical avoidance of the stigma surrounding it, or actual ideological distinctiveness from it) or rejecting the 'neo' prefix as a sign of their commitment to National Socialism.

The Neo-Nazi movement is identified by allegiance to Adolf Hitler, the insignia of Nazi Germany (e.g. the swastika, the Sig Runes, the red-white-black color scheme), and other features specific to Germany's Third Reich. This usually includes anti-Semitism, racism, and/or xenophobia. These groups often draw membership from people who blame their society's problems, such as the disintegration of national unity and culture, and multicultural friction, on non-white immigrants and a Jewish World Conspiracy.

Many Neo-Nazi groups also espouse denial of the Holocaust, claiming that the intentional mass murder of 6,000,000 Jews in gas chambers is a grossly exaggerated lie, that the German Nazi government had no extermination policy, or at least that the extent of the Holocaust is greatly exaggerated. Some doubt that Neo-Nazi Holocaust revisionists believe these claims, and accuse them of using it as a means to make their ideology more palatable by removing the stigma of association with genocide. Those who don't deny mass killings by the Third Reich (usually those uninitiated into the claims of revisionism) have engaged in pointing out 'immoral equivalencies' (e.g. the fire bombing of cities, the ethnic cleansing of Germans in Eastern Europe) and/or justifications for the executions (e.g. retaliation or punishment for sabotage, terrorism, or subversion).

Nazi iconography remains to this day heavily restricted in Germany. As German law forbids the production of Nazi-themed materials, such items come into the country mostly (illegally) from the US and northern European countries. Rock bands such as Landser have been outlawed in Germany, yet bootleg copies of their albums printed in the US and other countries are still sold. Current Neo-Nazi websites mostly depend on hosting in the US and Canada and use other terms for Nazi ideas and symbols. They also invent new symbols reminiscent of the swastika and other symbols used by the Nazis.

After German reunification in the 1990s, neo-Nazi groups succeeded in gaining more followers, mostly among teenagers in Eastern Germany. Many were new groups that arose amidst the economic collapse and subsequent high unemployment in the former East Germany. The activities of these groups resulted in several violent attacks on foreigners, creating a hostile atmosphere for foreigners in some towns. The violence manifested itself especially in attempts to burn down the homes for people in search of asylum in Germany. These events preceded demonstrations (*Lichterketten*, "candle chains") with hundreds of thousands of participants protesting against right-extremist violence in many German cities. In turn, these precipitated further massive neo-Nazi demonstrations, which continue today. Demonstrations often erupt in violence as Nazis and their anti-Fascist counter-protestors clash in the streets.

In the USA, the Constitutional guarantee for freedom of speech allows political organizations great latitude in expressing Nazi, racist or anti-Semitic ideology. Several White supremacist or white separatist groups share large parts of their ideology with Nazism. Due to First Amendment restrictions, the federal government generally cracks down on such organizations

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only after members engage in hate crimes and violence. Some active organizations with Nazi sympathies include National Socialist Movement (NSM88), the American Nazi Party, Aryan Nations, White Aryan Resistance, Aryan Brotherhood and The Ku Klux Klan.

Despite Canada's reputation as a multicultural, tolerant society, many neo-Nazi and extreme right wing groups have flourished here. One of the most active neo-Nazi organizations has

been the Heritage Front, although it is now defunct. Its leader, Wolfgang Droege, was shot in his Toronto apartment building in April of 2005 under mysterious circumstances. Holocaust denier Ernst Zundel, currently awaiting trial in his native Germany for his anti-semitic activities, was for many years a resident of Toronto. From his home there, he established a publishing company called Samisdat Press, which published such works as *The Hitler We Loved and Why* and *The Hoax of the Twentieth Century*.

One of the most famous Holocaust denial incidents took place in Canada, when James Keegstra, who was an automotive shop and social studies teacher in the small high school in Eckville, Alberta, was stripped of this teaching certificate and charged in 1984 under the Criminal Code of Canada with "willfully promoting hatred against an identifiable group." He taught his students that the Holocaust was a fraud and that Jews are "treacherous, evil and responsible for depressions, anarchy and war." Keegstra is described as a "caring, generous, Christian man" who was respected in the community and was popular with students and teachers and who also served as mayor of the town for five years.

He took his case all the way to the Supreme Court, which in 1990 upheld the law banning some forms of hate-speech and defined that law as constitutional. Canadian law holds that although racist and hateful comments are offensive to the vast majority of Canadians, they are not necessarily illegal. Canada's hate-speech laws specifically prohibit speech that advocates genocide, publicly incites hatred or willfully promotes hatred against an "identifiable group." An identifiable group is defined as any section of the public distinguished by: colour, race, religion or ethnic origin.

Other areas where neo-Nazi groups are organized and considered a political force include Austria, Russia, Scandinavia, Britain, France, Australia, and Romania.

Nazi-Skinheads are a right wing subculture that developed in the United Kingdom in the first half of the 80s. Typically racist, conservative, and anti-semitic, they emerged in a time when the United Kingdom was experiencing the second wave of Punk culture. Today, this ostensibly music-based movement continues to attract young, disaffected white males. The Hammerskins, or Hammerskin Nation is a white supremacist Skinhead gang. Organized in 1989 in Dallas, Texas, it is considered one of the most organized and dangerous skinhead groups. Although production and promotion of music touting white power is their primary focus, many of their members have been convicted of hate crimes. Chapters currently exist in several countries, including Canada, England, France, Germany, the Netherlands, Poland, the United States, New Zealand and Australia. They are affiliated with Panzerfaust Records.