



Westerbork transit camp, where Etty worked before she too was taken to Auschwitz

“I shall simply lie down and try to be a prayer.”

“Let me be the thinking heart of the barracks”.

“Ultimately, we have just one moral duty: to reclaim large areas of peace in ourselves, more and more peace, and to reflect it towards others. And the more peace there is in us, the more peace there will be in our troubled world.”

“Sometimes the most important thing in a whole day is the rest we take between 2 deep breaths, or the turning inwards in prayer for five short minutes”.

“The more peace there is in us, the more peace there will be in our troubled world.”

“I don't want to be anything special. I only want to try to be true to that in me which seeks to fulfill its promise.”

“Each of us must turn inward and destroy in himself all that he thinks he ought to destroy in others.”



The barracks in Westerbork

## Etty Hillesum



1915-1943

## Dates

Born in Middleburg, The Netherlands,  
**January 15<sup>th</sup> 1915**

**1932** Etty moved to Amsterdam to study law and Slavic languages. She lived with an accountant - Hans Wegerif, with whom she had a relationship.

**1941** Met Julius Spear

**Feb 3<sup>rd</sup> 1941** The day Etty said she was actually born i.e. when she met Julius Spear and started her diary.

**July 1942** started working at the Westerbork transit camp

**September 1942** Spier died



Etty's family. Etty, the oldest of three children, with Mother Riva, brother Jaap, brother Mischa, Father Levie.

## Quotations

"One must acknowledge one's pauses!"

"I have a primitive longing to be simple, to live for the day, to "roll melodiously out of God's hand."



At her desk, where she spent so much time reading

"There is a vast silence in me that continues to grow."

"Now death has come as large as life, and I greet him as an old acquaintance."



Etty's house in Amsterdam

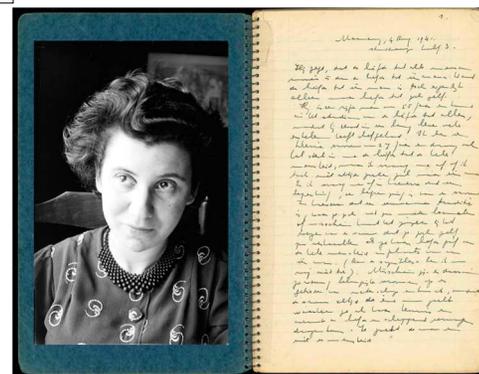
"It's still all comes down to the same thing: life is beautiful. And I believe in God. And I want to be there right in the thick of what people call horror and still be able to say: life is beautiful."

"We left the camp singing."

"We must be willing to act as a balm for all wounds".

"To turn inward and root out all the rottenness there. I no longer believe we can change anything in the world until we have changed ourselves."

"Ultimately, we have just one moral duty: to reclaim large areas of peace in ourselves, more and more peace, and to reflect it towards others. And the more peace there is in us the more peace there will also be in our troubled world."



**September 1943** Etty left Westerbork for Auschwitz

Etty died **November 1943**