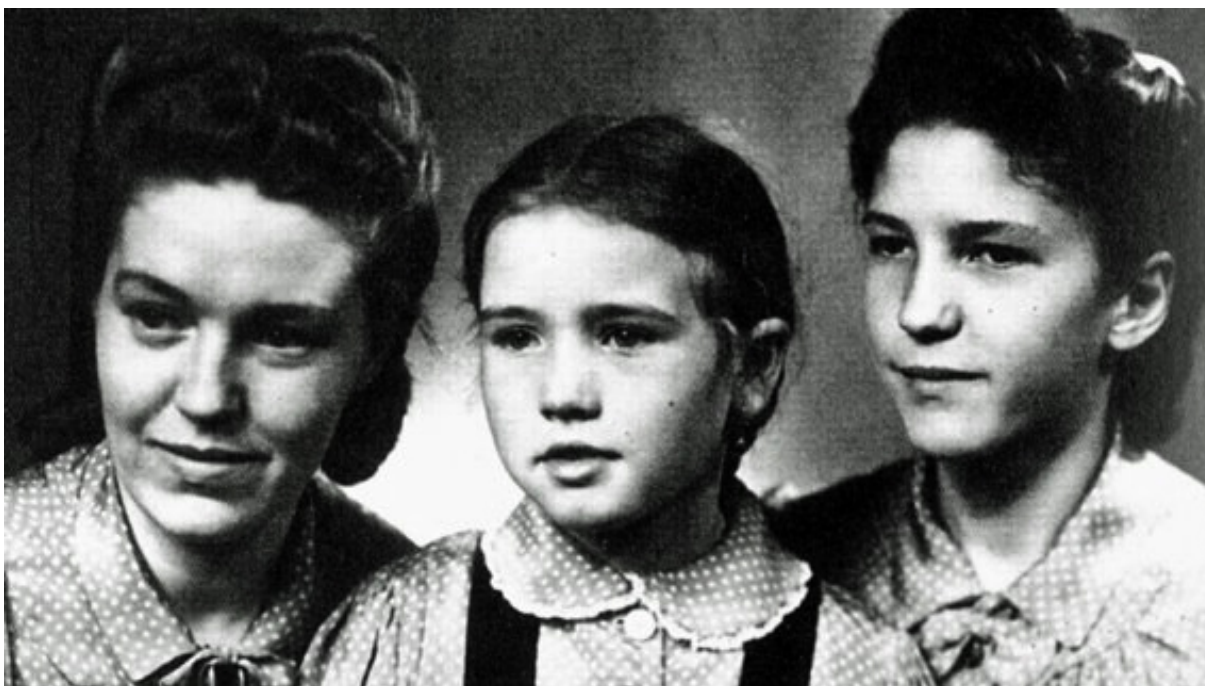


F5 Released: Else Schmidt

Else Schmidt from Hamburg, Germany, was a foster child of Emil Matula and his wife. In 1943, when she was eight, Else was deported to Auschwitz with other Roma and Sinti. A young woman called Wanda helped the lonely child survive the concentration camp, while her foster father ceaselessly petitioned the authorities to release his daughter. He finally succeeded in 1944, and Else was taken from Auschwitz to Ravensbrück and released into his custody.



1910

1951

1943

💡 Did you know

... that Else Schmidt's story was made into an illustrated children's book by the German authors Michail Krausnick and Lukas Ruegenberg?

... that the local authorities did have certain powers to prevent the deportation of Roma and Sinti?

✎ Your task

Try to find out more about the fate of Else Schmidt and also about other cases where children were forcibly separated from their parents and taken to another country. What do you know about attempts to prevent people from being deported from your country today?

📷 About the photo

Else Schmidt with her two elder stepsisters in 1943. Central Council of German Sinti and Roma, Heidelberg, Germany.



<https://www.romasintigenocide.eu/en/f>