

**Anne Frank Day on 12th June 2018
To help and to resist**

Anne Frank was a Jewish girl. Like most of the European Jews, she was murdered by the National-Socialists. That is why we remember Anne on her birthday, the 12th of June.

The National-Socialist rule in Germany lasted twelve years, from 1933 to 1945. Many Germans supported Adolf Hitler and the National-Socialist Party. Germany started the Second World War and occupied numerous nations. During the war, six million Jewish people were murdered. These mass murders are called Holocaust or Shoah today.

On Anne Frank Day this year, we recall brave people who resisted the National-Socialists. One of them was the Dutchwoman Miep Gies. When she was young she helped Anne Frank and her family to hide from the German occupation force. Anne Frank also fought to survive.

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Today on Anne Frank Day 2018, we can all ask ourselves:

- What does it mean today to help the persecuted?
- What can we do when people are being assaulted because of their creed, sex, origins, or appearance?
- Why is it important to remember the people who fought against the National-Socialists?

Translated from the German by Maike Becker and Nicole Fiene

Anne Frank (1929-1945)

Anne Frank is a Jewish girl from Frankfurt on the Main. At age four, she and her family flee to Amsterdam. In 1940, the German Army occupies the Netherlands. Now, the laws against the Jews are enforced by the Germans. Ten-year-old Anne is no longer allowed to attend school, ride her bike or to go to the public swimming-pool.

When the deportations of the Jews begin in 1942, Otto and Edith Frank and their daughters together go into hiding. Just a few people are in the know, who help the family. They live in this secret apartment for over two years. On 24th December 1943, Anne writes in her diary: "I long to ride a bike, dance, whistle, look at the world, feel young and know that I'm free."

In 1944, someone informs on the hidden people. Following German instructions, everyone living in the apartment is arrested by the Germans, assisted by Dutch plain-clothes police. Like millions of other Jewish people, Anne, Margot, and Edith Frank are murdered. Only father Otto survives the Holocaust.

*Translated from the German by Aylin Lübben-Buss and Ronja Wachowitz,
assisted by Jörg W. Rademacher*

Miep Gies (1909-2010)

Miep Gies works as a secretary in the company run by Otto Frank in Amsterdam. She also knows the family personally. When the Frank family decide to flee into hiding, Miep Gies supports them. She wants to fight against both the German occupation and the persecution of the Jews.

In the secret apartment, located in the annex of Otto Frank's company, there are also other Jewish people, men and women. If anybody else knew, the hidden people would be sentenced to death. Except for Miep Gies, only five people are in the know. They help at a high risk, caring for the Jews by bringing them food, clothes and by encouraging them.

In 1944, someone informs on the hide-away. The German police arrest the people in hiding and deport them to concentration camps. Miep Gies was able to salvage Anne Frank's diary. Later, she is asked why she had helped the persecuted so courageously, and she answers: "I wanted to do what was my due as a human being."

*Translated from the German by Imke Kramer and Silvia Dehne,
assisted by Jörg W. Rademacher*

Zwi Aviram (* 1927)

Zwi Aviram is a Jewish teenager in Berlin. Aged only 14, he must do forced labour. On his return home from his night shift on 27th February 1943, his parents had disappeared. Like thousands of other Jewish people, they were arrested at their work-place during the so-called “factory action-scheme”. Zwi is fortunate to escape. Aimlessly walking the streets of Berlin, he happens to meet Poldi, an acquaintance, who is also on the run.

Through Poldi, Zwi gets into touch with the Jewish resistance group Chup Chaluzi (Hebrew for “circle of pioneers”). They support children and teenagers by providing them with food and hide-outs. In order to encourage one another the group celebrate Jewish festivals.

While on the run, Zwi is arrested twice. In prison, he is tortured and interrogated. Following a bombing raid on New Year's Eve in 1943, he is able to flee. While also surviving his second arrest at the end of the war, he never sees his parents again. They had been murdered in the extermination camp Auschwitz-Birkenau. Almost three years after the end of the war, Zwi emigrates to Israel.

*Translated from the German by Rieke Folkerts and Annika Franke,
assisted by Jörg W. Rademacher*

Elisabeth Flügge (1895-1983)

When social exclusion of Jews starts in 1933, Elisabeth Flügge, a teacher from Hamburg, supports her female Jewish students. She rents a holiday cottage to give them a break from life in the big city. Until 1939, she spends every summer there with the girls.

Moreover, she helps Jewish acquaintances to flee from Germany. As of 1940, she is no longer allowed to teach and for disciplinary reasons transferred to a government office. Nevertheless, she keeps caring for her former students and their parents. In that context, she stands up for a Jewish mother at the “Gestapo” (secret state police) and succeeds in delaying her deportation.

In 1943, she takes in a Jewish doctor, his non-Jewish wife and their son who stay with her and her daughter until the end of the war. Elisabeth's son, however, a soldier, dies on the Eastern Front in January 1945.

In 1976, the Israeli Memorial Yad Vashem distinguishes her as one of the “Righteous among the Nations”. In 2002, a street is named after her in Hamburg.

Translated from the German by Amelie Hagen and Kimberley Schütz

Jochen Bock (1927-1947)

Jochen Bock is born into a wealthy family from Thuringia. His father is a director of a china factory and also a member of the National-Socialist party. From 1942, the 15-year-old attends the business school at Erfurt, living in a boarding-house. As a result, he quickly learns to live independently. Like most of his peers, he belongs to the Hitler Youth.

When his elder brother dies at Stalingrad, Jochen is unable to come to terms with his death. He starts collecting critical information about the war against the Soviet-Union. That is why he listens to Radio Moscow in the summer of 1943, which is forbidden. Jochen rejects Hitler's warfare and manages to convince other youngsters to follow suit. In a broadsheet, they call for the end of the "Total War", for peace and freedom. A classmate, however, reports on Jochen. In September 1943, Jochen is arrested and taken to the youth detention centre Hoheneck close to Chemnitz. Released in April 1945, he dies on the 20th November 1947 at age 19 from the consequences of his imprisonment.

Translated from the German by Greta Kyriakidou-Schoolmann and Wiebke Ulferts, assisted by Jörg W. Rademacher