

ANNA FRANK AND THE HOLOCAUST

The 1920s and 1930s were very hard for the German people. There was a lot of poverty and unemployment. The Nazi Party and their leader Adolf Hitler, promised to make Germany a powerful country again. Hitler thought that the Jews were the reason for Germany's defeat in World War I, and for its financial disasters. He believed his race was superior to others. So, during the World War II, the Nazis treated Jews very badly. They had to wear a yellow star on their clothes for identification and they were forced to live in special areas called "ghettos". Hitler wanted to exterminate all the Jews in Europe and the Nazis built camps where their enemies could be imprisoned and killed.

Anna Frank was one of over a million Jewish children who died in the Holocaust. We know about her because she wrote a diary for two years between 1942 and 1944. She was an ordinary teenager who wrote about her experiences, thoughts and feelings during the Nazi occupation.



She was born in Germany in 1929. Her Jewish family moved to Amsterdam to escape to Hitler's persecution. When Germany invaded The Netherlands in 1940, her parents knew that they were in danger again, so they prepared some secret rooms above their business offices, where they hid for two years. In 1944, the Nazis discovered the Frank family and sent them to the concentration camps in Germany. The conditions in the death camps were terrible, Anne and her sister Margot died of illness in the Bergen-Belsen camp in March 1945, just a few weeks before the liberation of the camp. His father was the only person in the family who survived the war. He found Anne's diary when he returned to Amsterdam after the war. In 1947 he published it as Anne Frank, Diary of a Young Girl. Millions of people all over the world have read Anna Frank's diary. Its message of hope and courage is an inspiration to all generations.

An extract from Anne's Diary



"They are taking away many of our Jewish friends. The Gestapo is treating them very badly and transporting them in farm trucks to Westerbork. They're sending all the Jews there...If It's so bad in Holland, what's it like in the camps in Germany? We listened to the English

radio and they said that the Nazi soldiers are killing Jewish people in the camps with gas..."

October 9, 1942