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January 9th 1944

Dear Kitty,

Today, I have nothing but gloomy and depressing news to report. Our many Jewish friends and their families are being taken away. The Gestapo (surely the most evil people ever to have lived in the world) are treating them very roughly and transporting them in cattle cars to Westerbork: a large camp to which they're sending all the Jews.

Miep told us about someone who'd managed to escape from there – his story was shocking. The people get almost nothing to eat, less to drink (as water is available only one hour a day) and there's only one toilet and sink for several thousand people. Men and women sleep in the same room; women and children often have their heads shaved: the work is hard; and escape is almost impossible. If it's that bad in Holland, what must it be like in those faraway and uncivilized places where the Germans are sending them? We guess that most of them are being murdered. The English radio says they're being gassed; however, I find that impossible to believe. Perhaps that's the quickest way to die...

Miep's accounts of these horrors are so painful. Fine humans, those Germans, and to think I'm actually one of them! No, that's not true; Hitler took away our nationality long ago. And besides, there are no greater enemies on earth than the Germans and Jews.