



Though Anne's childhood was relatively happy, it was overshadowed by the growing popularity of the Nazi Party and its leader Adolf Hitler. In early March 1933, Otto and Edith decided to move to the Netherlands to escape the Nazi persecution of the Jews with the help of Erich Elias (husband of Otto's sister Helene).

"Our lives were not without anxiety, since our relatives in Germany were suffering under Hitler's anti-Jewish laws." - June 20, 1942, an excerpt from The Diary of Anne Frank.

Pictured: Anne and Margot at the seaside in 1937.



In Amsterdam, Otto began working for a company that sold fruit extract pectin (Opekta Works). He found an apartment in Merwedeplein (Merwede Square), Amsterdam. The rest of his family joined him by February 1934.

“Because we’re Jewish, my father emigrated to Holland in 1933.” - June 20, 1942, an excerpt from The Diary of Anne Frank.

Pictured: Front row, left to right, Otto Frank (center) is seen here with his colleagues Miep Gies, and Bep Voskuijl; (back row, left to right) Victor Kugler and Johannes Kleiman.



Soon after emigrating to Amsterdam, Margot joined the elementary school on Jekerstraat while Anne was enrolled in the Montessori kindergarten. Though, once the pogroms began, the sisters were required to join the Jewish Lyceum as mandated by the new laws.

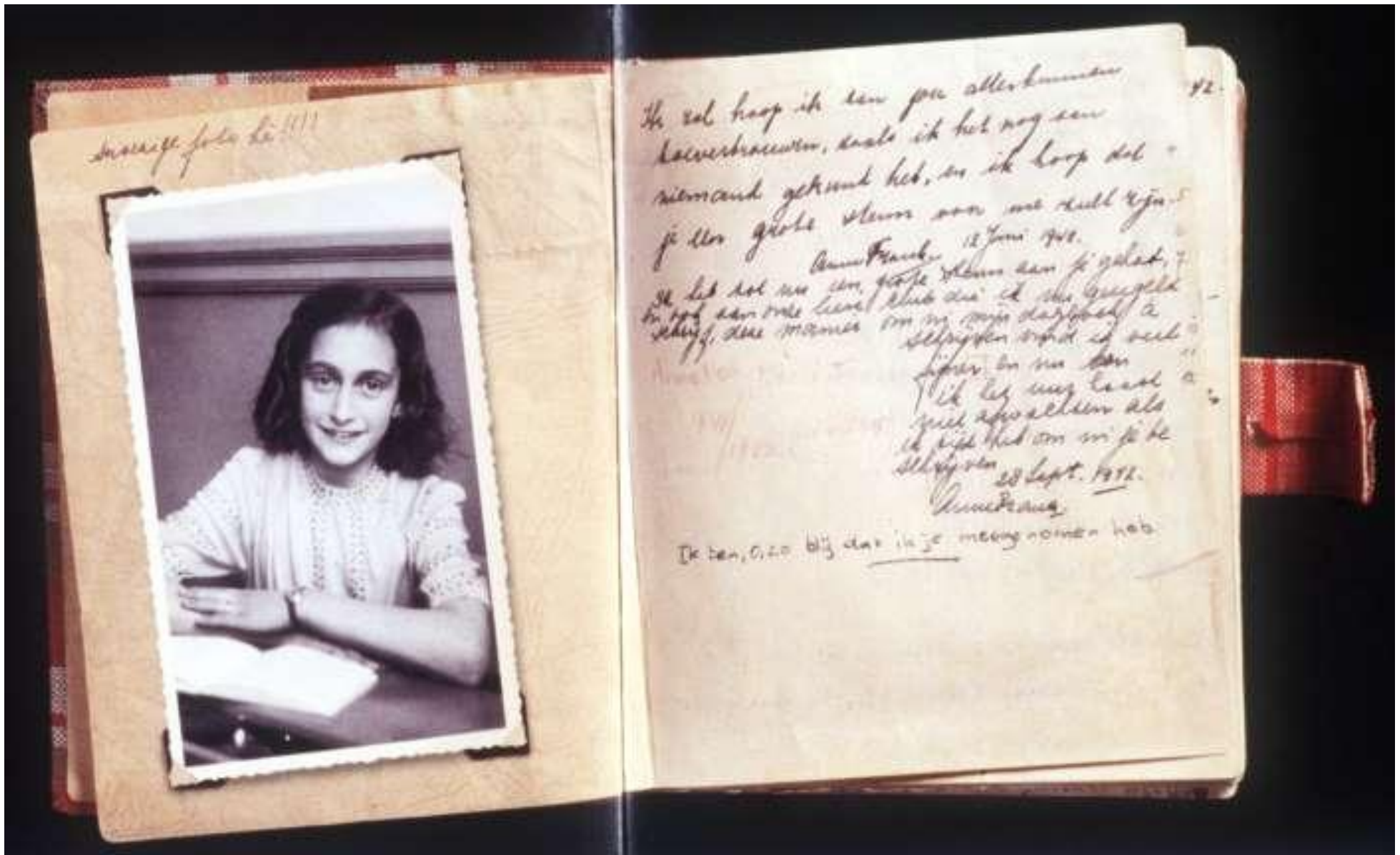
“In 1943 I started right away at the Montessori nursery school and I stayed there. In the last year my teacher was Mrs. K., the headmistress. At the end of the year we were both in tears as we said a heartbreaking farewell, because I'd been accepted at the Jewish Lyceum, where Margot also went to school: she went to the fourth grade, and I – to the first.” - June 20, 1942, an excerpt from *The Diary of Anne Frank*.

Pictured: Anne Frank (front row left) and her sister Margot (back row right) at Margot's 8th birthday party in their neighborhood of Merwedeplein in February 1934.



To avoid his company being confiscated by the new government, in 1941, Otto transferred his Pectacon shares to Johannes Kleiman. Later on, the company was liquidated and all the assets were transferred to Gies and Co., headed by Jan Gies (pictured with wife Miep). For Opekta Works, Otto did the same thing, allowing him to earn enough to survive.

"After May 1940 the good times were few and far between: first there was the war, then the capitulation and then the arrival of the Germans, which is when the trouble started for the Jews." – June 20, 1942, an excerpt from The Diary of Anne Frank



Otto gifted Anne a red-and-white checkered cloth-covered diary shortly before her 13th birthday. Anne immediately started using this diary to document her daily life. Though her initial entries were mundane, as time progressed it reflected the changing social times. In one of her entries, Anne listed various restrictions imposed upon the Dutch Jews.

"I hope I will be able to confide everything to you, as I have never been able to confide in to anyone, and I hope you will be a great source of comfort and support." - June 12, 1942, an excerpt from The Diary of Anne Frank



As the Nazi Reichskommissariat Niederlande (civil government appointed after the 1940 Dutch surrender) tightened their strangle hold so anti-Semitic sentiment grew, the Franks decided to go into hiding in July 1942. The space behind Otto's office premises was fashioned into the secret bunker. This "annex" or Achterhuis was made up of a series of small rooms that could be accessed by a secret entry hidden behind a bookcase.

"Our freedom was severely restricted by a series of anti-Jewish decrees: Jews were required to wear a yellow star;... I don't dare do anything anymore, 'cause I'm afraid it's not allowed." - June 20, 1942, an excerpt from The Diary of Anne Frank



On July 5, 1942, Margot received her papers to report to 'work camp' in Germany and the next day, the Franks entered the secret annex. A week later they were joined by the van Pels family: Hermann, Auguste, and 16-year-old Peter. In November of the same year, they were joined by dentist Fritz Pfeffer, a family friend. Opekta's trusted employees were the only ones who knew of the existence of this secret bunker and its occupants.

"So much has happened it's as if the whole world had suddenly turned upside down. But as you can see, Kitty, I'm still alive, and that's the main thing, Father says. I'm alive all right, but don't ask where or how." - July 6, 1942, an excerpt from The Diary of Anne Frank

Pictured: The occupants of the annex: Top row - Edith Frank-Holländer, Margot Frank, Anne Frank and Auguste van Pels. Bottom row; Otto Franks, Fritz Pfeffer, Peter van Pels and Hermann van Pel.



On August 4, 1944, the people hiding in the annex were discovered by the German Police who were tipped off by an anonymous informer. The Franks, van Pels and Pfeffer were held at a detention center, and on August 7, 1944, they were transferred to the Westerbork transit camp.

"As I've told you, what I say is not what I feel, which is why I have a reputation for being boy-crazy as well as a flirt, a smart aleck and a reader of romances." - August 1, 1944, an excerpt from The Diary of Anne Frank.

Pictured: A view of the attic of the Achterhuis.



On September 3, 1944, the group was on the last transport from Westerbork to Auschwitz concentration camp. As per the norm, upon arrival, the men and the women were forcibly separated and none knew the fate of the other. Anne bore her incarceration with great compassion and strength as recalled by those who witnessed her at the camps.

Pictured: A view of the Westerbork transit camp.



September 3, 1944: The eight prisoners are transported in a sealed cattle car to Auschwitz on the last transport ever to leave Westerbork. At Auschwitz, the men are separated from the women.

Pictured: The main gate of Auschwitz I camp. The picture was taken after the war.



October 1944:

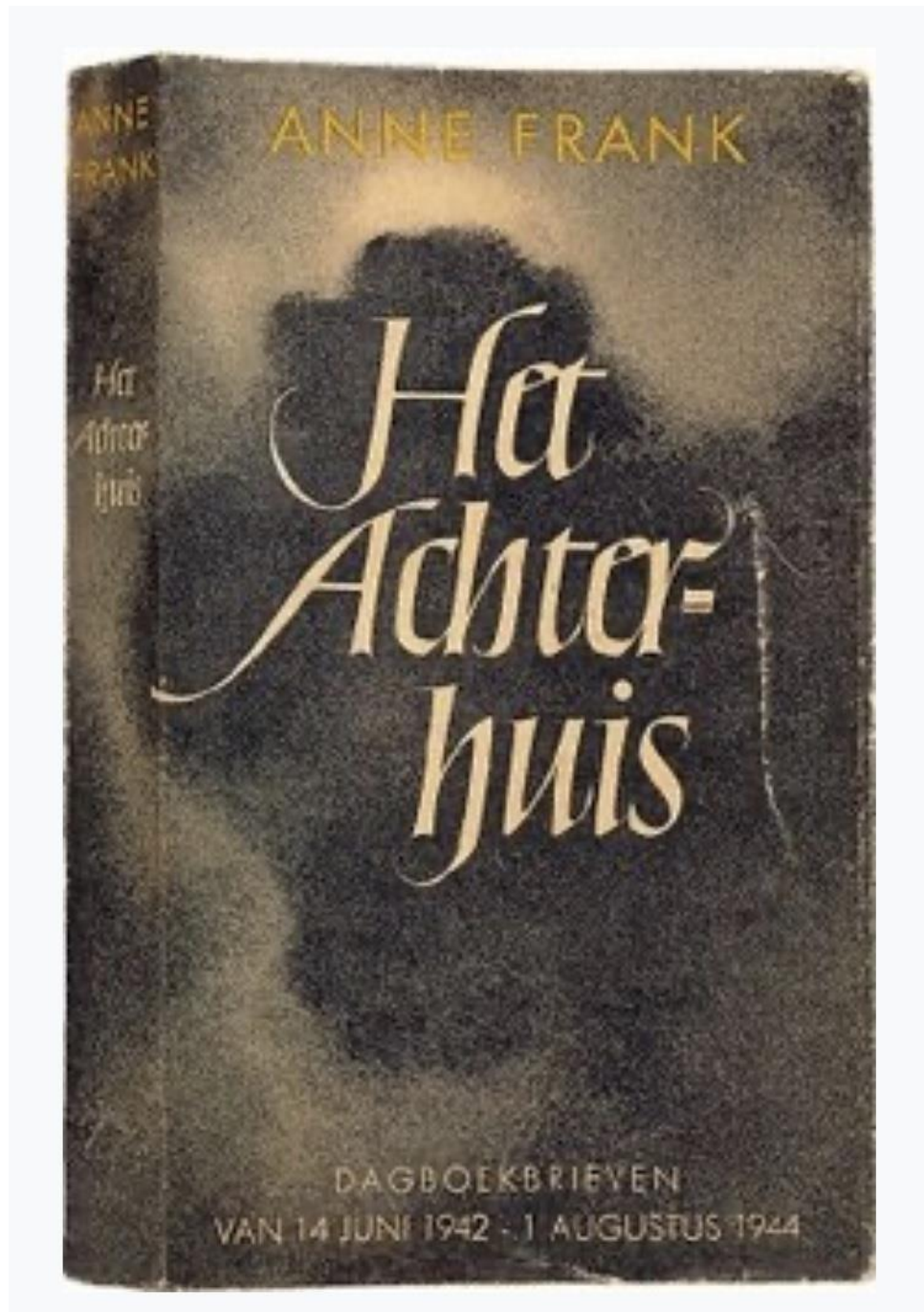
Anne, Margot, and Mrs. van Pels are transported to the Bergen-Belsen concentration camp. Edith Frank remains in the women's subcamp at Auschwitz-Birkenau.



January 27, 1945: 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.



March 1945: Anne and Margot Frank die at the Bergen-Belsen concentration camp within days of each other.



Summer 1947: The first 1,500 copies of Anne's diary are published in Amsterdam.

Gallery Walk

Number	Brief Description/Observation	Reflection
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Most pictures come from <http://teacher.scholastic.com/frank/diary.htm>. Some are from my trip to Europe or online.