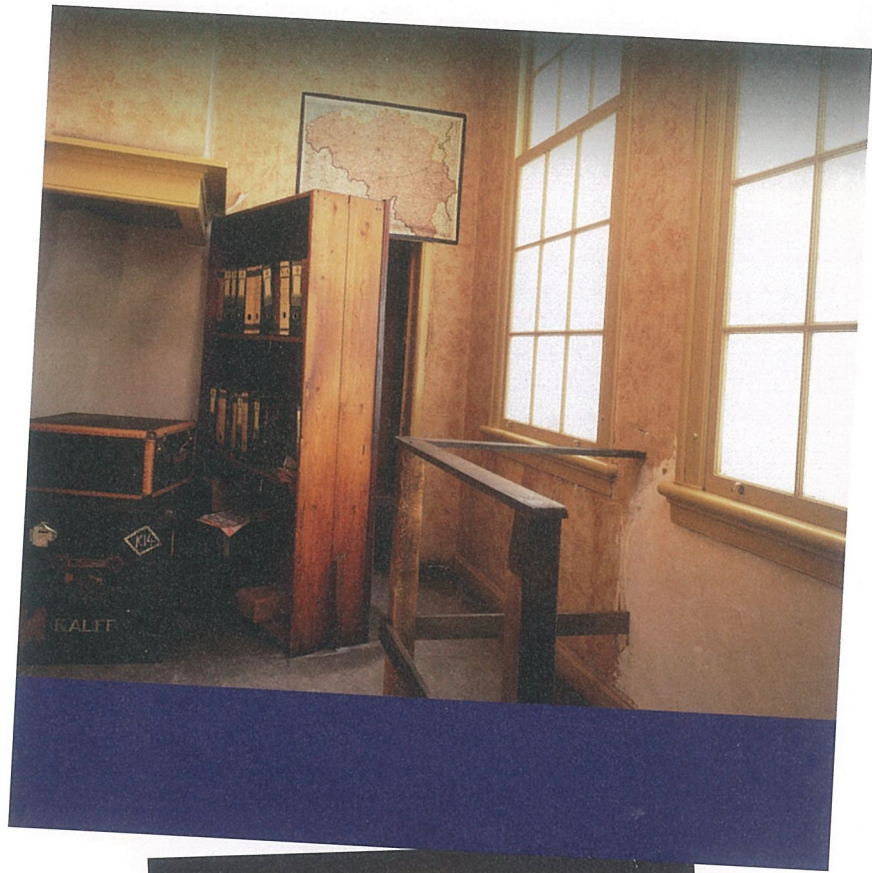


# All



# about



anne frank house



# Anne





# All about Anne

Menno Metselaar and Piet van Ledden  
Anne's life story, with answers to frequently  
asked questions and beautiful drawings  
by Huck Scarry.

- |    |   |    |   |
|----|---|----|---|
| 2  | Prologue<br>'Happy birthday to you ...'<br>12 • 06 • 1939 | 30 | Chapter 5<br>Anne's death<br>1944 – 1945              |
| 4  | Chapter 1<br>A German girl<br>1929 – 1934                 | 35 | Chapter 6<br>Otto's return and Anne's diary<br>1945 → |
| 8  | Chapter 2<br>A new country<br>1934 – 1940                 | 39 | Epilogue<br>Anne's friends                            |
| 12 | Chapter 3<br>War!<br>1940 – 1942                          | 40 | Sources/Colophon                                      |
| 19 | Chapter 4<br>In hiding<br>1942 – 1944                     |    |   |

Bib. .... 6000007750  
Item..... 1000007520  
Barcode..... 000010008312  
Can no. .... DS135.N6  
..... F7365  
..... 2018  
Date ..... 26 Nov 61



Anne with her friends on her tenth birthday, 12 June 1939.



# 'Happy birthday to you ...'

It was Anne Frank's birthday! She was now ten years old and allowed to invite eight friends over. The girls posed happily for the photograph: Lucie van Dijk, Anne, Sanne Ledermann, Hannah Goslar, Juultje Ketellapper, Kitty Egyedi, Mary Bos, Ietje Swillens and Martha van den Berg. It was 12 June 1939, a sunny day in Amsterdam.

Sanne and Hannah were Anne's best friends. They had known each other since they were toddlers. Whenever the three of them were out on the street, people would say: 'Look, there are Anne, Hanne and Sanne.' Hannah and Sanne were from Berlin in Germany. Anne was also from Germany, but she was born in Frankfurt-am-Main.

Everyone got cake and lemonade and they brought a present for Anne. They played musical chairs and other games first, but because it was such a lovely day, they continued outside. Whoever won a game got a prize.

Anne's father Otto Frank took that Monday afternoon off work especially to be there with them. He took this photograph of Anne and her friends on the footpath in front of their house on Merwede Square.

Otto Frank had his own business. He sold a substance used in making jam called pectin. When the party was over, the girls were all given a pot of jam to take home. A few days later they were also given a print of the photograph to remember that lovely afternoon. Anne wrote on the back in her best handwriting: 'Anne Frank's birthday party, 12-6-1939'.

Nine little girls in a row. This was Anne's last birthday before World War II. Three of these girls would not survive the war because they were Jewish. Anne Frank was one of them. This is her story.



# A German girl

Anne Frank was born on a warm spring day. 'Annelies Marie, born on 12 June 1929, 7.30 a.m.,' her mother noted down in Anne's baby book. Anne was the second daughter of Otto Frank and Edith Frank-Holländer. Her sister Margot was three years older.

Two days later, Margot came to visit them in the hospital with grandmother Frank. 'Margot is so delighted', Anne's mother wrote. Mother and baby were permitted to go home at the end of June. The Frank family lived on one floor of a large house in a leafy suburb of Frankfurt-am-Main. Grandmother Frank also lived in Frankfurt, but in the city centre.

All of the neighbourhood children were curious about the baby and came by to take a look at Anne. In early July Edith's

brothers Julius and Walter Holländer came to visit the new baby. A few weeks later Anne and her mother went to stay with grandmother Holländer, Edith's mother. She lived in Aachen, close to the Dutch border.

One of the neighbours' daughters in Frankfurt, Gertrud Naumann, was twelve years old and occasionally permitted to babysit. She played games with Margot and Anne and would read to them.

The Frank family also had a nanny: Kathi Stilgenbauer. Kathi noticed the two sisters were very different. Margot always looked like a little princess, while Anne could enjoy sitting on the balcony in a rain puddle. Kathi sometimes had to change Anne's clothes twice a day.

Margot, December 1927.

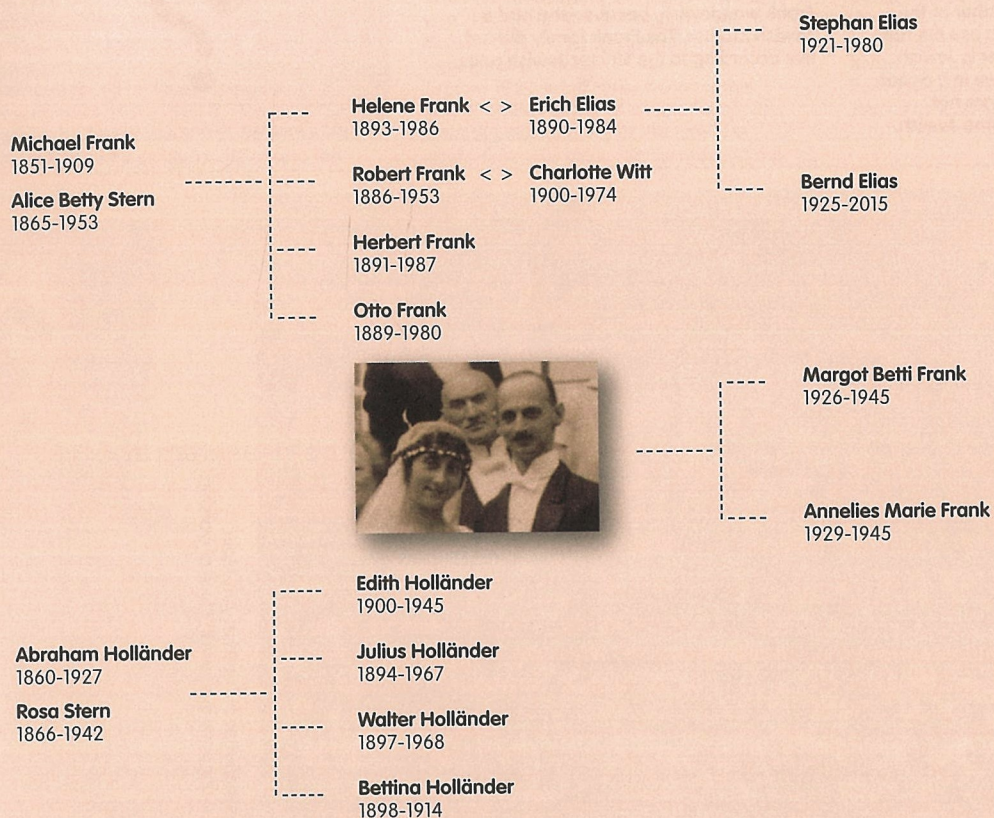


Newlyweds Otto and Edith Frank-Holländer with their wedding guests, 12 May 1925. Otto celebrated his 36th birthday on the same day.





## Anne's family tree



Anne, May 1931.



Otto with Margot  
and Anne, August 1931.





In 1929 the NSDAP was still small with few supporters, but three years later the party won the elections. One in three voters voted for Hitler's party. The Nazis promised Germany a golden future in which the country would be great and powerful. Adolf Hitler became the leader of the German government at the end of January 1933.

The NSDAP had a kind of private army: the SA (*Sturmabteilung*, or Storm Detachment). SA members wore a brown uniform, and would march through the streets and sing battle songs indicating they hated Jews. There were many fierce street fights between SA members and their political opponents, the communists and the social democrats.

Hitler and the NSDAP gradually turned Germany into a dictatorship. The Nazis threw thousands of political opponents in jail or imprisoned them in a concentration camp, such as the one at Dachau. Hundreds of them were murdered there.

The first swastika flags - the flags of the NSDAP - appeared in March 1933 on Frankfurt-am-Main city hall. On 1 April,

throughout Germany SA members went into banks, shops, department stores and law offices owned by Jews, and Jewish doctors' surgeries. They tried to prevent customers there from entering these businesses. They carried cardboard signs which said: 'German citizens! Resist! Do not buy from Jews'.

Hitler's supporters did not stop at this. That May, they burned thousands of books written by Jews and other writers who they felt were 'Un-German' in Frankfurt and other German cities. These authors were no longer welcome in Nazi Germany and freedom of expression no longer existed. From that summer on, all other political parties were banned and there was only one party left: the NSDAP.

Otto and Edith wanted to leave. They felt threatened by Hitler and his supporters. Because of the economic crisis, the bank owned by the Frank family was not doing well either. With help from his brother-in-law Erich Elias, Otto was able to start a business in the Netherlands. He would sell Opekta (pectin), a substance used in making jam. Otto departed for

Margot and Anne in Aachen, October 1933.



A photograph of Edith, Anne and Margot from the machine in the Tietz department store, 10 March 1933. Together they weighed 110 kg.





Amsterdam in the summer of 1933 and started out with a small office in the centre of the city. He knew Amsterdam a little bit, because a branch of his family's bank had been set up there in 1924.

Edith, Margot and Anne remained in Germany a little longer. At the end of September they went to stay with grandmother Holländer in Aachen. Edith travelled regularly from Aachen to Amsterdam to look for a house. In November she found a suitable house on Merwede Square, in a newly-built suburb in Amsterdam-Zuid. The house was smaller than the one in Frankfurt, but bright and warm.

Uncles Julius and Walter brought Margot to Amsterdam shortly before Christmas. She started at her new school there on 4 January 1934. Anne wanted to go with her sister, but had to stay with her grandmother a little longer. She was also brought to Amsterdam in mid-February. Anne's life in a new country could finally begin.



Otto Frank's company dealt in pectin, a gel substance used in the making of jam. The business was housed at 263 Prinsengracht from December 1940.

Advertising poster for Opekta.





# A new country

Just like Margot, Anne wanted to start school right away, but she was still too young. In April 1934 she was finally allowed to go to kindergarten. Otto and Edith sent her to a Montessori school, where pupils were given plenty of freedom. They felt that this would be good for Anne.

More Jewish families who had left Nazi Germany lived around Merwede Square. Otto and Edith became friends with the Goslar family and the Ledermanns from Berlin. Hans Goslar and Franz Ledermann provided advice to Jews who wished to leave Nazi Germany, sell their business or wanted to start a new business someplace else. Anne, Hannah Goslar and Sanne Ledermann became friends. Hannah was with Anne at kindergarten, Sanne was in the same school as Margot.

Otto had to work hard to get his company going. Edith took care of the children and the housework and, just like in Frankfurt, the family had a maid. Edith kept in touch with their former neighbour Gertrud Naumann in Frankfurt. She wrote that Otto would not take any rest and that he was looking thin and tired. She also said in her letters that Margot and Anne talked about Gertrud often and missed her very much.

Anne turned five in June. The celebrations of her first birthday in the Netherlands started in Kindergarten and then continued with her friends at home. During the summer holidays Margot and Anne were permitted to go to a special holiday house for children in Zandvoort for two weeks. This was where they saw the sea for the first time! After the holiday, Margot went to third class, and Anne stayed in kindergarten for another year.

1934 – 1940

Margot and Anne in Zandvoort-aan-Zee, Summer 1934.



Anne, 11 September 1934.  
Margot, 11 September 1934.



Anne with her friends Eva Goldberg (left) and Sanne Ledermann (centre) on Merwede Square, August 1936.





By that time, Margot and Anne both spoke Dutch very well.

For Otto and Edith Frank, it was a relief to be out of Nazi Germany. They worried about family members who still lived there: Edith's mother and her brothers Julius and Walter. Otto's family members had all already left: his brother Robert had moved to London, his brother Herbert lived in Paris and his sister Leni lived in Basel (Switzerland) with her husband Erich Elias and their sons Stephan and Bernd. Grandmother Frank had also lived there since 1933.

The situation in Nazi Germany became increasingly difficult for Jews. Jewish civil servants and teachers were fired from their jobs. Everywhere were signs with the text 'Prohibited for Jews', at parks and swimming pools, for example. At access roads to cities and villages signs or large banners were put up with messages like 'Jews are not welcome here' or 'Jews are not wanted here'. Using the newspapers and radio, the Nazis kept pumping out the message that Jews were 'the misery of Germany'. More and more Germans began to believe this hateful propaganda.

In September 1935, the Nazis went another step further. First, all citizens were required to state how many Jewish grandparents they had. Anyone with three of four Jewish grandparents was considered 'fully Jewish', anyone with two Jewish grandparents was someone who the Nazis described as 'half-Jewish', and those with one Jewish grandparent were 'quarter-Jewish'. Then the Nazis adopted special laws. Jews and non-Jews were not allowed to have love relationships and were thus not permitted to marry. German Jews were discriminated against more and more.

The Frank family was no longer able to visit their close relatives in Germany or Switzerland as often. It became more and more dangerous to travel through Nazi Germany. So naturally Anne was very excited when she was allowed to accompany her father to the family in Basel at the end of 1937. She had a lot of fun with her cousin Bernd. He was an enthusiastic figure skater and Anne decided she would also learn how to skate. In early 1938, Margot and Anne went to stay with grandmother Holländer in Aachen for the last time.



The Ledermann family on their balcony, 1936. From left to right: Sanne, Ilse Ledermann-Citroen, Franz Ledermann and Barbara.

From left to right: Hannah Goslar, Anne, Dolly Citroen, Hannah Toby, Barbara Ledermann and Sanne Ledermann (standing). The photograph was taken in the Toby family's garden at Merwede Square, 1937.



At the office, 1936. From left to right: Miep Santrouschitz (married Jan Gies in July 1941), Otto Frank and Henk van Beusekom.





Otto and Edith were having financial problems. The Opekta Company was not running as well as they had hoped, and the threat from Nazi Germany was becoming ever more serious. Otto travelled to Britain a few times to see if he could start a business there, but that did not work out. Then he met Hermann van Pels, who had also fled Nazi Germany with his family. Hermann knew everything about herbs and spices. With his business partner Johannes Kleiman, Otto Frank decided to start up a second company - Pectacon - which would concentrate on the grinding, mixing and selling of herbs and spices. They employed Hermann van Pels.

In Nazi Germany, the situation became even grimmer. During the night of 9 to 10 November 1938, the Nazi set hundreds of synagogues on fire and destroyed thousands of shops owned by Jews. More than one hundred Jews were murdered and as many as 30,000 Jewish men were arrested. Julius and Walter Holländer, Edith's brothers and Anne and Margot's uncles, were among them. Julius was released, because he had fought for Germany in World War I. Walter, however, was sent to Sachsenhausen

concentration camp. This night went down in history as the *Kristallnacht* the "Night of Broken Glass", because of the broken window panes that lay everywhere on the streets.

Julius and Otto tried to get Walter released. They achieved this in early December. Walter was given permission by the Dutch Aliens Service to come to the Netherlands and he was released. Walter ended up in a refugee camp in Amsterdam. He was not allowed to work, and was obliged to pay for his accommodation. Refugees were under police supervision and not allowed to leave the camp without permission.

Grandmother Holländer came to Amsterdam in March 1939. She moved in with the Frank family. Julius managed to emigrate to the United States via Amsterdam in April. Walter was able to follow him in December. They had to leave all of their possessions behind in Aachen, had been forced to give up their business in metals and would have to start all over again in America. They went to live in the vicinity of Boston. Walter found simple work in a cardboard factory; Julius in a leather factory.

A class photo of Anne from the Montessori school, 1938.



Anne with her father during a boat trip, 1938.





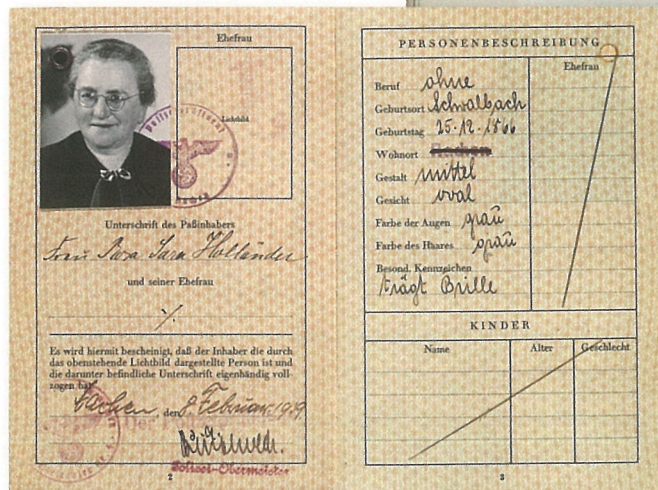
Anne celebrated her tenth birthday on 12 June. She had been living in the Netherlands for six years and was in fourth class of the Montessori school. After the summer holiday Anne went into the fifth class (group 7), while Margot went into the second year of the Girls' Lyceum (grammar school).

The German army invaded Poland on 1 September 1939. France and Britain had promised to support Poland if the country were to be attacked. They declared war on Nazi Germany but did not send any soldiers to Poland. Tensions increased when Nazi Germany also invaded Denmark and Norway in April 1940.

The Frank family followed the news on these war developments very closely. At the end of April 1940, Margot wrote to her American pen pal Betty Ann Wagner: 'We listen to the radio a lot because it's a tense time. Because we share a border with Germany and we are a small country, we never feel safe.'

A little verse from Anne in the friendship album of her friend Juultje Ketellapper.

Grandmother Holländer's passport



Grandmother Holländer's passport. The document includes a photograph of an elderly woman, a red circular stamp, and a section titled 'PERSONENEBSCHREIBUNG' (Person Description) with handwritten details.

**PERSONENEBSCHREIBUNG**

Beruf	ohne	Ehefrau
Geburtsort	Schwalbach	
Geburtszeit	15.12.1866	
Wohnort	<del>Schwalbach</del>	
Gestalt	mittel	
Gesicht	rund	
Farbe der Augen	blau	
Farbe des Haares	grau	
Besond. Kennzeichen	trägt Brille	

**KINDER**

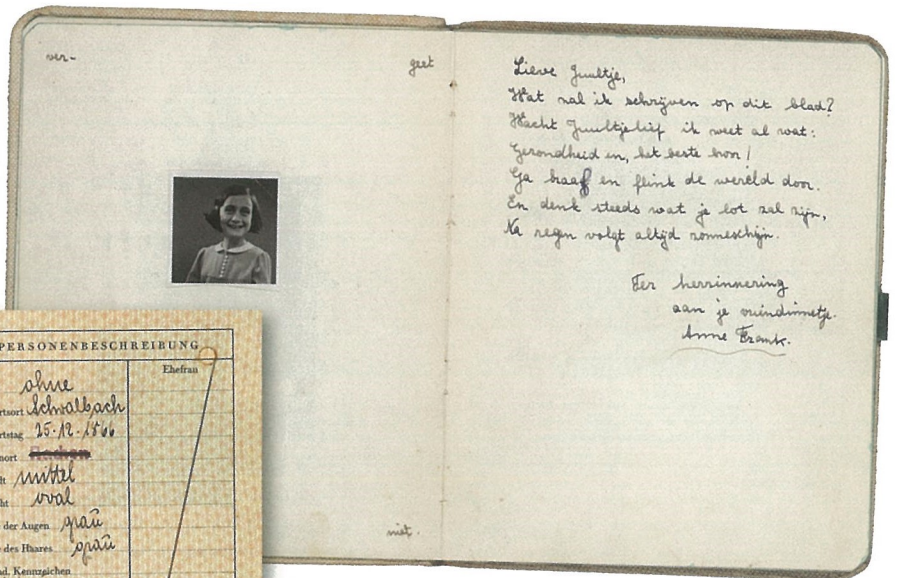
Name	Alter	Geschlecht

Es wird hiermit bescheinigt, daß der Inhaber die durch das obenstehende Lichtbild dargestellte Person ist und die darunter befindliche Unterschrift eigenhändig vollzogen hat.

*Holländer*, den 8. Februar 1949

*Holländer*

2. Offizier-Obermeister





# War!

In the night of 9 to 10 May 1940, the Frank family were woken by the sounds of heavy explosions and aircraft. From their house they could see Schiphol Airport being bombed. The very thing they had feared the most was happening: the Netherlands was under attack by the German army. It was war!

In Amsterdam, panic broke out among Jewish residents. In particular those who had fled Germany after *Kristallnacht* knew all too well what the Nazis were capable of. They had seen it from up close. Some drove to IJmuiden harbour and tried to get to Britain by boat. Very few succeeded. Others were so desperate that they committed suicide. They did not want to wait for the Nazis to come for them.

Anne, May 1940.



Margot, May 1940.

After a few days it became clear that the Dutch army was going to lose. The German army had modern weapons and was well trained. Queen Wilhelmina and her government fled to Britain. When German planes bombed the centre of Rotterdam on 14 May, Dutch military leaders conceded. The Netherlands was occupied: the Nazis were now in control.

After the German invasion, life went on as usual for the Frank family. Anne and Margot could go to school from 20 May, and nothing much seemed to have changed. However, Anne's birthday on 12 June was not celebrated, because nobody was in the mood for it. They went to the beach a few times during the summer holidays. Then Anne started her last year at the primary school.

Anne with Miss Godron and her classmates Martha van den Berg (left) and Rela Salomon (right), 1940.





## Why did Hitler attack the Netherlands?

The Nazi Germany attack on the Netherlands in May 1940 was part of a huge plan of attack to defeat France. Just like it was in World War I, the Netherlands was neutral. The Netherlands did not

choose to support Germany, but did not wish to support Britain and France either. Hitler did not care that the Netherlands was neutral. According to German army leaders, in order to be able to defeat France, the Netherlands, Belgium and Luxembourg had to be conquered. In this way, the German army could avoid the

strong French line of defence at the border between Germany and France. Once France was conquered, Hitler's plan was to launch an attack into Britain from the ports of Belgium and the Netherlands.

German soldiers with a dead Dutch soldier, May 1940. That May approximately 2,200 Dutch soldiers were killed.



?



## Dutch Nazis

Dutch Nazis greeting German soldiers with the Hitler salute on 16 May 1940. They are standing on the Berlagebrug in Amsterdam. In the Netherlands, a political party that agreed with Hitler and the

Nazis was set up in 1931: the Nationalist Socialist Movement, or NSB. The party was led by Anton Mussert. In 1935, the NSB gained almost 8 percent of votes in the election. In 1943, the NSB had a record number of members, as many as 100,000. Because they were collaborating with

the German occupier, many Dutch people hated NSB supporters. Just like the NSDAP, the NSB had a youth organisation, the *Jeugdstorm*, and a type of private army, the *Weerafdeling* (WA).



## How did the Nazis know who was Jewish?

In January 1941, all Jews were obliged to register with the authorities in the Netherlands. The Nazis had already established in race laws who they considered to be Jewish: anyone with at least one Jewish grandparent was obliged to buy a form from the municipal council and complete it. 160,000 Jews lived in the Netherlands. As many as 15,000 of these had previously escaped from Nazi Germany. This registration was organised by Dutch civil servants. In this way, the German occupier knew exactly who was Jewish in the spring of 1941. A large black 'J' was stamped in two places on the identity documents of Jews.



## BEWIJS VAN AANMELDING,

als bedoeld in artikel 9, eerste lid, van de Verordening No. 6/1941 van den Rijkscommissaris voor het bezette Nederlandsche gebied, betreffende den aanmeldingsplicht van personen van geheel of gedeeltelijk joodschen bloede.

### JOODSCHE RAAD VOOR AMSTERDAM

De ondergeteekende, ambtenaar voor de aanmelding, verklaart dat de aan zijde aangeduide persoon, opgenomen in het Bevolkingsregister dezer gemeente, heeft voldaan aan de verplichting tot aanmelding volgens de bovengenoemde Verordening.

Afgegeven op 20 MAART 1941

in Gemeente AMSTERDAM

voor den Burgemeester,  
De Administrateur  
afd. Bev.register en Verkiezingen.

Every Jewish resident was given this card as proof of registration. Personal details were on the back.

## The February strike

During the winter of 1940-1941, the general mood in the occupied Netherlands became even grimmer. Dutch Nazis attacked Jews and destroyed their belongings. Fights broke out between *Weerafdeling* members and Jews on the streets and in cafés. A WA man was seriously injured in one Amsterdam fight and died later. Things remained unsettled. In revenge, the German occupiers carried out (*razzias*). More than 400 Jewish men were captured and transported to the Mauthausen concentration camp. Many Dutch people were extremely shocked at this. On 25 February 1941, thousands of people in Amsterdam and the surrounding areas stopped work and went on strike in protest against the persecution of the Jews. The Nazis were surprised. After two days, the strikes were brought down very harshly: nine strikers were shot dead, 24 people were injured and dozens were arrested. The strike in February was the only mass protest against the persecution of Jews in occupied Europe.



A Germany soldier guarding Jewish prisoners, 22 February 1941.



The Nazis also started to exclude Jews in the Netherlands, as they had already done in Germany. They implemented anti-Semitic measures: Jewish civil servants and public officials were fired from their jobs, Jews were no longer permitted membership of the air protection squad and the slaughtering of animals according to Jewish religious laws was forbidden.

These first measures did not really affect Anne and her family. However, in October, all Jewish business owners were required to register with the occupying forces. Otto knew that this was the first step: his businesses would be taken from him. In Nazi Germany, Jews were no longer permitted to own businesses.

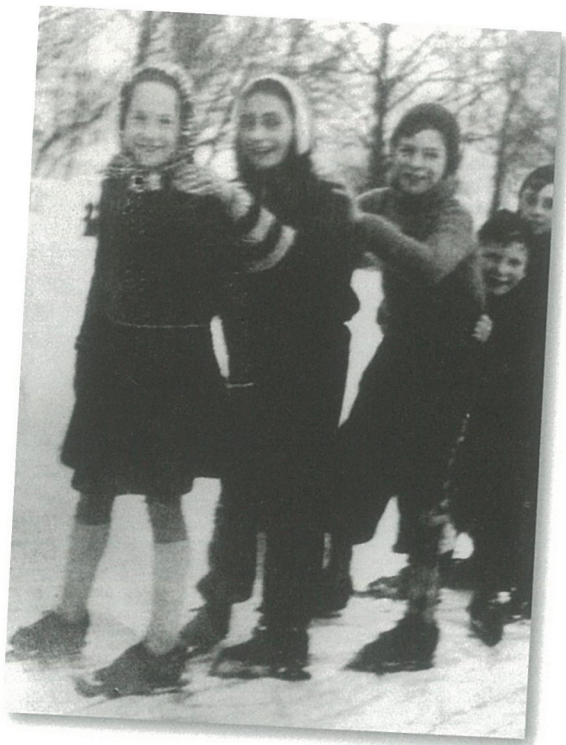
Otto Frank came up with a solution. He asked his employees Johannes Kleiman and Victor Kugler and Jan Gies, Miep's husband, to take over the management of Opekta and Pectacon. They would formally become the new directors, but they would naturally discuss all important issues with Otto Frank.

That winter, Anne had a new passion:

figure-skating. She wrote enthusiastically to her cousins in Switzerland that she had been given new skates and was taking lessons. 'I'm on the ice rink every free minute I have. (...) I'm now taking regular figure-skating classes, I'm learning to waltz, jump, and everything to do with figure-skating.' Anne hoped to be as good a figure-skater as her cousin Bernd, who was already performing in public.

Otto and Edith were worried about the anti-Semitic measures, but they tried to hide this from Margot and Anne. In January 1941 all Jews with at least one Jewish grandparent were required to register with the city council. They had to enter the following details on all forms: their name, address, age, place of birth, nationality, civil status (for example married or divorced) and profession, as well as their religion, how many Jewish grandparents they had and, if applicable, their last place of residence in Germany. Now the Nazis knew exactly where Jews lived.

By February, the atmosphere in Amsterdam was menacing. The first large razzia took place in the city centre. German police



Anne (second from left) in the Vondelpark in Amsterdam, winter 1940-1941. She loved figure skating. This is the only photograph of Anne skating that has survived.



Johannes Kleiman (left) with Victor Kugler in front of the door of 263 Prinsengracht, in the early nineteen fifties.



arrested hundreds of Jewish men and took them away to the Mauthausen concentration camp. Over the following year, many families would receive notification that their husband or son who had been taken away had died.

Otto and Edith feared the worst. They called on an old college friend of Otto's named Nathan Straus for help. He lived in the United States. Otto and Edith wanted to escape the occupied Netherlands to America. Uncles Julius and Walter were also roped in to help with this. But America would only accept a small number of refugees. In addition, they needed a visas and permission to leave the Netherlands. Arranging these things would take a lot of time and money.

There was another razzia in June, this time in the district where the Frank family lived. Around 300 Jewish men were arrested and taken away, including friends and acquaintances of the Frank family. This took place on 11 June, the day before Anne's birthday. The birthday party was postponed because of the razzia and because grandmother Holländer was seriously ill.

During that summer holiday, Anne was allowed to stay with her friend Sanne Ledermann for two weeks. Sanne's parents had rented a holiday home in Beekbergen, near Apeldoorn. Anne learned how to play table tennis and read a lot, because the weather was frequently bad. Sanne and Anne would occasionally look after baby Ray, whose parents were acquaintances and who also stayed there. Anne wrote in a letter to her grandmother Frank that she slept a lot better in Beekbergen. She was not disturbed by air-raid alarms or the sound of anti-aircraft guns.

In August, Otto and Edith received a letter from the Amsterdam Municipal Council. The Nazis had adopted a new rule: all Jewish schoolchildren were required to attend separate schools after the summer holiday. Margot and Anne had to say goodbye to their classmates and their teachers.

There were already Jewish schools in Amsterdam, as well as Roman Catholic and Protestant ones. But in order to be able to suddenly accommodate almost 7,000 Jewish schoolchildren, new schools had to be set up. The Jewish Lyceum was one of



The Frank family  
on Merwede Square, 1941.

Anne and Sanne Ledermann on  
holiday in Beekbergen with Ray,  
the baby of acquaintances of  
the Ledermann family.





these new schools. Margot went into the fourth year, and Anne went into the first year, as did her friend Hannah. Everything still had to be arranged before the school could start. This was why the school year did not begin until 15 October.

In mid-September, Anne went on a trip with her father for a few days. Otto wanted a few days of peace and quiet. He took Anne with him to a nice hotel near Arnhem. She loved it there, in the middle of the countryside.

On the first day of school at the Jewish Lyceum, Anne and Hannah discovered they would not be in the same class. Anne did not know any of her new classmates. She felt very alone. The third lesson was gym and Anne liked the gym teacher so much that she dared to ask her for help. The teacher arranged for Hannah and Anne to be together in the same class from the next lesson on.

On 7 December 1941 Japanese aircraft bombed ships belonging to the American Navy at Pearl Harbor (Hawaii). This meant war between Japan and the United States. But because Japan and Nazi Germany were

allies, Nazi Germany and the United States were at war now, too. Borders were closed. Any hopes that Anne's parents had for getting out of the Netherlands were now gone. Escaping had now become almost impossible.

For the Frank family, 1942 had a sad beginning. Grandmother Holländer had already been ill for a long time, and died at the end of January. She was buried at the Jewish cemetery in Hoofddorp. Anne now had one grandparent left, her grandmother Frank, who lived in Basel.

Anne occasionally wrote to her grandmother and other family members in Switzerland. She could not write everything she wanted in these letters, as the post was being checked by the Nazis. In April 1942 Anne wrote that she was afraid that she had forgotten everything she had learned about figure-skating, because she had not been able to do it for so long. What she did not say was that skating was actually forbidden to Jews.

Anne also wrote that she 'liked' school at the Jewish Lyceum, but complained about the amount of homework she had to do and

Anne in Beekbergen, June 1941.  
From left to right: Anne, Tineke  
Gatsonides, Sanne and Barbara  
Ledermann.



Margot (left) on a break with  
her fellow members of the  
Zionist youth organisation  
Maccabi Hatzair during a  
cycling excursion, 1941.  
Anne writes in her diary that  
Margot would like to become  
a nurse in Palestine.



because of this, had very little time for other things. There were more boys than girls in Anne's class. She wrote: 'At the start we talked and played with the boys a lot but it has cooled off a bit, happily, because they've become really annoying.'

Anne also mentioned Moortje, her black cat, in that letter. She hoped that there would soon be kittens. That could certainly have been the case: Moortje would often go out wandering and there were many tomcats in the neighbourhood. According to Anne, Sanne also loved Moortje. Even though Sanne was at a different school, Anne still saw her regularly. Her friend Hannah had a little sister who Anne thought was 'really cute' and could already walk. Anne hoped to receive a reply from Switzerland soon.

Anne's parents had given up their plans to flee. Johannes Kleiman came up with the idea to set up a hiding place and wait out the war in there. One section of Otto Frank's business premises - the annex at the back - was empty and that seemed to be a suitable place. Otto and Edith agreed to go into hiding there with Hermann van Pels and his family, as there was enough room

for two families. They hoped the Nazis would not find them.

Otto Frank, Hermann van Pels and Johannes Kleiman gradually set up the second and third floor of the annex. They had to be careful because no-one was to notice these preparations. Hence furniture, groceries and other items belonging to the Frank family were moved to the hiding place via Johannes Kleiman's apartment. This took place in the evenings and over weekends.

Otto asked the other officer employees in his company - Victor Kugler, Miep Gies and Bep Voskuil - if they would also help if the family had to go into hiding. This meant making sure they would have everything they needed to live. Otto's employees promised to do this, despite knowing that the penalties for helping Jews were extremely harsh.

Anne turned thirteen on Friday 12 June 1942. She was given something she had wanted very badly and was allowed to choose herself: a diary. Anne was a little bit pampered this year, because she had not



Miep married Jan Gies on 16 July 1941.

Otto and Anne among other guests at Miep and Jan Gies' wedding, 16 July 1941.





### 'A tight group'

'After school we were together every day. I would help Anne with maths. (...) We would have a great time together, Anne and me. We enjoyed school and our lessons. The teachers were separated for the same reasons we were and we formed a tight group. When we were at school, we would temporarily forget that the Germans had occupied the country. The war was never mentioned in class and our parents told us as little as possible about what was going on around us.'

Jacqueline van Maarsen

Source: Jacqueline van Maarsen, *Je beste vriendin Anne* (Your best friend Anne), Querido, 2011.

“

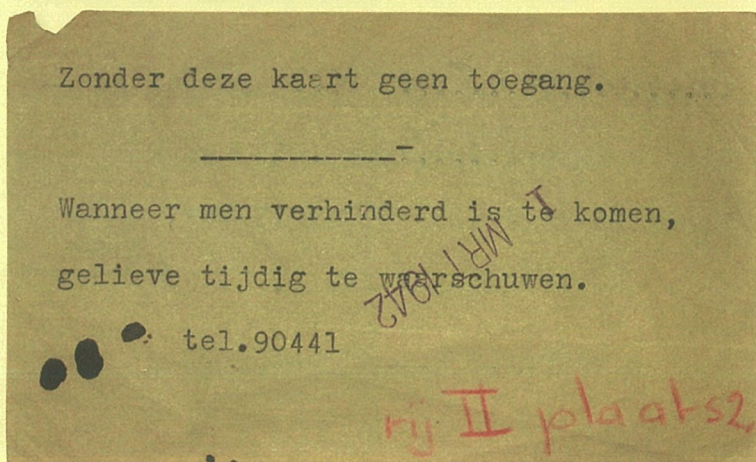
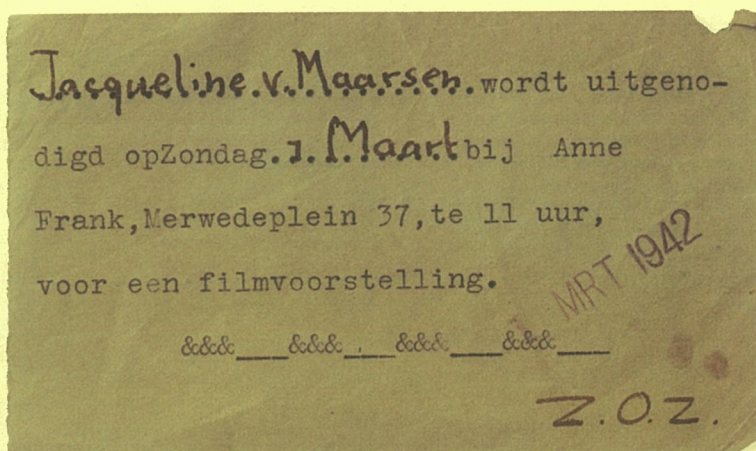
”



Jacqueline van Maarsen, around 1943.

### A home cinema

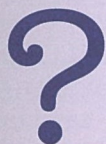
Anne Frank loved films. She collected photographs of film stars. From September 1941, Jews were no longer permitted to enter cinemas. As a result, some Jews, including the Frank family, held film screenings at home. Anne and her friend Jacqueline made real tickets for these screenings. The row and chair number is on the ticket for the screening of Sunday 1 March 1942, which Jacqueline has kept. The ticket is even stamped.





### Why didn't the Jews simply take off the Star of David?

The Nazis implemented the Star of David in Germany and in most of the occupied countries in Europe. All Jews in the Netherlands older than six years were required to wear the star from 3 May 1942. They even had to buy those stars themselves, maximum four per person. Jews who were inspected on the street and were not wearing a star could be imprisoned for six months or be given a hefty fine of 1000 guilders (€ 6500 in today's money). The German and Dutch police could easily check if someone was Jewish, because from May 1941 all Jews in the Netherlands had a letter 'J' on their personal identity documents. In practice, Jews not wearing the star were arrested by the Nazis and immediately sent to Camp Westerbork.



### Anne's diary

Anne was given this diary on her thirteenth birthday, on 12 June 1942. She was allowed to pick one out in a neighbourhood bookshop. When Anne was in hiding in the Secret Annex, the diary became very important to her. On 16 March 1944, she wrote: 'the best thing of all is that at least I can still write down what I think and feel, otherwise I would suffocate.'





been able to really celebrate her eleventh and twelfth birthdays properly. She was given sweets, books, flowers, a game and naturally special birthday cards from Switzerland.

At school, Anne shared butter cookies with everyone and at gym she was allowed to choose the game. She chose volleyball. Unfortunately, she herself could not play because her arm was prone to dislocating at the shoulder. Anne invited her girlfriends back to her house after school to celebrate her birthday.

Helmut Silberberg gave Anne six lovely carnations. Helmut - who everyone called Hello - was not in Anne's school. She knew him through a girl from the neighbourhood. Hello was already sixteen and, like Anne, came from Germany. Anne liked him. They would often go to Delphi and Oasis, two ice-cream parlours in the neighbourhood. Jews were allowed to go to these as they were Jewish businesses. Many other places had 'Prohibited to Jews' signs outside them.

Anne's real birthday party was on Sunday. She invited the entire class from the Jewish

Lyceum. Jewish children were no longer allowed into cinemas, so Anne's father showed an exciting film at home: *Rin Tin Tin - Lighthouse by the Sea*. Otto Frank then showed a film he himself was very proud of: an advertising film for Opekta.

After her birthday, Anne started to write in her diary with great enthusiasm. She briefly told her life story and described her classmates in a few sentences. She did not hold back. She really could not stand some of her classmates.

At school, the conversations were mainly about the reports. Who would go on to the next class? Who would stay behind? Some boys would even take bets on it. Finally, on Friday 3 July, the day of reckoning arrived. All of the schoolchildren and teachers gathered in the Jewish concert hall. After music and serious speeches, the children got their reports. Anne was not dissatisfied. Algebra was the only subject in which she did poorly, otherwise she got two sixes (satisfactory), seven sevens (more than satisfactory) and two eights (good). The summer holidays could begin.



A school photo of Anne from the Jewish Lyceum, December 1941.



A school photo of Margot from the Jewish Lyceum, December 1941.



Hello called to see Anne on Sunday morning. It was nice and warm and they sat on the balcony chatting. When Hello was leaving he promised to come back that afternoon. The doorbell rang again around three o'clock. Anne was reading on the balcony.

Anne's mother opened the door and got a huge fright. It was a police officer! He handed her a card, which stated that Margot had to register with the police. As soon as he was gone, Edith immediately went to Hermann van Pels. Otto was not at home at that time, he was out visiting with an acquaintance from Frankfurt.

Margot told Anne that their father had been called up to register to work for the Nazis in Germany. When Edith returned with Hermann van Pels, the front door was locked and nobody was allowed to open it.

When Anne later learned that the message was not for her father, but for Margot, she burst into tears. Did Margot really have to go to a horrible work camp? Alone? She was just sixteen years old! Edith calmed Anne down; they were well prepared and would

leave together the next day. Then the doorbell rang again! Anne thought it might be Hello, but the front door had to stay closed. When the telephone rang shortly after, she was allowed to answer it. It was her friend Jacqueline van Maarsen. They chatted for a bit, but Anne could tell her nothing about Margot's message.

Anne's father returned home at five that afternoon. When he heard the news, he immediately telephoned Johannes Kleiman and asked him to come over. Hermann van Pels went to Miep and Jan Gies to ask if they would also help. Otto and Edith wanted to give them as many items as they could for the hiding place. The helpers came and went to the Frank family's house until late that night. Margot and Anne also gathered their things. Anne stuffed everything into her schoolbag: her diary was the first thing, but also old letters, school books, hair curlers, handkerchiefs, a comb ...

It was half-past eleven by the time Anne went to bed. Where could this mysterious hiding place be? Exhausted, she fell fast asleep in her own bed for the last time.



Otto Frank showed the film *Rin Tin Tin - Lighthouse by the Sea* at home during Anne's thirteenth birthday party. They could not watch the film about the adventures of the dog Rin Tin Tin in the cinema because cinemas were 'Prohibited for Jews'.