

**RG-50.693.0075**

**Ilse Schnell Kronheim**

**Language: Spanish, but also German in the first nine minutes (00:01:15 – 00:05:00, 00:05:05 – 00:08:03, 00:08:09-00:09:09)**

**Summary**

Born June 1, 1909, in Stargard, Germany (present day Stargard Szczeciński, Poland). She had four siblings.

At age 18, she went to Stettin, Germany (present day Szczecin, Poland), where she “had” classes in gymnastics, dance, singing and piano (*not clear if she took classes or taught classes when she arrived to Stettin*) [timestamp 00:09:24 – 00:09:50]. She worked as dance and gymnastic teacher [timestamp 00:58:43]. She left her job when she got married to Kurt Freundlich.

She had friends from school and from the gym [timestamp 00:10:20]. Her friends were both Christians and Jewish, and their relationship was very good despite their different religions. For example, she had a Jewish friend who married a Christian woman from her school. Their marriage was perfect, and she was a very good friend of both of them.

In Stettin, she did not have a Jewish life. She married Kurt around 1929 and had two daughters, Ruth and Bella. His husband worked in a clothing business with Alfred May, Joseph (Burger / Bürger / Buerger?), and “Billy” Feldberg, who was her husband’s cousin.

When Hitler came to power, her husband Kurt was taken to Sachsenhausen labor camp for 15 days. The president of the Jewish women’s organization asked other women not to do anything, saying that she was going to talk to the authorities on behalf of all of them. However, Ilse decided to go and see the high officer of the Nazis and ask for the release of some of her relatives, among them: Freundlich, Wilhelm; Freundlich, Walter Tobias; Siegfried, Schnell [timestamp 00:15:20-00:15:36]. She succeeded.

She left Germany in 1939. Her family had gotten visas to travel to Chile in Stettin, helped by some Christian friends who had family in Chile. She and her family went to Chile in a Chilean ship that left from the port of Hamburg. She also got visas for his husband cousin Billy, but not for Tobias, although she managed to get visas for him and his family after her family arrived in Chile.

Ilsa’s parents and some of her siblings went to Israel. Her parents lived in Kibbutz Beit Alfa at first, but later moved to Haifa, where Ilsa’s brother Arnold worked as a lawyer. Arnold was a Zionist and later died of malaria. Ilsa’s sister Ruth and her husband Friedel, who were school teachers, went to Holland first and, after that, to Israel. Another sister, Edith, went to Israel as well.

Ilsa’s parents forced her sister Eva to marry a German Catholic diplomat right before the war. They wanted Eva to be safe and leave Germany. Eva went with her husband to Uganda and

converted to Catholicism. They separated and Eva married another diplomat (*country unspecified*). She was a friend of Ugandan president Idi Amin. Eva used to go to Paris to buy clothes and, there, she also passed secret information to Israeli agents. She married a third time after her second husband died. Eva is the only sister that did not end in Israel.

Ilsa's husband had three siblings [timestamp 00:37:34]: Eddy (female) lived in Berlin; Norma was in Israel; and Marta was with Friedl (Freya?) Borga.

She had a very good life in Chile, economically and socially.