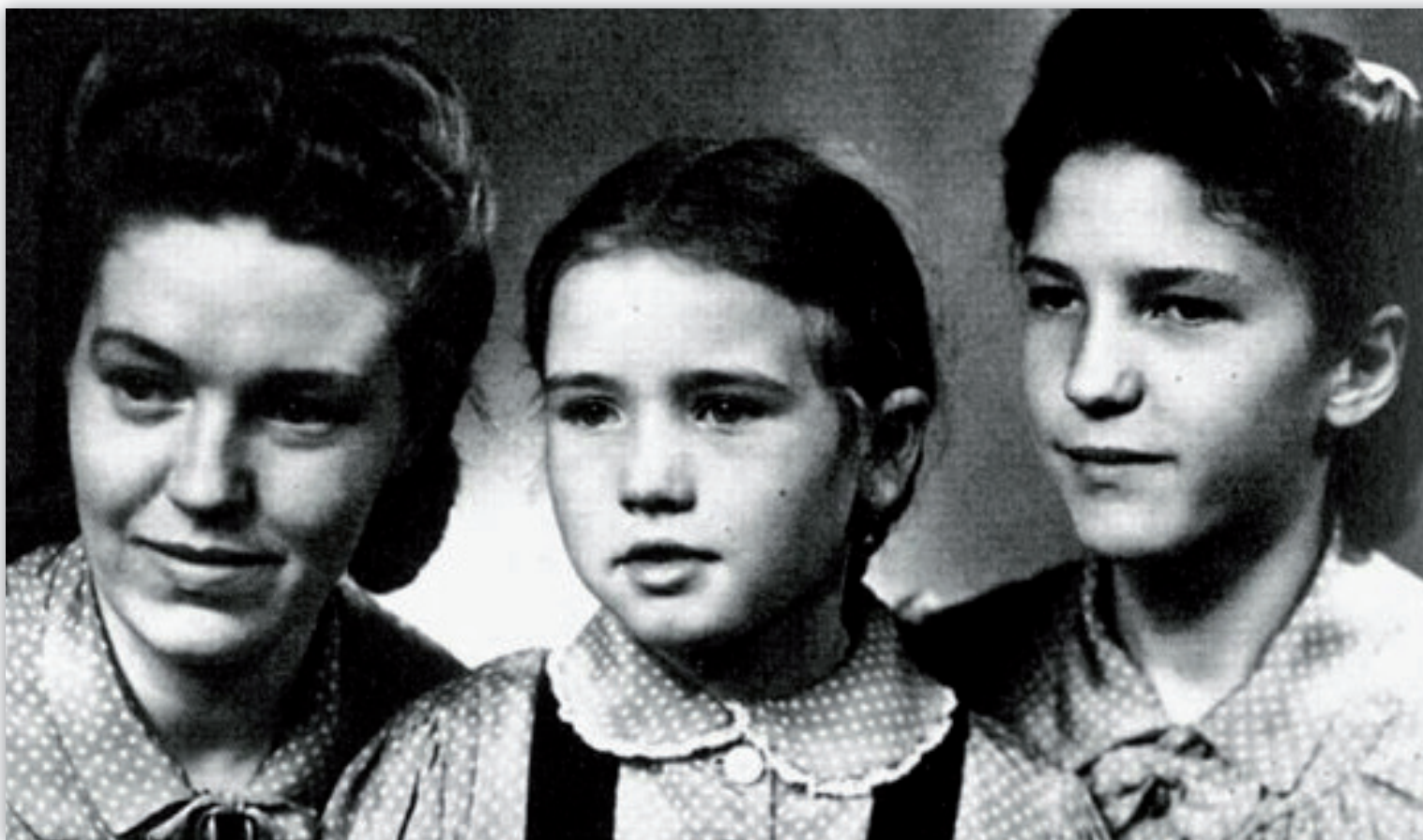


RELEASED: ELSE SCHMIDT

E.7

1910
1911
1912
1913
1914
1915
1916
1917
1918
1919
1920
1921
1922
1923
1924
1925
1926
1927
1928
1929
1930
1931
1932
1933
1934
1935
1936
1937
1938
1939
1940
1941
1942
1943
1944
1945
1946
1947
1948
1949
1950
1951



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.

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?

For you to do

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?

The photo

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