

Biography of Edith Sollinger

Edith Sollinger was born on May 3, 1909 as the first child of Gustav and his wife Charlotte Sollinger in Berlin. With her parents and her younger brother Werner, born in 1910, she first lived in Schoeneberg, later in Charlottenburg.

In 1933, at the age of 24, she went to England on a visa limited to one year only. In 1934 she was able to emigrate to Cape Town with the support of a wealthy Jewish family in South Africa, who enabled Jewish women from Germany to start a new life in Cape Town. She lived in a neighborhood of rented apartments where many Jewish immigrants from Germany were trying to build a new life.

There, together with other refugees, Edith founded an organization to support children with mental disabilities. But they also looked after children with special needs in the poorer areas of Cape Town.

One of the boys she took care of was the son of British Royal Navy officer Philip Goodenday and his South African wife, from whom he had already been divorced at the time. In 1945, when the war ended, Philip returned to England together with Edith and his son.

They got married and lived together for many years in London, where Philip Goodenday worked as a lawyer. They had no children together. Edith passed away on September 18, 1997.