

S-I-T (SURPRISING, INTERESTING, TROUBLING)

Quotes Relating to the Holocaust

What do you find **surprising**, **interesting**, and/or **troubling** about the following quotes?

1. “They brought us into Auschwitz. I could see the chimneys burning, smell the smoke. I did not think about it. They gave us tattoos: 33076. I did not have a name anymore; just a number.” —**Sara Polonski Zuchowicki**
2. “One of our friends we knew from the ghetto, Danka Joskowicz—she ran to the barbed wires. I yelled to her, ‘Don’t go to the barbed wires! You will get electrocuted.’ She said, ‘What should I have to live for?’” —**Rozalia Nowak Berke**
3. “[...] The only thing that’s encouraging me (as I’ve mentioned before) is the hope that it won’t always be like this and that I’m still young. Maybe I’ll grow up to be somebody and then I’ll be able to do something. Because I am Jewish, I believe and hope. I hope that this “hope” has some strong foundation. God, make the time go faster. (What time?)...” —**Rywka Lipszyc**
4. “When we got to Komárom [camp] we were put in a big building which was for animals and we were thousands of people. All of us were Roma. It was very common to be hungry; people got diseases.” —**József Forgács**
5. “In the course of my life I have very often been a prophet and have usually been ridiculed for it. During the time of my struggle for power, it was in the first instance the Jewish race which only received my prophecies with laughter when I said that I would one day take over the leadership of the State, and with it that of the whole nation, and that I would then, among many other things, settle the Jewish problem. Their laughter was uproarious, but I think that for some time now they have been laughing on the other side of their face. Today I will once more be a prophet: If the international Jewish financiers in and outside Europe should succeed in plunging the nations once more into a world war, then the result will not be the Bolshevization of the earth, and thus the victory of Jewry, but the annihilation of the Jewish race in Europe!” —**Adolf Hitler**

6. “The decree was issued that the Vilna Jewish population must put on badges front and back—a yellow circle and inside it the letter J. It is daybreak. I am looking through the window and see before me the first Vilna Jews with badges. It was painful to see how people were staring at them...for a long time I could not put on the badge. I felt a hump, as though I had two frogs on me. I was ashamed to appear in them on the street not because it would be noticed I am a Jew but because I was ashamed of what [they were] doing to us...Now we pay no attention to the badges...[We] are not ashamed of our badges! Let those be ashamed who have hung them on us.” —**Yitskhok Rudashevski**
7. “On 10 July 1941, five Gestapo men arrived in [Jedwabne, Poland] and held talks with the local authorities. When the Gestapo man asked what should be done with the Jews, the answer was unanimous—all Jews have to be killed...The entire town was surrounded with guards so no one could escape. Then they stood the Jews up in four lines. The town’s rabbi, over 90 years old, and the kosher butcher were put at the head, with a flag in their hands. Then they were all chased into the barn. The thugs beat them brutally. At the entrance were several bandits who were playing music and tried to drown the poor people’s screams. They were bleeding as they were pushed into the barn, and then they were doused with kerosene, and fire was set to the barn.”
—**Szmul Wasersztejn**
8. “You don’t know what the next day will bring. You just live day to day, from day to day. You never think about a future, and you never know what you’re going to do. You just become like an animal that lives in the wilderness.” —**Max Gluben, on life in the Warsaw Ghetto**
9. “I am ninety-one years old and in good health. I live in the same house now, with my son and his family, as I did when I sheltered my close Jewish friend, Avram Eliasaf Gani, in 1943 and 1944. At first, I hid Avram here, but when the persecution of the Jews became more horrible, I sent him to the home of my parents in the remote district of Kruje [Albania]. There were no roads for cars back then, so each week until the end of the war I traveled on horseback to my parents’ home to provide food and all necessities for my friend. During those years, no one except my family knew of our sheltering a Jew. After the war, Avram returned to Tirana and we remained good friends...I have always been a

devout Muslim. During the years of communism all the institutions of God were closed, but not the heart. I did nothing special. All Jews are our brothers.” —**Beqir Qoqja**

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