

The Complete Timeline

Follow the lives of all of the inhabitants of the Secret Annexe and the major events leading up to, during, and after World War 2.

June 28, 1919

Treaty of Versailles signed: Article 231 is known as the “War Guilt Clause”. This clause forced Germany to accept full responsibility for World War 1 and to pay reparations to the Allied nations for their losses during the war. Protests against the Treaty begin in Germany.

July 29, 1921

Hitler voted official leader of the Nazi Party

May 12, 1925

Otto Frank and Edith Hollander marry

December 25, 1925

Hermann van Pels and Auguste Rottgen marry

June 12, 1929

Anneliese Marie Frank is born in Frankfurt, Germany

November 11, 1918

Armistice signed, effectively ending World War 1

*Armistice: a truce to end a war for a period of time

1919

Hitler joins the German Workers' Party (DAP)

February 1920

The DAP becomes the National Socialist German Workers' Party, or the Nazi Party

1925

While in prison, Hitler publishes Mein Kampf. Among other things, this book contains Hitler's plan to transform Germany into a race based society.

February 16, 1926

Margot Frank is born in Frankfurt, Germany

November 8, 1926

Peter van Pels is born in Osnabrück, Germany

October 24, 1929

U.S. Stock Market crashes causing Germany a compounded financial crisis alongside the Versailles reparations. The Nazi Party uses the opportunity to gain support by offering financial stability through job production and strengthening the economy

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January 30, 1933

Hitler becomes chancellor of Germany. Mein Kampf sells 1 million copies this year.

July 4, 1933

Otto Frank emigrates to the Netherlands, opens a business in Amsterdam

February 16, 1934

Anne, Margot, and Edith emigrate to Amsterdam

March 7, 1936

Hitler sends troops to occupy the Rhineland, a part of Germany bordering France stated as an area in which Germany may not station troops in the Treaty. Hitler receives no repercussions for this act.

December 1938

Fritz Pfeffer (Mr. Dussel) emigrates to the Netherlands

May 10, 1940

Germany invades the Netherlands.

May 15, 1940

Nazis occupy Amsterdam

April 1933

The Nazis declare a boycott of Jewish businesses and medical and legal practices and laws are passed causing the removal of Jewish people from government and teaching positions.

September 15, 1935

Nuremberg Race Laws established. These laws declared Jews as non citizens and a mixed marriage between an Aryan and Jew illegal

November 9 and 10, 1938

Kristallnacht "The Night of Broken Glass". Nazis in Germany and Austria looted and destroyed Jewish owned businesses and synagogues.

September 1, 1939

Germany invades Poland. World War 2 begins.

May 14, 1940

Germans bomb the city of Rotterdam; the Netherlands surrender to the Nazis.

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May 1941

Jews are not allowed on the beach, to parks, swimming pools, or hotels.

September 1941

'Forbidden for Jews' signs appear on libraries, restaurants, sports fields, markets, reading rooms, and museums.

January 20, 1942

The Wannsee Conference is held during which the plans for the "evacuation" and "appropriate treatment" of 11 million European Jews is laid out.

June 1942

Jews have to hand in their bicycles and other means of transport. Jews are not allowed to play sports.

July 5, 1942

Margot is "called up" for deportation to a labor camp.

July 13, 1942

The Van Pels (Van Daan) family moves into the "Secret Annexe"

November 16, 1942

Fritz Pfeffer (Mr. Dussel) moves into the "Secret Annexe"

February 22-23, 1941

Deportation of Dutch Jews begins

December 11, 1941

Germany declares war on the United States in response to the U.S. declaration of war against Japan, Germany's ally, after the bombing of Pearl Harbor.

May 3, 1942

The "Yellow Badge" is introduced in the Netherlands

June 12, 1942

Anne receives a diary for her 13th birthday

June 14, 1942

Anne makes her first entry into her diary. It starts: "On Friday, June 12th, I woke up at six o'clock and no wonder; it was my birthday."

July 6, 1942

The Frank family moves into the "Secret Annexe," 10 days earlier than planned.

August 31, 1942

Bookcase placed in front of the entrance to the "Secret Annexe"

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March 1943

“All Jews must be out of the German-occupied countries before July 1. [...] Between May 1 and June 1 the provinces of North and South Holland.” Because so few responded to this decree, violent raids erupted in the weeks that followed.

March 29, 1944

Anne hears the call for writings from diaries after the war on the radio

July 20, 1944

German officers attempt to assassinate Hitler

August 4, 1944

The inhabitants of the “Secret Annexe” are discovered, arrested, and taken to Westerbork to await transport

September 3, 1944

The members of the “Secret Annexe” are transported to Auschwitz. The trip takes 3 days. Upon arrival, the men and women are separated. This is the last time Anne sees her Father and Peter.

January 31, 1943

Germans surrender in Stalingrad. This is the first major battle won against the Nazis.

Monday, July 25 1943

The area in which the “Secret Annexe” is located is bombed

September 1943

Talk of suspicious warehouse workers in the “Secret Annexe”

June 6, 1944

D-Day: The Allied forces land in Normandy.

August 1, 1944

Anne makes her last entry in her diary. It ends: [...]“I can’t keep that up; If I’m watched to that extent, I start by getting snappy, then unhappy, and finally I twist my heart round again, so that the bad is on the outside and the good is on the inside and keep on trying to find a way of becoming what I would so like to be, and what I could be, if...there weren’t any other people living in the world.

Yours, Anne”

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January 1945

Nazis begin abandoning Auschwitz and force prisoners to walk to their next camp: Mauthausen. According to records, Peter survived the walk only to fall ill once arriving.

February 1945

Mrs. Van Pels begins transport to Theresienstadt. She dies during transport.

April 15, 1945

Bergen-Belsen is liberated.

May 2, 1945

Peace negotiations with Germany begin

May 7, 1945

Germany declares “unconditional surrender,” ending the war in Europe

June 3, 1945

Otto Frank returns to Amsterdam

June 25, 1947

Anne’s diary is published for the first time with the title “Het Achterhuis’ (‘The Secret Annexe’)

1952

Anne’s diary is translated into English

October 1944

Margot, Anne, and Mrs. Van Pels moved to Bergen-Belsen. Mr. Van Pels sent to the gas chamber at Auschwitz

January 6, 1945

Mrs. Frank dies at Auschwitz

January 27, 1945

Auschwitz is liberated, Otto Frank among the 8,000 left behind at the camp.

February/March 1945

Anne and Margot contract typhus and die within days of each other.

April 30, 1945

Hitler commits suicide

May 5, 1945

Mauthausen is liberated.

May 10, 1945

Peter Van Pels dies from illness

July 1945

Otto receives official word of Anne and Margot’s death. Miep reveals she had been keeping Anne’s diary for her and gives it to Otto.

December 10, 1948

The United Nations adopts the Universal Declaration of Human Rights