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ANNE FRANK

ANNE FRANK BORN



- Annelies Marie Frank was born to Otto and Edith Frank in Frankfurt am Main, Germany.
- Her sister, Margot, was three years older.
- Otto Frank worked in his family's bank, while Edith took care of the house and their daughters.

JUNE 12, 1929

ADOLF HITLER APPOINTED CHANCELLOR OF GERMANY



- German president Paul von Hindenburg appointed Adolf Hitler, the head of the National Socialist German Workers' (Nazi) Party, to be chancellor of Germany.
- In the spring of 1933, Nazi Party supporters attacked Jews on the streets of Germany, boycotted Jewish-owned stores, and burned books.
- The Frank family lived in Germany. Hitler was now the most powerful leader in their country.

JANUARY 30, 1933

FRANK FAMILY MOVES TO AMSTERDAM



- In summer 1933, worried about the Nazi persecution of German Jews, Otto Frank traveled to Amsterdam. This picture of Edith, Margot, and Anne (who is blurry) was taken earlier that spring.
- With the help of his brother-in-law, he opened a branch of Opetka, a company that manufactured products used in making jam.
- In December, after finding an apartment, Edith and Margot joined Otto in Amsterdam. Anne stayed with her grandmother until February 1934, when she reunited with her family in the Netherlands.

DECEMBER 1933

REICH CITIZENSHIP LAW



- The Nuremberg Race Laws set a legal definition for which people the German government considered to be “Jewish.”
- Under the laws, German Jews lost their citizenship and were also forbidden from entering into relationships with non-Jews.
- The Frank family was exempted from these laws since the four of them did not live in Germany, and they were able to keep their German citizenship.
- This chart helped explain the laws to Germans, showing how to track “race” through the religion practiced by an individual’s ancestors.

SEPTEMBER 15, 1935

OTTO FRANK REGISTERS FOR US IMMIGRATION VISAS



- In 1938, Otto Frank traveled to Rotterdam to register his family to immigrate to the United States.
- The United States restricted the number of people born in each country who could immigrate each year. The Frank family registered for the German waiting list because they had all been born in Germany.
- By January 1939, more than 300,000 Germans had applied for US immigration visas.

1938

KRISTALLNACHT ATTACKS



- Nazi supporters launched a coordinated and violent attack against Jews in the areas controlled by Germany.
- They burned hundreds of synagogues, destroyed stores and homes owned by Jewish families, and arrested 30,000 Jewish men and boys who were then imprisoned in concentration camps— including Anne Frank’s uncles, Walter and Julius Hollander.

NOVEMBER 9–10, 1938

GERMANY INVADES POLAND



- Nazi Germany invaded Poland. Great Britain and France, which had an alliance with Poland, declared war on Germany. World War II officially began.

SEPTEMBER 1, 1939

GERMANY INVADES WESTERN EUROPE



- The German military invaded and occupied the Netherlands, Belgium, and Luxembourg. They also invaded France, dividing it into Nazi-occupied and Nazi-aligned zones.
- In the attack, German air forces destroyed the US consulate in Rotterdam, where the Frank family had registered for US immigration. Any paperwork on file for their visas was destroyed.

MAY 10, 1940

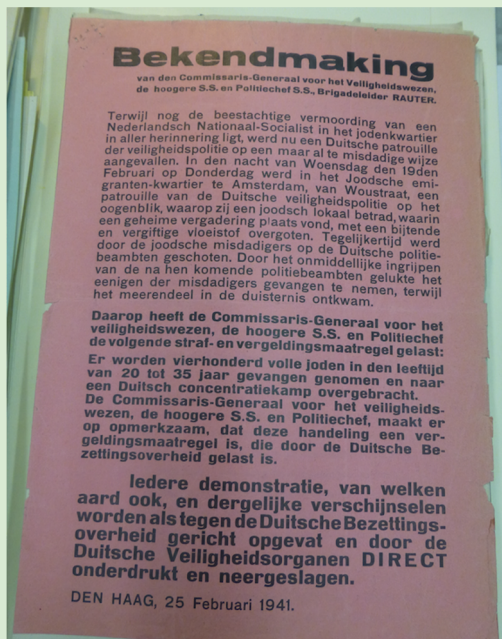
FIRST PRISONERS ARRIVE AT AUSCHWITZ



- The SS opened a large concentration camp called “Auschwitz” near the town of Oświęcim in Nazi-occupied Poland.
- The first prisoners of Auschwitz were German and Polish men (both Christian and Jewish). Most of them were imprisoned as political opponents of the Nazis.
- This mugshot shows 18-year-old Zbigniew Matys, a Polish prisoner. He was prisoner number 71.

JUNE 14, 1940

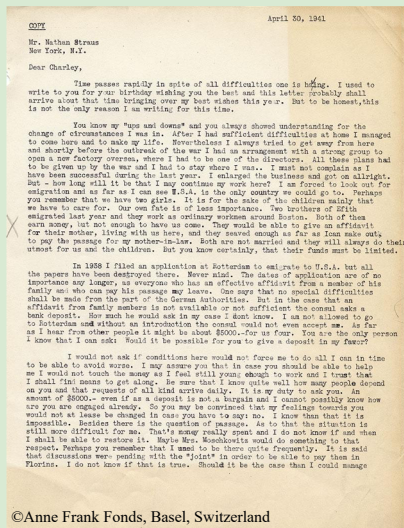
AMSTERDAM GENERAL STRIKE



- In response to the arrest and deportation of 427 Jewish men, thousands of Amsterdam residents went on strike. The strike was organized by Dutch communists and transportation workers, but it included workers throughout the city and neighboring areas. Nazi-SS authorities posted this flyer, warning that any strikes or demonstrations would be dealt with harshly.
- After two days, the German authorities violently ended the strike and executed 18 protestors. It was the largest protest organized by non-Jews demonstrating in support of their Jewish neighbors.

FEBRUARY 25–27, 1941

OTTO FRANK FAMILY SEEKS US IMMIGRATION AGAIN



- Otto Frank wrote to his college friend, Nathan Straus, Jr, in the United States, asking for help obtaining a US immigration visa. He wrote, “I am forced to look out for emigration and as far as I can see USA is the only country we could go to.”
- Before Straus could compile the necessary paperwork, all American consulates in Nazi-occupied Europe--including in the Netherlands--closed. Otto Frank wrote to Straus, “Bad luck, but cannot be helped. Let us hope that conditions will get more normal again.”

APRIL 30, 1941

GERMANY INVADES THE SOVIET UNION



- Breaking an August 1939 nonaggression pact, Nazi Germany launched a surprise invasion of the Soviet Union and the areas occupied by the Soviet Union (including Lithuania, Latvia, and Estonia).
- Mobile killing squads (*Einsatzgruppen*) followed behind the German lines, murdering Jews and other victims by shooting them and gassing them in gas vans. Approximately two million Jews died this way.

JUNE 22, 1941

FRANK FAMILY LOSES CITIZENSHIP



- The “Eleventh Decree to the Law on the Citizenship of the Reich” stated that all German Jews living outside of Germany were no longer citizens of Germany.
- Although the Frank family had moved to Amsterdam in 1933, the Franks had never become Dutch citizens. After this law, they officially became “stateless” and were not legally citizens of any country.

NOVEMBER 25, 1941

UNITED STATES ENTERS WORLD WAR

II



- The Japanese military launched a surprise attack on the US Pacific fleet at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii.
- The United States declared war on Japan.
- On December 11, Nazi Germany declared war on the United States.
- The United States officially entered World War II and joined the Allies.

DECEMBER 7, 1941

MASS MURDER BEGINS AT CHEŁMNO



- The SS and Nazi police authorities opened the Chełmno killing center to murder Jews, Poles, Soviet prisoners of war, and Roma in Nazi-occupied Poland.
- Chełmno was the first stationary facility where the Nazis used poison gas for mass murder. At least 172,000 people were murdered at Chełmno.
- These toys were excavated from the grounds of Chełmno.

DECEMBER 8, 1941

WANNSEE CONFERENCE



- German government officials and Nazi Party officials held a conference at the Wannsee Villa in a suburb of Berlin. They discussed the logistics of the “Final Solution.”
- The “Final Solution” was a code name for the mass murder of European Jews.
- The mass murder of Jews had already begun by the time the conference took place. At the Wannsee conference, the Nazis discussed how to coordinate the expansion of the killing.

JANUARY 20, 1942

OPERATION REINHARD BEGINS



- “Operation Reinhard” was the code name for the plan to murder approximately two million Jews in the *Generalgouvernement*, or German-occupied Poland.
- They opened three killing centers: Treblinka, Belzec, and Sobibor. At least 1.5 million Jews were murdered in these centers. The Belzec killing center began gassings on this day.

MARCH 17, 1942

JEWS IN THE NETHERLANDS FORCED TO WEAR STAR OF DAVID



- Johann Rauter, the head of the SS in the Nazi-occupied Netherlands, ordered all Jews in the Netherlands to visibly wear a “Jewish star” when in public.
- Cloth yellow stars, marked with the word “Jood” [meaning “Jew” in Dutch], and manufactured in the Łódź ghetto in Nazi-occupied Poland, were distributed to Jewish households.

APRIL 29, 1942

ANNE BEGINS HER DIARY



©Anne Frank House

- On Anne Frank's 13th birthday, she received a diary, which she had chosen from a shop window as her birthday present.
- She wrote, "I hope I will be able to confide everything to you...and I hope you will be a great source of comfort and support."

JUNE 12, 1942

FRANK FAMILY GOES INTO HIDING



©Anne Frank House, Photographer Cris Toala Olivares

- On July 5, 1942, Margot Frank received a call-up notice ordering her to report for a “German work camp.” The next morning, after leaving clues that they had escaped to Switzerland, the Frank family went into hiding in an annex above the Opetka offices at 263 Prinsengracht.
- Otto’s business partner and friend Hermann van Pels, along with his wife, Auguste, and son, Peter, joined the Franks one week later. (Anne calls them the van Daans in her diary.)

JULY 6, 1942

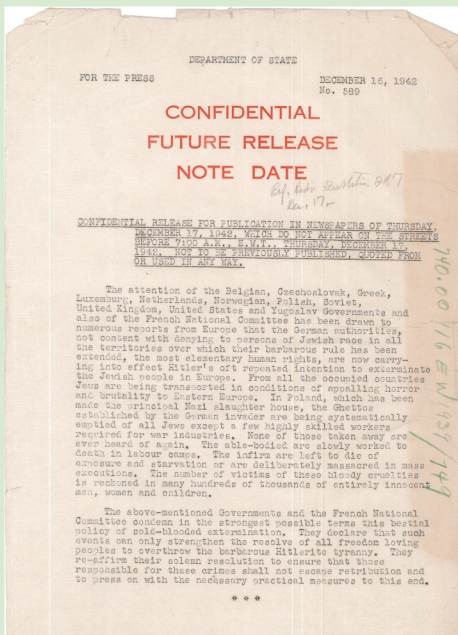
FRITZ PFEFFER JOINS THE “SECRET ANNEX”



- Fritz Pfeffer, a dentist (whom Anne calls “Albert Dussel” in her diary) joined the Frank and van Pels families in hiding.
- Like Otto, Fritz was a veteran of World War I. Pfeffer had sent his young son to England in 1938 for safety and was in a romantic relationship with a Catholic woman, Charlotte Kaletta (pictured with him here in 1940) whom he was unable to marry because of the Nuremberg race laws.
- Anne shared her room with Pfeffer, while Margot slept in a room with her parents.

NOVEMBER 16, 1942

ALLIES CONDEMN MASS MURDER



- News of the “Final Solution” was reported in American newspapers in late November 1942.
- The United States, Great Britain, Soviet Union, and other Allied governments issued a declaration condemning the Nazi policy of “cold-blooded extermination” and promised to punish the perpetrators after the war.

DECEMBER 17, 1942

GERMANS DEFEATED AT STALINGRAD



- The German military surrendered after battling for seven months to capture the Soviet city of Stalingrad (now Volgograd).
- The Soviet victory at the battle of Stalingrad marked a turning point in World War II. Soviet forces began to push the German military back.

FEBRUARY 2, 1943

WARSAW GHETTO UPRISING BEGINS



- In summer 1942, Nazi authorities deported approximately 300,000 Jews from the Warsaw Ghetto and murdered them in the Treblinka killing center.
- When German troops entered the ghetto to deport the remaining Jews, armed Jewish resistance fighters attacked. The Nazis greatly outnumbered them.
- Jews in the Warsaw Ghetto fought for nearly a month using makeshift weapons before they were defeated by the Nazis.

APRIL 19, 1943

SOBIBOR UPRISING



- Prisoners at the Sobibor killing center launched an uprising, killing a dozen German and Ukrainian guards.
- Three hundred prisoners escaped the camp; 58 of them, including these men, survived the Holocaust.
- Nazi officials closed Sobibor, the final “Operation Reinhard” camp to close.

OCTOBER 14, 1943

FDR CREATES WAR REFUGEE BOARD



- In response to pressure from Congress, from the public, and from inside the government, President Franklin Delano Roosevelt created a new government agency, the War Refugee Board, to try to rescue European Jews.
- This agency streamlined humanitarian aid, helped Jews escape Nazi territory, and saved tens of thousands of lives.
- By the time the War Refugee Board was created, approximately 5 million Jews had already been murdered.

JANUARY 22, 1944

GERMANY OCCUPIES HUNGARY



- Nazi Germany invaded and occupied Hungary to prevent the country from leaving the Axis and joining the Allies.
- Hungary had the largest Jewish population remaining in Europe. Within two months of the invasion, Nazi authorities and Hungarian police began deporting approximately 440,000 Hungarian Jews to Auschwitz-Birkenau.
- This photograph shows a transport of Hungarian Jews arriving at Birkenau in May 1944.

MARCH 19, 1944

ANNE BEGINS TO REWRITE HER DIARIES



©Anne Frank House

- After hearing on the radio that the Dutch government hoped to collect diaries and recollections of people living in the Netherlands during the war, Anne began rewriting her diaries. She went back to the beginning and rewrote entries, adding additional details and context in case her diary was ever read by others.

MARCH 29, 1944

D-DAY INVASION



- American, British, and Canadian naval and air forces invaded the beaches of Normandy, France.
- The opening of the long-awaited “second front” put tremendous military pressure on Nazi Germany and gave a psychological boost to the Allies.
- Anne wrote in her diary, “A huge commotion in the Annex! Is this really the beginning of the long-awaited liberation? ... Will this year, 1944, bring us victory?”

JUNE 6, 1944

THE ANNEX IS DISCOVERED



Collection MAI/ Amsterdam/ photographer: Carel Blazer

- In late morning, Dutch police entered the “Secret Annex” and arrested the Frank family, the van Pels family, and Fritz Pfeffer, as well as Johannes Kleiman and Victor Kugler, who worked at Opetka and had been helping to hide the residents.
- Historians do not know whether the residents were betrayed by someone who learned they were hiding above the offices, or if the residents were discovered accidentally while the police were looking for other illegal activity in the Opetka offices. The Opetka building, where the Secret Annex was located, is seen in the middle in this 1947 photo.

AUGUST 4, 1944

ANNEX RESIDENTS SENT TO WESTERBORK



- After several days in police custody in Amsterdam, the eight residents of the “Secret Annex” were deported by train to Westerbork, a large transit camp in the Netherlands. There, they were placed in a punishment barrack, since they had participated in a criminal act (going into hiding.)
- Anne, Margot, and Edith were kept together and forced to work repurposing components of batteries. This photo of a Westerbork barrack was taken in 1941.

AUGUST 8, 1944

ANNEX RESIDENTS DEPORTED TO AUSCHWITZ



- More than 1,000 Westerbork prisoners were deported to Auschwitz by train. After a journey of three days and nights, they arrived at Auschwitz-Birkenau, a concentration camp and killing center in Nazi-occupied Poland.
- All of the “Annex” residents survived the initial selection, but the men were separated from the women. Otto Frank never saw his wife or daughters again.

SEPTEMBER 3, 1944

ANNE AND MARGOT FRANK TRANSFERRED TO BERGEN-BELSEN



- After several months at Auschwitz, Anne and Margot Frank were separated from their mother and transferred by train to the Bergen-Belsen concentration camp in northeast Germany.
- The camp was soon overcrowded, and the sisters first slept in a tent before being assigned to an overcrowded barracks. This photo of a barrack at Bergen-Belsen was taken after liberation.

NOVEMBER 3, 1944

HERMANN VAN PELS MURDERED AT AUSCHWITZ



- After injuring his thumb, Hermann van Pels asked permission from the SS to work indoors while he recovered. During a selection, camp guards decided he was unable to work and sent him to the gas chambers, where he was murdered. He was 46 years old. His date of death is unknown.
- Peter van Pels and Otto Frank survived the selection; Otto tried to care for Peter after his father's death.

OCTOBER-NOVEMBER 1944

AUSCHWITZ REPORT IN US NEWSPAPERS



Miami (FL) News, courtesy of newspapers.com

- American newspapers nationwide published articles about Auschwitz-Birkenau, like this *Miami News* article. The articles included graphic details of the process of the arrival, selection, and gassing of prisoners.
- The information stemmed from a report written by two prisoners who had escaped Auschwitz in April 1944.
- In response, the *Washington Post* printed an editorial titled "Genocide." It was the first time this new word was used in an American paper.

NOVEMBER 26, 1944

FRITZ PFEFFER DIES AT NEUENGAMME



- In early October 1944, Fritz Pfeffer was transferred from Auschwitz along with a group of other doctors and dentists. They were sent to the Neuengamme concentration camp in northern Germany. He died at Neuengamme of disease and exhaustion at age 55.

DECEMBER 20, 1944

EDITH FRANK DIES AT AUSCHWITZ



- After the residents of the “Secret Annex” were deported to Auschwitz, Edith Frank tried to care for her daughters. Survivors remember Edith sharing her own small amount of bread.
- After they were separated and Margot and Anne were transferred to Bergen-Belsen, Edith was alone. She died of starvation and disease in the sick barracks at Auschwitz in early January 1945. She was 44 years old.

EARLY JANUARY 1945

AUSCHWITZ EVACUATED



- With Soviet troops approaching Auschwitz, the SS evacuated more than 60,000 prisoners, including Auguste and Peter van Pels, on foot in the freezing cold and in open train cars,.

JANUARY 18, 1945

SOVIET TROOPS LIBERATE AUSCHWITZ



- Soviet troops liberated Auschwitz and found 6,000 sick and starving prisoners, including children, who had been left behind.
- Otto Frank, who had been too ill to evacuate the camp, was among the prisoners liberated.
- Auschwitz was the last operating Nazi killing center.

JANUARY 27, 1945

MARGOT AND ANNE FRANK DIE AT BERGEN-BELSEN



- A typhus epidemic swept through Bergen-Belsen. The camp had been built to house only a few thousand prisoners but by early 1945, it held more than 60,000.
- Margot died of the disease in late February 1945. She was 19 years old.
- Anne died several days later at age 15. They were buried in a mass grave.

LATE FEBRUARY 1945

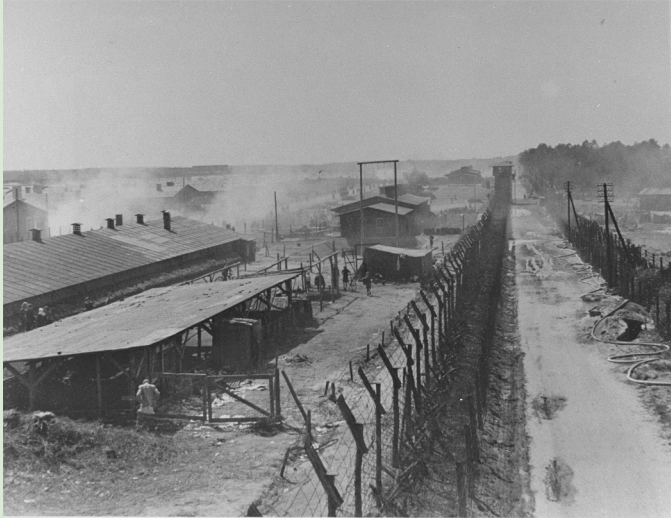
AUGUSTE VAN PELS MURDERED AT THERESIENSTADT



- When Auschwitz was evacuated, Auguste van Pels was sent on foot and by open train car to the Buchenwald concentration camp.
- Several weeks later, she was sent on the final transport out of Buchenwald to the Theresienstadt camp. Auguste van Pels was murdered as soon as she arrived. She was 44 years old.

APRIL 1945

BERGEN-BELSEN LIBERATED



- British and Canadian forces liberated the Bergen-Belsen concentration camp, discovering tens of thousands of sick and dying prisoners.
- To stop the typhus epidemic, the Allies disinfected the survivors and burned all of the barracks.

APRIL 15, 1945

GERMAN FORCES SURRENDER



- German officials unconditionally surrendered.
- The next day (May 8), as the war in Europe formally ended, the Allies celebrated “V-E Day” (Victory in Europe).
- Japan surrendered in August 1945, officially ending World War II.

MAY 7, 1945

PETER VAN PELS DIES AT MAUTHAUSEN



- Peter van Pels was evacuated from Auschwitz on foot and open train car in January 1945. He was transferred to several camps in the spring of 1945, and he survived long enough to be liberated from the Mauthausen concentration camp by American soldiers. He died of disease several days after liberation. He was 18 years old.

MAY 10, 1945

OTTO FRANK RECEIVES ANNE'S DIARY



- After physically recovering from his experiences at Auschwitz, Otto Frank returned to Amsterdam and reunited with the Opetka staff. This photo shows Otto in 1945 with the “helpers” who had assisted the “Secret Annex” residents.
- Miep Gies, seated on the far left of this photo, had rescued Anne’s diary after the family’s arrest, and gave Otto Frank the pages. Otto resisted reading his daughter’s diary until it became clear that Anne had not survived the Holocaust.

SUMMER 1945

HET ACHTERHUIS PUBLISHED



©Anne Frank House

- Just over five years after Anne began writing her diary, *Het Achterhuis* was published in the Netherlands. It was published in French and German in 1950 and in English in 1952.
- Since 1947, Anne Frank's diary has been published in more than 70 languages.

SUMMER 1947