

## Hans Angress

Wartime Experience- Hidden with a Dutch family

Also known as Herbert Angress

Date of Birth: April 14, 1928 in Berlin, Germany

My father Ernst Angress was a banker in Berlin and became a partner in a lingerie store in Amsterdam after we emigrated from Germany. According to the Red Cross, he died in Auschwitz on January 19, 1943. My mother Henny Angress nee Kiefer was a homemaker. Her determination resulted in the survival of herself, my brother Fred and of me. After the war she married Ernest Delby. She died in Petaluma, California at age 92. She was one tough lady, I salute her!

My brother Werner Tom Angress is a retired history professor. He taught at U.C. Berkeley and at the New York State University in Stony Brook, Long Island. After his retirement he moved back to Berlin, Germany where he lives with his wife Claudia and remains active in civic affairs, Jewish as well as other. He served in the U.S. 82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne Division during WWII. His latest book, Between Fear & Hope: Jewish Youth in the Third Reich was published by Columbia University Press. My brother Fred Angress is a retired insurance accountant. He lives with his wife Ursula in San Francisco, California. Fred told some of his memories to his wife Ursula, who wrote them down under the title Survival in the Lions' Den.

My former wife and mother of my children is Dina Angress, nee Dasberg. We had six children, all born in the US after the war.

Eric was born in 1949. Eric is a building contractor, living in Berkley, California. He is married to Melissa Bay Mathis, an author and illustrator of children books. They have daughter, Kyla. Norah was born in 1951. Norah is a teacher. She has a daughter, Naomi. Her life companion is Henry Elfstrom, a marine biologist, and a builder.

Madelyn was born in 1953. She is the principal-teacher of a one-room school. Madelyn is married to Joe Hodges, a builder. They have 5 children. Rebecca, Benjamin, Mariah, Sarah and Gregory. Ingrid was born in 1956. She teaches music. Her life companion is Ernie Noyes. She has two children Jonathan and Trevor. Rachel was born in 1969 and is a practicing attorney, specializing in family law. She is engaged to be married to Tom Nunes, who works for the Marin County Fire Department. Finally, Jesse Jacob, born in 1971, known as JJ, is planning to begin law school.

My family fled Germany in September 1937, initially to London. Unable to obtain visas for North or South America at that time, we returned to the continent early in 1938 and settled in Amsterdam, Holland. After growing up in Nazi Germany, Holland was paradise. I had the only two normal years of my youth in Amsterdam and made friendships, which continue to this day.

The Nazis invaded Holland May 19, 1940, and hell started all over again. My father was arrested in April of 1941 because he had the audacity when we left Germany to take his hard-earned money along. After being imprisoned 1 ½ years he was sent to Auschwitz where he perished.

In June 1941 I started high school at the Jewish Lyceum in Amsterdam. Anne Frank enrolled the same time I did, but she was in a parallel class. Our history teacher of that time, Dr. Jacob Presser, wrote *The Destruction of the Dutch Jews* a definitive account of the Holocaust in the Netherlands, which was translated into English by Arnold Pomerans.

In June 1942 my brother, Fred, along with 2000 other young Jews got the call to report for work in Germany. My mother managed to obtain a job for him with the Jewish Council, which exempted him, as well as my mother and myself. "Until further notice" from "work" in Germany. This also bought some time for Margot Frank, the sister of Anne Frank, which caused the Frank family to go into hiding. 2000 young people were sent to Mauthausen. None survived.

In September 1943 my brother Fred came home with the information that on that same night almost all the few remaining Jews in Amsterdam, including ourselves, would be picked up for deportation.

My mother had prepared for that eventuality and the three of us went into hiding with the hour, taking only a few personal belongings with us. The next day we split up and did not see each other again until after the war ended. I was in hiding with the family of Anton and Alida Kooy and their two sons Peter and Walter for 1-½ years.

My oldest brother Tom made it to the USA in 1939 joined the Army in 1940 and ended up in the 82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne Division. He jumped on D-Day and again in Nijmegen, Holland. On Mother's Day 1945, a few days after WW II had ended, he showed up in Amsterdam to look for us. It was a joyous reunion for the four of us, overshadowed by the worry about the fate of my father. Tom was one of the first, if not the first, American soldier to reach Amsterdam. The Canadians had arrived there a few days earlier.

In March of 1947 my brother Fred and I immigrated to the US.

After graduating from Windsor Mountain High School in Lennox, Mass., in June of 1947, I became a partner in a dairy business on Tomales Bay in Marin County, California, approximately 1-½ hours north of San Francisco. The partnership lasted for about 20 years. Working with cows was a healing experience after the war. After the dairy partnership dissolved in 1968, I became a real estate broker and property manager.

My second wife Enola Nelson is a teacher. She grew up as a U.S. Air Force "brat", living all over the world.

On August 29, 1989, the Consul General of Israel, Harry Kney-Tai, presented the “Medal of the Righteous Among Nations” to the Kooy family, who had cared for me in hiding for 1 ½ years, for their heroic efforts in saving persecuted Jews during the Nazi Holocaust in Europe. Then Congresswoman Barbara Boxer honored the family at the same ceremony with a resolution on behalf of the United States Congress.