

Timeline of some major World War II Events in the Netherlands

1914-1919 The Netherlands remains neutral throughout World War I.

September 1939 The Dutch declare neutrality at the start of World War II.

May 1940 Around 140,000 Jews live in the Netherlands.

May 10, 1940 Germans attack the Netherlands.

May 15, 1940 Occupied Netherlands: The Dutch surrender to Germany. After five days of fighting, there are 2,220 dead Dutch soldiers, 2,700 wounded Dutch soldiers, and 2,000 civilian casualties.

1940-1945 Hitler views non-Jewish Dutch citizens as Aryan or members of the "master race." His intention is to make the Netherlands part of the Greater Germanic Reich.

1940-1944 The Arbeitseinsatz: All Dutch men between the ages of 18 and 45 are required to work for Germany. Those Dutch citizens who refuse to work must go into hiding.

1941 German Jews in the Netherlands are declared stateless; deportations of Jews "to work" in the East begin.

February 25 and 26, 1941 Thousands of Dutch workers strike to protest the deportations of Jews.

1941 The Netherlands Nazi Party becomes the only political party allowed in the country. All non-Nazi organizations are outlawed. May 1942 Jews are required to wear the yellow six-pointed star on an outer garment.

May 1942 Dutch Nazis: 3% of the adult male population (over 100,000 members) belong to the Netherlands Nazi Party and 16,000 young people make up its youth branch.

Summer 1942 Persecution of Dutch Jews: Many more deportations of Jewish men and women take place to camps like Auschwitz where they are often murdered

July 6, 1942 Anne Frank and her family go into hiding in Amsterdam.

1940-1945 Dutch Resistance: Some Dutch citizens actively resist their occupation by hiding fellow citizens, spying for the Allies and creating underground newspapers.

August 9, 1945 Anne Frank and her family are arrested; the only member of the family to survive the camps is Anne's father, Otto Frank.

September 14, 1944 Beginning of the End: First Dutch cities are liberated by the Allies.

1944-1945 Some groups of American soldiers live in and around Dutch communities.

1944-1945 As the Allies enter the Netherlands, a lot of violent fighting takes place and the population experiences bombardment from both the Allies and Germans.

May 5, 1945 All of the Netherlands is liberated from German occupation.

May 7, 1945 Germany surrenders.

1945 Dutch Nazi leaders and collaborators are executed (sometimes without a trial) or jailed.

1945 Holocaust: 75% of original Dutch Jewish population is killed during World War II. This percentage is much higher than in comparable countries like Belgium or France.

Questions

- 1. How did the Dutch people feel about the deportation of Jews?**
- 2. Do you think Anne Frank's family would have had a better chance to survive in France than in the Netherlands?**
- 3. How much longer should Anne Frank have endured to survive the Holocaust?**
- 4. Do you think there were other people that went into hiding?**
- 5. Why is Anne Frank's Diary still relevant today?**