

World War II & The Holocaust

Literature 8
Oak Mountain MS
Information courtesy of US
Holocaust Memorial Museum

The Treaty of Versailles

- WWI ended with Germany being forced to sign the Treaty of Versailles.
- The treaty forced Germany to repay all war debts and took away the German military.
- Germany was in severe debt and its people were suffering greatly.

Adolf Hitler & the Nazi Party

- Adolf Hitler and his Nazi Party took advantage of the delicate state of Germany and promised wealth and happiness.
- Hitler blamed all of Germany's problems on the Jews and began the Holocaust, which resulted in the murder of millions of Jews.

Allies vs. Axis

The two groups fighting in WW II were known as the Allied Powers and the Axis Powers.

Allies

Canada

China

France

Soviet Union (later)

Britain

United States

Axis

Japan

Nazi Germany

Italy

Timeline of WWII

- Spring 1938 – Germany annexes Austria
- Sept. 1, 1939 – Germany invades Poland
- Sept. 17, 1939 – Soviet Union invades Poland

- 1939 – 1940 – Germany and Soviet Union overtake Denmark, Norway, Belgium, the Netherlands, and France
- June 22, 1941 – Germany invades Soviet Union...both sides suffer major loss of lives; the Germans are defeated.

- December 7, 1941 – Japan attacks Pearl Harbor in Hawaii
- December 1941 – Germany declares war on U.S.
- Late 1942 – Germans are pushed completely out of Africa
- June 1944 – Allies retake France
- May 7, 1945 – Germany surrenders
- September 2, 1945 – Japan surrenders

The Holocaust

The word *holocaust* means “a sacrifice destroyed by fire.”



Nazi Rise

- The Nazi Party was started in 1919 by a group of unemployed soldiers. By 1933, it was the governing power of Germany, and Hitler is its chancellor.
- Hitler is sent to prison in 1925.

Nazi Rise

- While there, he writes *Mein Kampf*, which means “my struggle.” This book details his racist beliefs and aggressive ideals.
- February 27, 1933 – the Nazis gain the power to control the people and Germany becomes a police state.

- In 1933, the Jewish population of Europe stood at over 9 million. Most European Jews lived in countries that Nazi Germany would occupy or influence during World War II.
- By 1945, the Germans and their collaborators killed nearly 2 out of every 3 European Jews as part of the "Final Solution," the Nazi policy to murder the Jews of Europe.

The Nuremberg Laws

- April – October 1933 – the Nazi regime passes laws that bar Jews from holding positions
 - in the civil service
 - in medical and legal professions
 - in teaching at the university level.

The Nuremberg Laws

- Nazis encouraged the boycott of Jewish businesses and burned books by Jewish authors.
- 1935 – The Nuremberg Laws strips Jews of their civil rights.

Kristallnacht

- November 9, 1938 –
Kristallnacht, or Night of the Broken Glass
 - 1,000 synagogues are burned, 7,000 Jewish businesses and homes are looted, and 30,000 Jews are arrested.

Kristallnacht

–The violence was caused by the November 7 assassination of a German diplomat in Paris, Ernst vom Rath, by Herschel Grynszpan, a Jewish teenager whose parents, along with 17,000 other Polish Jews, had been recently expelled from the Reich.

Kristallnacht

–The Nazis blamed the Jews, claiming the damage occurred during celebratory riots, and forced them to pay the damages and give up their businesses.

–Jewish children were also forced out of schools.

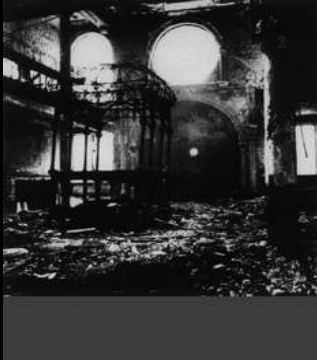
Burning of Synagogue during Kristallnacht



Broken Store Windows



Inside of a Burned Synagogue



Armbands

- November 23, 1939 – Jews were forced to wear the Star of David.
– Preliminary step in Jewish annihilation



Dog on park bench marked “Only for Aryans!”



Ghettos

- Ghettos were city districts (often enclosed) in which the Germans concentrated the Jewish population and forced them to live under miserable conditions.
- The Germans and their Axis partners established more than 800 ghettos throughout eastern Europe, beginning around 1939.



Ghettos

- The smallest ghetto held 3,000 people; the largest held 400,000.
- Jews were not allowed to leave under penalty of death.



Ghettos

- Ghettos were extremely crowded and unsanitary. Starvation, chronic shortages of food, clothing, medicine, and other supplies, severe winter weather, and the absence of adequate municipal services led to repeated outbreaks of epidemics and to very high mortality rates among residents.

Ghettos

- Beginning in 1942, after the decision had been made to kill the Jews, the Germans systematically destroyed the ghettos, deporting the Jews to extermination camps where they were killed.

Map of Warsaw & Warsaw Ghetto



Traffic in Warsaw Ghetto



Einsatzgruppen

- German special duty units, composed primarily of SS and police personnel, assigned to kill Jews as part of the Nazi program to kill the Jews of Europe.
- During the invasion of the Soviet Union in June 1941, the mobile killing squads followed the German army as it advanced deep into Soviet territory.

- Wherever the mobile killing squads went they shot Jewish men, women, and children, without regard for age or gender.
- accounted for the murder of approximately 1,500,00 Jews.



Concentration Camps

- Between 1933 and 1945, Nazi Germany established about 20,000 camps to imprison its many millions of victims
- 1933 – Dachau opens (the first concentration camp)
- 1941 – Chelmno, the first extermination camp, begins operating

- Ultimately, the Nazis were responsible for the murders of 2.7 million Jews in death camps.
- The total number of Jews killed in the genocide fell between 5.2 million and 5.7 million.
- About 5 million other victims died at the hands of Nazi Germany.

List of Major Concentration Camps

- Auschwitz/Birkenau, Poland
- Bergen-Belsen, Germany
- Buchenwald, German
- Chelmno, Poland
- Dachau, Germany
- Mauthausen, Austria
- Ravensbrück, Germany
- Treblinka, Poland
- Westerbork, The Netherlands

Roll call of newly arrived prisoners (from Kristallnacht) at Buchenwald

Prisoners' Uniforms

View of entrance to Auschwitz –
Taken from inside the camp



Other Victims

- Political opponents
- Authors and artists whose works were considered subversive or who were Jewish.
- Gypsies (Roma)
- Polish, & Slavic citizens; Soviet P.O.W.s
- Institutionalized people with disabilities
- Jehovah's Witnesses
- People with alternative lifestyles



Anne Frank: Diary of a Young Girl

Information courtesy of the
Anne Frank Museum
www.annefrank.org

Anne Frank



Anne Frank was a Jewish girl living in Amsterdam in Holland. On 12th June 1942 her parents gave her a small red and white tartan diary for her 13th birthday. She named her diary 'Kitty'.



The Call

- Margot Frank received a call-up on July 5, 1942. The Nazis planned to send the people they have summoned to work camps in Germany. The entire family would be arrested if Margot did not report.

The Plan

- Her parents expected such a call-up: the secret hiding place was almost ready.
- The Van Pels family was to join them: Hermann and Auguste and their son Peter. Hermann van Pels is co-director of Otto Frank's company.
- The next day, the Frank family immediately left for the hiding place. All of them carried bags filled with their things. Naturally, Anne brought her diary.

The Hiding Place

- The hiding place was located in an empty section of the building owned by Otto Frank's company.
- While business continued in the front part of the building, Franks and Van Pels were hiding in the rear annex.
- Before too long, the entrance to the Secret Annex was concealed behind a movable bookcase.

Aerial View of the Annex



The Annex Building



The Movable Bookcase



The Helpers

- The people in hiding were helped by Otto Frank's four employees: Miep Gies, Johannes Kleiman, Victor Kugler and Bep Voskuijl.
- They arranged the food supplies, clothing, books, and other necessities.
- In addition, they kept the people in hiding up-to-date with the news from Amsterdam.

Miep Gies



The Hiding Place

- The hiding place was relatively spacious. The Frank family lived in two rooms on the first floor, the Van Pels family in two other rooms on the second floor.
- In November 1942, an eighth person joined the people in hiding: Fritz Pfeffer.
- He was a dentist and an acquaintance of both the Franks and the Van Pels family.

Life in the Annex

- The people in hiding had to stay indoors around the clock.
- They also had to be extremely quiet during the day when people were at work in the warehouse downstairs.
- Because the waste pipes for the toilet ran right through the warehouse, the toilet was flushed as little as possible.

Anne's Room



Peter's Room



“Twice they rattled at the bookcase, then there was nothing, the footsteps withdrew, we were saved so far. A shiver seemed to pass from one to another, I heard someone’s teeth chattering, no-one said a word.”

The Hiding Place Found

On the 4th of August, 1944, somebody told the Germans where Anne and her family were hiding.

The secret annex where she hid was raided, and Anne and her family were caught. Anne's diary was left behind.

Anne was sent to a concentration camp called Bergen Belsen, where she later died from disease.