

Frank, Anne

(1929--1945), A young Dutch victim of the Holocaust and author of a famous diary.

In 1933 the Nazis rose to national power in Germany. Soon after, Anne Frank and her family left Germany for Amsterdam, Holland. When the Germans then occupied the Netherlands in October 1940, Anne's father, Otto, began to prepare for the eventuality of having to go into hiding. On July 5, 1942 Anne's older sister, Margot, received a summons from the Central Office for Jewish Emigration (Zentralstelle fuer Juedische Auswanderung), which ordered her to appear for forced labor. The very next day, the Franks moved into the empty annex of Otto's office at Prinsengracht 263. Four of Otto's employees knew about the plan and helped the Franks hide: Victor Kugler, Johannes Kleiman, Elli Voskuijl, and Miep Gies. A week later, the Franks were joined by the family of Otto's partner, Hermann van Pels. An eighth person, Fritz Pfeffer, came to hide in the annex on November 16, 1942.

Anne had turned 13 one month before she went into hiding; for her birthday she had received a diary. She immediately began to record entries, addressed to an imaginary friend named Kitty. She continued to write while living in the annex. She wrote about her family relationships, her own development, both physical and emotional, and about how it felt to be in hiding. She described the events that occurred in the annex and her reactions to them. She also penned stories and a "Book of Beautiful Phrases," which was full of quotations she had taken a liking to.

On August 4, 1944, after more than two years of hiding, the Security Service (SD) in Amsterdam found out that Jews were living at Prinsengracht 263. They immediately came and arrested the Franks, van Pels, and Pfeffer. They also arrested and imprisoned Kleiman and Kugler. The eight Jews were sent to the Dutch transit camp at Westerbork, and the Franks were transferred to Auschwitz on the last transport from the camp. Anne's mother, Edith, died in Auschwitz. Anne and Margot were moved to Bergen-Belsen at the end of October 1944. Both died there of typhus in March 1945. Their father, Otto, survived Auschwitz and was liberated by Soviet troops on January 27, 1945.

When Otto returned from Auschwitz, Miep Gies gave him the papers she had saved from the annex; among them was Anne's diary. Otto published the diary in 1947, under the name *The Annex*. Since then, 20 million copies have appeared in more than 50 editions, in many languages. A stage version of the diary premiered on Broadway on October 5, 1955; it won the Pulitzer Prize for Best Play of the Year. A film version appeared in 1959.

The diary, now known as "Anne Frank—The Diary of a Young Girl," has had a very strong impact on people all over the world. For some, it is their first contact with the Holocaust. Many view Anne as a tangible symbol of the millions of victims of the Holocaust. Eleanor Roosevelt said that the diary is "a remarkable book. Written by a young girl—and the young are not afraid of telling the truth—it is one of the wisest and most moving commentaries on war and its impact on human beings that I have ever read."

In 1960 the annex where Anne hid during the war was made into a museum about the struggle against racism and antisemitism. The Anne Frank Foundation has a documentation center, creates teaching aids, and organizes traveling exhibits about those subjects. The original diary is on display there.