

## EVACUATED: SOFIA TAIKON

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Sofia Taikon, a Polish Romni, was deported to Auschwitz with her family in 1943. In the summer of 1944 she and other prisoners were moved to Ravensbrück. In 1945, during the last months of the war, the Swedish Red Cross, under its president, Count Folke Bernadotte, launched an evacuation programme for Scandinavians in German concentration camps. White buses marked with the symbol of the Red Cross ferried some 15,000 prisoners to safety, including many other nationalities. Sofia Taikon was one of them. After the war she became one of the most respected representatives of the Swedish Roma. She died in 2005.

## E.5

### Did you know

... that a Red Cross convoy was mistakenly bombed by the Allies, killing most of those who had just been liberated from the concentration camp?

... that Sofia's life story was published in the form of a comic?

### For you to do

What reason might the National Socialists have had to suddenly free concentration camp prisoners in the spring of 1945? The number Z4515 was tattooed on Sofia Taikon's arm. Try to discover where she was given this number and what it meant.

### The photo

Sofia Taikon as a young woman in Sweden. Living History Forum collection, Stockholm, Sweden.