

# Anne Frank

Amy Mannion

Anne Frank was born on June 12 1929 in Frankfurt Germany. She was the second child of the Otto Heinrich Frank and Margot Frank. On her birth cert she was called Annalise Marie, but her friends called her Anne. The Franks were Jews and lived in a mixed community of Jewish and non- Jewish people and the Frank children grew up with Catholic, Protestant and Jewish friends.

Her dad who was a German officer from World War One was also interested in the education of his children.

Life for the Frank family took a turn for the worst in the early 1930s. On March 13, 1933 elections were held in Frankfurt for the local council, and Adolf Hitler's Nazi party won.

The Frank family did not do all of the customs or traditions of Judaism. Her mother was the more came out straight away, and the Franks began to fear what would happen to them if they stayed in Frankfurt. Later that year the Frank family moved to her grandmother's house in Amsterdam. By February 1934 their mother and the children had arrived in Amsterdam and the two girls started school. Anne always wrote covering her work with her hands and not discussing the subject of her writing. In January 1942 her grandmother died.

In May 1940 Germany attacked the Netherlands and they began bullying Jews using the racist laws. The registration and separation of Jews followed. Yellow stars also had to be worn all the time.

For Anne's 13th birthday on June 12 1942 Anne got a book that she showed to her father in a shop window a few days earlier. Although it was an Autograph book with a small a small lock Anne decided to use it as a diary .

The writing shows herself as a normal school girl. She also showed the changes that were made since the Germans took over Holland. She wrote about the yellow stars the Jews were forced to wear in public and she listed some of the restrictions on Amsterdam's Jewish population.

In July 1942 Margot Frank got a call-up notice from the office for Jewish Emigration ordering her to report for transfer to a work camp Anne was told of a plan that Otto

had thought up with most of his trusted employees and the girls had been aware for a short time. The family was to go into hiding in rooms above the company's station on the Prinsengracht, a street along one of Amsterdam's canals.

On the morning of Monday July 6 1942 the family moved into the hiding place. Their apartment was left in a mess so it looked like he left suddenly and Otto left a note saying they went to Switzerland. As Jews were not allowed public transport they walked a few kilometers from their house with each of them wearing several layers of clothing as they did not want to be seen carrying suitcases.

The attic was a three-story space at the back of the building in which Miep Gies openly lived with her family. (Gies was Otto's assistant in an office and became a good friend of the Frank family). She discovered and preserved Anne's diary after her arrest and deportation). The attic entered from a landing above the poet offices. Two small rooms with a bathroom and toilet, were on the first floor and above that a large open room with a small room beside it. From this smaller room, a ladder led to the secret attic. The door to the attic was later covered by a book case. The Franks were joined by the van Peels family in late July, 16 year old Peter, and father Auguste. Fritzpreffer joined them in November. Fritzpfeffer was a dentist and a friend of the family. Anne said in her diary how glad she was that she had new people to talk to. When Anne was sharing a room with Pfeffer she realized how hard to get on with her was they also had a lot of disagreements who she thought was a fool.

Anne wrote in her diary that her and her mother had very little in common as her mother was too remote. Anne spent most of her time reading and studying she continued to write in her diary. She also wrote about her feelings and beliefs and dreams, subjects she felt like she could not talk to anyone. She kept on writing until her last entry in August 1 1944.

When Anne was in the attic she continued her learning under her father's control. On her own she wrote short stories, essays and an unfinished novel. Life in the attic was mainly quiet during the day, at times they had to stop themselves from using water and using the toilet to avoid being heard by other people in the building. If they wanted to continue living they would have to remain undiscovered.

Through the kindness of four friends of the family who risked their own lives, the people in the attic were given food and other things to survive as well as friendship and news from the outside. On the 6th of June 1944 (D-day) news came that the war had turned in favour of the Allies. Hope increased for the group in the attic.

Suddenly, on the 4th of August 1944 their hiding place was raided and they became prisoners of the Nazis. Anne her sister Margot and her father and mother were taken

to Westerborg prison in the Netherlands. Then they were shipped by train to Auschwitz. Anne was remembered by a person who survived Auschwitz as a leader and

as someone who remained sensitive and caring when most prisoners protected themselves from feeling anything. Many people think they were betrayed but in December 2016 a newsletter came out some people think they were captured as a result of a random search of the building.

In March 1945 two months before the Germans gave up, Anne died of typhoid fever in the concentration camp. From the eight people in the secret attic only Anne's father Otto Frank survived. When he came back to Holland from Auschwitz Anne's diary and papers were given to him.