

HOLOCAUST VICTIM ASSETS PROGRAMME (SWISS BANKS)
GROUP V SUBMISSION
REFUGEE CLASS
CASE SUMMARIES

3300004

Claimant is a Romani who was born in Germany in 1937. Due to Nazi persecution, he and his family fled to Czechoslovakia. After they were almost apprehended there, they fled to Beuern Busslingen near the German-Swiss border, where they stayed with a farmer who helped them arrange a bribe of the Swiss border guards using the mother's jewelry. They tried to enter Switzerland twice but were denied entry. They returned to the farm and stayed there until the German army appropriated the farm. The farmer arranged for Claimant and his family to flee by train to Hamburg where they managed to stay in hiding until the end of the war.

3300011

same as 3300012 and 3300033

Claimant was born in The Netherlands in 1940. Claimant is a Romani. He fled from The Netherlands with his mother and four siblings after the Roma razzia of 19 May 1944. Two of his sisters have also submitted Refugee Class claims. His mother chose Switzerland because she had some money there in a bank in Basel.

They travelled through Belgium and France living off stolen food and whatever they could find in the wild. They arrived at the Swiss border near Basel in October 1944. They were beaten by the Swiss border guards and denied entry. They tried to enter at several other locations but were denied entry at each one. Claimant and his family subsequently returned to the southern part of The Netherlands which was no longer under Nazi control.

3300012

same as 3300011 and 3300033

Claimant was born in The Netherlands in 1935. Claimant is a Romani. He fled from The Netherlands with his mother and four siblings after the Roma razzia of 19 May 1944. Two of his sisters have also submitted Refugee Class claims. His mother chose Switzerland because she had some money there in a bank in Basel.

They travelled through Belgium and France living off stolen food and whatever they could find in the wild. They arrived at the Swiss border near Basel in October 1944. They were beaten by the Swiss border guards and denied entry. They tried to enter at several other locations but were denied entry at each one. Claimant and his family subsequently returned to the southern part of The Netherlands which was no longer under Nazi control.

3300013

Claimant was born in Germany in 1935. Claimant is Romani. Claimant and his family attempted to flee from Nazi persecution and sought entry into Switzerland from Alsace in 1940. They were denied entry. Claimant and his family were arrested by the Nazis and deported to concentration camps in Germany where they remained until the end of the war.

3300017

Claimant, a Romani, was born in Gent, Belgium in 1929. He stated that his family fled in the spring of 1940 and tried to seek asylum in Switzerland. An uncle was travelling with them who had Swiss nationality. His mother had papers but his father did not. They travelled through Belgium and France and tried to enter near "Dissebergen" "Limbern" or "Libain". Claimant could not provide exact spellings and was not sure if these names were correct. They were allowed to enter and put in barracks for two days before being expelled back to France. His father was arrested by the Belgian police. Claimant travelled with his mother throughout France, Belgium and Holland.

3300018

same as 3300056

Claimants are Romanies. They are sisters who were born in Germany in 1929 and 1927, respectively. The Nazis took all of their property (violins, jewelry, clock, etc.). Their family fled Nazi persecution in Germany and went to Switzerland to seek asylum there. They attempted to enter Switzerland during the summer of 1940 or 1941 from Schaffhausen, Uberlingen and Rheinfall. They were not allowed to enter and returned to Germany where they remained in flight, primarily hiding in forests.

3300021

Claimant, a Romani, was born in Germany in 1924. In September 1941, she and her family attempted to flee to Switzerland along with other Romanies. They travelled by foot and attempted to enter Switzerland at the legal border crossing near Basel. They were denied entry and fled to France where they remained in hiding until the end of the war.

3300027

Claimant, a Romani, was born in Moussey, France in 1937. During the winter of 1940 or 1941, Claimant and his family attempted to flee persecution in France and seek asylum in Switzerland. They had travel documents that permitted them to travel to Switzerland. The travel documents were required for all Roma who wished to travel. They had to present their request and documents to the local police who had the authority to grant permission to travel. They were assisted in their flight by magnisards (Resistance Fighters). Claimant was very young and does not remember

where they tried to enter Switzerland. The family was denied entry into Switzerland. The family returned to France. In November 1941, they were robbed by German soldiers who took gold jewelry, horses, 10 million Francs and valuable coins from the family. They were sent to Rivesalte camp where they stayed from until 23 December 1941. Claimant and his brother were transferred to Gurs camp and then to Sallier camp where they remained until 19 August 1944. His parents and grandparents were sent to Buchenwald and Auschwitz where they died.

3300030
(same as 3300031)

Claimants are husband and wife. They are both Romani. They were born in 1936 and 1937, respectively, in Czechoslovakia. Their families traveled together during the war. Because of constant persecution by the Nazi Regime, the families decided to flee to Switzerland in 1944. They attempted to enter Switzerland from the Austrian border but were denied entry. After their expulsion, they were forced to live their lives on the run and in hiding in order to avoid further persecution and deportation to a concentration camp.

3300031
(same as 3300030)

Claimants are husband and wife. They are both Romani. They were born in 1936 and 1937, respectively, in Czechoslovakia. Their families traveled together during the war. Because of constant persecution by the Nazi Regime, the families decided to flee to Switzerland in 1944. They attempted to enter Switzerland from the Austrian border but were denied entry. After their expulsion, they were forced to live their lives on the run and in hiding in order to avoid further persecution and deportation to a concentration camp.

3300033
same as 3300011 and 3300012

Claimant was born in The Netherlands in 1937. Claimant is a Romani. He fled from The Netherlands with his mother and four siblings after the Roma razzia of 19 May 1944. Two of his sisters have also submitted Refugee Class claims. His mother chose Switzerland because she had some money there in a bank in Basel.

They travelled through Belgium and France living off stolen food and whatever they could find in the wild. They arrived at the Swiss border near Basel in October 1944. They were beaten by the Swiss border guards and denied entry. They tried to enter at several other locations but were denied entry at each one. Claimant and his family subsequently returned to the southern part of The Netherlands which was no longer under Nazi control.

3300034

Claimant was born in 1920 in France. Claimant is Romani. In 1940, Claimant's family joined other Romani families in escaping to Switzerland. They attempted to enter Switzerland illegally along the French border. They were admitted into

Switzerland and set-up camp. After two days, they were caught by the Swiss Police who expelled them and handed them over to German soldiers. Their possessions were confiscated by the German soldiers. The German soldiers sent them to camps in France.

3300042

same as 3300080 and 3340211

Claimants are three sisters who were born in 1929, 1932 and 1934, respectively. They are Romani. They lived in Karlsruhe, Germany prior to fleeing to Switzerland to escape Nazi persecution. Their mother was born in Switzerland and they had relatives there. Claimants' family attempted to enter Switzerland with documents in 1939 near Kreuzlingen. They were expelled from Switzerland and delivered to the German police who took them to Dorfgastein, Austria where they were interned until 1939. They were sent to a camp near Salzburg (Maxglan) from 1939 to 1942. From 1942 to 1945, they were at Lackenbach concentration camp.

3300046

Claimant is Romani. She was born in Niederwille, Germany in 1937. Claimant and her mother, travelling by foot, tried to enter Switzerland at Stühlingen, near Waldshut in 1939. They attempted to enter twice. Both times, they were expelled and fled to France where they were interned at Arguesneaux Concentration Camp and forced to perform labour in the camp.

3300048

Claimant, a Romani and native of Germany, was born in 1926. He resided with his family in Herbolzheim, near the Swiss border. On several occasions, the entire family of 16 people tried to enter into Switzerland at Lörrach and Singen and were denied entry because they were told that they were a "tribe" and tribes were not allowed to enter Switzerland. The entire family was transported to Auschwitz where they had to perform such labour as digging graves and burying the dead as well as construction work. Claimant was later transported to Buchenwald where he worked in a quarry until he was liberated. He and one brother were the only family members who survived.

3300049

Claimant was born in 1933 in Berlin. In 1934, she and her family attempted to flee to Switzerland. Her mother was sent to a concentration camp in Schlesien for seven years and then to Ravenbrück for three years. Claimant and her grandmother escaped and hid in the forest. She and her grandmother attempted to enter Switzerland again near Bern when Claimant was three years old. They were refused entry again. While in hiding, Claimant contracted tuberculosis. Claimant, as a result, is now 100% disabled.

3300056
same as 3300018

Claimants are Romanies. They are sisters who were born in Germany in 1929 and 1927, respectively. The Nazis took all of their property (violins, jewelry, clock, etc.). Their family fled Nazi persecution in Germany and went to Switzerland to seek asylum there. They attempted to enter Switzerland during the summer of 1940 or 1941 from Schaffhausen, Uberlingen and Rheinfall. They were not allowed to enter and returned to Germany where they remained in flight, primarily hiding in forests.

3300063
same as 3300076

Claimant, a Romani, was born in Freiburg, Germany in 1935 and his sister was born in Buchheim in 1931. Their mother attempted to flee to Switzerland with them in early 1940. They had relatives who were citizens of Switzerland and hoped to be granted asylum. They travelled at night through fields and the forest until they reached the Swiss border. They were captured by Swiss border guards and turned over to the German police in Konstanz who took them back to their place of residence in Emmendingen. They were deported to Poland where they spent 5 years in different concentration camps because they were Romani.

3300064 (Family I)
same as 3300067 (Family I) 3300102 (Family II)
3300128 (Family II) 3300129 (Family II) 3300131 (Family II)

These are the claims of two Romani families. In particular, the families of two brothers who suffered persecution during the Nazi Regime because they were Romani. Family I's claimants include the wife and son of one brother. Family II's claimants include four of the children of the other brother. With the passage of time, their memories have faded but they were all contacted by telephone and confirmed that they recalled that the two families always travelled together.

Family I's persecution began when the father was dismissed from military service because he was Romani in 1942. He, his wife (3300067), daughter and son (3300064) fled to Switzerland on their horse and wagon but were denied entry. They tried at two different border locations and were denied entry at each location. The children of Family II also recalled that both families tried to enter Switzerland by train, on at least one occasion, and also by stagecoach and were denied entry into Switzerland. They do not remember all of the border points where they attempted to enter Switzerland but recalled one, Argau. They were forced to return to Munich where they had to perform forced labour at Giesinger Hill. On 8 March 1943, Family I was arrested by the Gestapo and taken to the police station in Ehstrasse where they met the brother of the father of Family II who was there with his children. About two weeks later, they were all sent to Auschwitz in carriages that were meant for cattle. In Family I, the father and son were separated from the mother and daughter. According to the mother of Family I, she met her own mother and sister at Auschwitz, who was there with her five children. Her mother, sister and sister's children were all killed in the gas chamber. Her sister-in-law and her three children met with a similar fate.

The mother of Family I stated that totally exhausted women and children were forced to do heavy manual labour such as building streets, transporting slag and carrying stones. Their only pay was beatings and mistreatment. She stated that she was beaten to a half-dead condition because she stole a turnip once. She was sterilized in Ravensbrück and because of this has suffered the rest of her life. She was also vaccinated against typhus and got sick because of it. Later, when they were taken to Mauthausen, they had to travel there by foot. Those who could not make it were shot at once. The father of Family I was sent to Dirlewangen Battalion and promised that his family would be liberated if he went. They were liberated by British troops in Bergen-Belsen. The worst experience for the mother was famine, the sufferings of her children and the constant fear of being killed. Her son was not returned to the family until 1946 with the help of UNRRA. A newspaper article attached to the claims tells the story of her son.

The children of family II were subjected to medical experiments at Auschwitz and performed forced labour at Ravensbrück, Mauthausen and Bergen-Belsen.

3300067 (Family I)
same as 3300064 (Family I) 3300102 (Family II)
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These are the claims of two Romani families. In particular, the families of two brothers who suffered persecution during the Nazi Regime because they were Romani. Family I's claimants include the wife and son of one brother. Family II's claimants include four of the children of the other brother. With the passage of time, their memories have faded but they were all contacted by telephone and confirmed that they recalled that the two families always travelled together.

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The mother of Family I stated that totally exhausted women and children were forced to do heavy manual labour such as building streets, transporting slag and carrying stones. Their only pay was beatings and mistreatment. She stated that she was beaten to a half-dead condition because she stole a turnip once. She was sterilized in Ravensbrück and because of this has suffered the rest of her life. She was also vaccinated against typhus and got sick because of it. Later, when they were taken to Mauthausen, they had to travel there by foot. Those who could not make it were shot at once. The father of Family I was sent to Dirlewangen Battalion and promised that his family would be liberated if he went. They were liberated by British troops in Bergen-Belsen. The worst experience for the mother was famine, the sufferings of her children and the constant fear of being killed. Her son was not returned to the family until 1946 with the help of UNRAA. A newspaper article attached to the claims tells the story of her son.

The children of family II were subjected to medical experiments at Auschwitz and performed forced labour at Ravensbrück, Mauthausen and Bergen-Belsen.

3300069

Claimant was born in Germany in 1926. Claimant is Romani. In 1943, Claimant and her family fled from Germany and sought asylum in several countries in Europe. They attempted to enter Switzerland between 1943 and 1944 near Schaffhausen.

they would not grant asylum to her unless she separated from her child who would be placed in an orphanage. Claimant's mother refused and traveled from town-to-town looking for work and shelter. They traveled to Winterthur, Zurich, Bern and Luzern. Because she could no longer stay in Switzerland without Swiss papers and had only German papers, Claimant's mother could not work. She left Switzerland with a group of refugees headed for Austria. They remained in flight traveling on foot until the end of the war.

3300080

same as 3300042 and 3340211

Claimants are three sisters who were born in 1929, 1932 and 1934, respectively. They are Romani. They lived in Karlsruhe, Germany prior to fleeing to Switzerland to escape Nazi persecution. Their mother was born in Switzerland and they had relatives there. Claimants' family attempted to enter Switzerland with documents in 1939 near Kreuzlingen. They were expelled from Switzerland and delivered to the German police who took them to Dorfgastein, Austria where they were interned until 1939. They were sent to a camp near Salzburg (Maxglan) from 1939 to 1942. From 1942 to 1945, they were at Lackenbach concentration camp.

3300082

Claimant is a Romani who was born in Germany in 1929. She performed slave labour with her family at Maxglan (near Salzburg, Austria) from 1939 to 1942. In 1942, her aunt decided to flee and take Claimant and her mother with her. They assumed the aunt's name (Schöpf) in order to facilitate their entry into Switzerland. They were insulted, beaten and expelled. They managed to escape to Italy where Claimant received medical treatment. She was diagnosed with bone tuberculosis which she believes resulted from the beatings and mistreatment. She resumed her maiden name (Black) and still suffers from pain, fear, depression, severe heart problems and a nerve disorder. She believes that these conditions would not have been so severe had she been allowed to enter Switzerland.

3300083

Claimant was born in Mazheninken, Gemany in 1923. He is Romani. Due to persecution by the National Socialist regime, his family applied for an entry visa to Switzerland. The application was denied. Four weeks after applying for an entry visa, the Gestapo received information concerning the denial of their application for a visa. Three months later, the family was arrested. His parents and siblings were taken to the ghetto in Bialestok and later transferred to Auschwitz where his parents died in the gas chambers. Claimant was transported to Mauthausen where he worked for Siemens.

3300101

Claimant was born in Germany in 1927. She remained in hiding in Europe from February 1930 to January 1942. In 1940, she was allowed to enter into Switzerland but was expelled after four weeks. She attempted to enter Switzerland from the French border three months later, with a circus, but was denied entry. They continued

to travel throughout Europe and made it as far as Turkey where they were also expelled. In January 1942, they were arrested in Skopje and taken to a concentration camp.

3300102 (Family II)

same as 3300064 (Family I) 3300067 (Family I)

3300128 (Family II) 3300129 (Family II) 3300131 (Family II)

These are the claims of two Romani families. In particular, the families of two brothers who suffered persecution during the Nazi Regime because they were Romani. Family I's claimants include the wife and son of one brother. Family II's claimants include four of the children of the other brother. With the passage of time, their memories have faded but they were all contacted by telephone and confirmed that they recalled that the two families always travelled together.

Family I's persecution began when the father was dismissed from military service because he was Romani in 1942. He, his wife (3300067), daughter and son (3300064) fled to Switzerland on their horse and wagon but were denied entry. They tried at two different border locations and were denied entry at each location. The children of Family II also recalled that both families tried to enter Switzerland by train, on at least one occasion, and also by stagecoach and were denied entry into Switzerland. They do not remember all of the border points where they attempted to enter Switzerland but recalled one, Argau. They were forced to return to Munich where they had to perform forced labour at Giesinger Hill. On 8 March 1943, Family I was arrested by the Gestapo and taken to the police station in Ehstrasse where they met the brother of the father of Family II who was there with his children. About two weeks later, they were all sent to Auschwitz in carriages that were meant for cattle. In Family I, the father and son were separated from the mother and daughter. According to the mother of Family I, she met her own mother and sister at Auschwitz, who was there with her five children. Her mother, sister and sister's children were all killed in the gas chamber. Her sister-in-law and her three children met with a similar fate.

The mother of Family I stated that totally exhausted women and children were forced to do heavy manual labour such as building streets, transporting slag and carrying stones. Their only pay was beatings and mistreatment. She stated that she was beaten to a half-dead condition because she stole a turnip once. She was sterilized in Ravensbrück and because of this has suffered the rest of her life. She was also vaccinated against typhus and got sick because of it. Later, when they were taken to Mauthausen, they had to travel there by foot. Those who could not make it were shot at once. The father of Family I was sent to Dirlewangen Battalion and promised that his family would be liberated if he went. They were liberated by British troops in Bergen-Belsen. The worst experience for the mother was famine, the sufferings of her children and the constant fear of being killed. Her son was not returned to the family until 1946 with the help of UNRAA. A newspaper article attached to the claims tells the story of her son.

The children of family II were subjected to medical experiments at Auschwitz and performed forced labour at Ravensbrück, Mauthausen and Bergen-Belsen.

They were denied entry into Switzerland. They lived on the run until the end of the war.

3300075

() Claimant, a Romani, was born in Raental, Germany in 1931. In 1939, Claimant's family was arrested and registered by local authorities as Romanies. During this "registration", blood samples were taken from them. They were issued special permits and told that they could not leave the country. In 1943, Claimant and his family were forcibly sterilized and many of their relatives were shipped to Auschwitz. Claimant's family fled to Switzerland and entered at Kreuzlingen. The Swiss border guards apprehended them and refused to let them enter Switzerland. They were turned over to German border police and later returned to their place of residence.

3300076

same as 3300063

() Claimant, a Romani, was born in Freiburg, Germany in 1935 and his sister was born in Buchheim in 1931. Their mother attempted to flee to Switzerland with them in early 1940. They had relatives who were citizens of Switzerland and hoped to be granted asylum. They travelled at night through fields and the forest until they reached the Swiss border. They were captured by Swiss border guards and turned over to the German police in Konstanz who took them back to their place of residence in Emmendingen. They were deported to Poland where they spent 5 years in different concentration camps because they were Romani.

3300103

Claimant a Romani was born in 1921 in Austro-Hungaria. In July 1944, he was deported to Austria to work for Henkel Company. Later, he was transferred to Hauders Company (Tot-Lager 3) at Auschwitz and worked there until he escaped to Switzerland and was admitted into St. Margareto. He was forced to work for his landlord, Willi Bauder for a month before being transferred to Camp Lager in Bern. In August 1945, he left Switzerland for Austria.

3300104

Claimant was born in Germany in 1934. Claimant is Romani. During the summer of 1942, Claimant's family's property was confiscated by the Nazis and they were warned that they would be deported to Auschwitz. The family immediately left and hitchhiked to Switzerland and attempted to enter from the German border. They were immediately expelled. The family fled to Yugoslavia.

3300105

Claimant, a Romani, was born in Germany in 1920. He resided in Berlin and worked as a musician. He played in a small band with his brother. In 1939, Claimant was forced to work in Leck-Holstein. In 1940, he was recruited into the army but dismissed in 1941 due to his race. As life became more and more difficult for Jews and Romanies, Claimant and his fiancée, who is now his wife, decided to escape to Switzerland. They attempted to enter Switzerland through Breganz in the Canton of St. Gallen and Konstanz in the Canton of Thurgau. They were not permitted to enter. They fled to Luxembourg where they were arrested by the Gestapo in October 1942. Claimant was deported back to Berlin and imprisoned at Alexanderplatz. From there, he was transferred to Sachsenhausen Concentration Camp. He was liberated by the Red Army in May 1945. His mother and three siblings were deported to Auschwitz-Birkenau in March 1943. His father and brother died there.

3300109

Claimant, a Romani, was born in Austria in 1934. In the summer of 1942, Claimant, her parents, grandmother and three siblings attempted to flee Austria and seek asylum in Switzerland. Claimant's family had a circus business. At the Austrian-Swiss border, they presented their passports and were allowed to enter with their entire circus, including animals. They were detained in Switzerland for a few days before being expelled to Germany. However, their circus was confiscated. They were arrested in Germany and sent to several concentration camps including Mauthausen and Auschwitz.

3300111

Claimant, a Romani, was born in the former German Democratic Republic in 1936. Claimant, her mother and three siblings fled from East Germany in 1940 and travelled by foot to the Swiss border to seek sought asylum in Switzerland. They tried to enter Switzerland from the German-Swiss border several times and were denied entry each time because they were Romanies. They had to work on farms in order to survive and

lived in barns and slept in stables in bitter cold weather. They managed to get to the home of their grandparents in Strasbourg in 1940 - 1941 but it was too late as their grandparents had been deported to Auschwitz.

3300115

Claimant, a Romani, was born in France in 1939. Claimant and her family fled to - Switzerland in order to escape Nazi persecution in France. They attempted to enter Switzerland near Jura and were expelled. They were interned at camps in France from April 1942 to February 1943.

3300128 (Family II)

same as 3300064 (Family I) 3300067 (Family I)

3300102 (Family II) 3300129 (Family II) 3300131 (Family II)

These are the claims of two Romani families. In particular, the families of two brothers who suffered persecution during the Nazi Regime because they were Romani. Family I's claimants include the wife and son of one brother. Family II's claimants include four of the children of the other brother. With the passage of time, their memories have faded but they were all contacted by telephone and confirmed that they recalled that the two families always travelled together.

Family I's persecution began when the father was dismissed from military service because he was Romani in 1942. He, his wife (3300067), daughter and son (3300064) fled to Switzerland on their horse and wagon but were denied entry. They tried at two different border locations and were denied entry at each location. The children of Family II also recalled that both families tried to enter Switzerland by train, on at least one occasion, and also by stagecoach and were denied entry into Switzerland. They do not remember all of the border points where they attempted to enter Switzerland but recalled one, Argau. They were forced to return to Munich where they had to perform forced labour at Giesinger Hill. On 8 March 1943, Family I was arrested by the Gestapo and taken to the police station in Ehstrasse where they met the brother of the father of Family II who was there with his children. About two weeks later, they were all sent to Auschwitz in carriages that were meant for cattle. In Family I, the father and son were separated from the mother and daughter. According to the mother of Family I, she met her own mother and sister at Auschwitz, who was there with her five children. Her mother, sister and sister's children were all killed in the gas chamber. Her sister-in-law and her three children met with a similar fate.

The mother of Family I stated that totally exhausted women and children were forced to do heavy manual labour such as building streets, transporting slag and carrying stones. Their only pay was beatings and mistreatment. She stated that she was beaten to a half-dead condition because she stole a turnip once. She was sterilized in Ravensbrück and because of this has suffered the rest of her life. She was also vaccinated against typhus and got sick because of it. Later, when they were taken to Mauthausen, they had to travel there by foot. Those who could not make it were shot at once. The father of Family I was sent to Dirlewangen Battalion and promised that his family would be liberated if he went. They were liberated by British troops in Bergen-Belsen. The worst experience for the mother was famine, the sufferings of her children and the constant fear of being killed. Her son was not returned to the family until 1946 with the help of UNRAA. A newspaper article attached to the claims tells the story of her son.

The children of family II were subjected to medical experiments at Auschwitz and performed forced labour at Ravensbrück, Mauthausen and Bergen-Belsen.

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3300102 (Family II) 3300128 (Family II) 3300131 (Family II)

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vaccinated against typhus and got sick because of it. Later, when they were taken to Mauthausen, they had to travel there by foot. Those who could not make it were shot at once. The father of Family I was sent to Dirlewangen Battalion and promised that his family would be liberated if he went. They were liberated by British troops in Bergen-Belsen. The worst experience for the mother was famine, the sufferings of her children and the constant fear of being killed. Her son was not returned to the family until 1946 with the help of UNRAA. A newspaper article attached to the claims tells the story of her son.

The children of family II were subjected to medical experiments at Auschwitz and performed forced labour at Ravensbrück, Mauthausen and Bergen-Belsen.

3300130

Claimant, a Romani, was born in Münster, Germany in 1937. Claimant and her family attempted to flee Nazi persecution by going to Switzerland in 1944. The family travelled by wagon and tried to enter from the German-Swiss border. They were refused entry because they were Romanies.

3300131 (Family II)

*same as 3300064 (Family I) 3300067 (Family I)
3300102 (Family II) 3300128 (Family II) 3300129 (Family II)*

These are the claims of two Romani families. In particular, the families of two brothers who suffered persecution during the Nazi Regime because they were Romani. Family I's claimants include the wife and son of one brother. Family II's claimants include four of the children of the other brother. With the passage of time, their memories have faded but they were all contacted by telephone and confirmed that they recalled that the two families always travelled together.

Family I's persecution began when the father was dismissed from military service because he was Romani in 1942. He, his wife (3300067), daughter and son (3300064) fled to Switzerland on their horse and wagon but were denied entry. They tried at two different border locations and were denied entry at each location. The children of Family II also recalled that both families tried to enter Switzerland by train, on at least one occasion, and also by stagecoach and were denied entry into Switzerland. They do not remember all of the border points where they attempted to enter Switzerland but recalled one, Argau. They were forced to return to Munich where they had to perform forced labour at Giesinger Hill. On 8 March 1943, Family I was arrested by the Gestapo and taken to the police station in Ehstrasse where they met the brother of the father of Family II who was there with his children. About two weeks later, they were all sent to Auschwitz in carriages that were meant for cattle. In Family I, the father and son were separated from the mother and daughter. According to the mother of Family I, she met her own mother and sister at Auschwitz, who was there with her five children. Her mother, sister and sister's children were all killed in the gas chamber. Her sister-in-law and her three children met with a similar fate.

The mother of Family I stated that totally exhausted women and children were forced to do heavy manual labour such as building streets, transporting slag and carrying stones. Their only pay was beatings and mistreatment. She stated that she was beaten

to a half-dead condition because she stole a turnip once. She was sterilized in Ravensbrück and because of this has suffered the rest of her life. She was also vaccinated against typhus and got sick because of it. Later, when they were taken to Mauthausen, they had to travel there by foot. Those who could not make it were shot at once. The father of Family I was sent to Dirlewangen Battalion and promised that his family would be liberated if he went. They were liberated by British troops in Bergen-Belsen. The worst experience for the mother was famine, the sufferings of her children and the constant fear of being killed. Her son was not returned to the family until 1946 with the help of UNRAA. A newspaper article attached to the claims tells the story of her son.

The children of family II were subjected to medical experiments at Auschwitz and performed forced labour at Ravensbrück, Mauthausen and Bergen-Belsen.

3300134

Claimant, a Romani, was born in Gronau, Germany in 1942. Her family attempted to enter Switzerland several times in 1943. Each time, they were refused entry. She learned about their attempts to enter Switzerland and the persecution her family by the Nazis from her deceased mother. She stated that the Nazis robbed her family of their belongings including, gold jewelry, two horses and a wagon with all of their belongings.

3300139

Claimant, a Romani, was born in Kirchberg Kreis Simmern, Germany in 1927. The persecution of Claimant and his family began in 1938 when they tried to cross the French border and were expelled. They were told that they could not leave Lebach/Saarland. In 1939, his family again tried to flee Germany. This time they made it to the Swiss border. They were captured by the Gestapo and sent to Auschwitz. Claimant was beaten and mistreated there and forced to take nerve medicine injections. From Auschwitz, he was transferred to Buchenwald. He and a friend escaped from Buchenwald. Claimant's father and two of his siblings returned from the concentration camp but his mother and six other siblings were killed there.

3300140

Claimant was born in Moselkern, Germany in 1928. During the autumn of either 1939 or 1940, Claimant entered Switzerland with a group of people who were strangers to her and has never again had any contact with these people. As she was a child, she does not remember the route that was taken. Her recollection is that German was spoken in the region. She was arrested by the Swiss police, harassed and beaten by them. Claimant was returned to Germany by train. She was taken to Auschwitz in 1942 and was there for approximately 1½ years where she worked carrying stones and helping to build streets. Six of her siblings were at Auschwitz. She was transferred to Nordhausen/Harz in 1944 and later to Belsen Bergen where she remained until liberation by America troops. While at Auschwitz, she was beaten with clubs and sticks because she did not want to leave her siblings. She still suffers from damage to her head and has scars on her hips and left leg today.

3300164

Claimant, a Romani, was born in 1939, the illegitimate child of a Roma mother and Jewish father. She lived near Hannover with her mother and grandparents. The SS attacked their home one morning at 4:00 a.m. in January 1945. Claimant and her mother hid in a goat shed. Her grandfather, aunt, uncle and other relatives were transported to a camp near Meme. Claimant and her mother left the house leaving behind her invalid grandmother. Claimant's father took them to Zurich, illegally, to stay with his friends. However, for some reason, they were forced to return to Hannover. Claimant was told that it was because her father got in trouble. They went to stay with other relatives and friends. They did not stay longer than 8 days at any location because everyone was afraid. For a time, they stayed at a shelter in the forest. She recalled that her mother did not have any shoes and had to tie some rugs under her feet in order to go to the village and get Claimant some food that she managed to obtain in exchange for valuables. Claimant and her mother were "on the run" for 15 months.

3300169

Claimant, a Romani, was born in Germany in 1921. During the time of the war, she was married and had two children. During the autumn and winter of 1942, she fled to Switzerland to escape the Nazi regime. She travelled from the Czech Republic through Freiburg, Germany and on to Basel, Switzerland. She was allowed to enter Switzerland and was interned at a camp on the border near Basel. She recalled the name of other prisoners, including a Jewish family, who were also at the camp. After a few weeks, she was expelled back to Germany. Her children died while the family was in flight and she never saw her husband again.

3300170

Claimant, a Romani, was born in Germany in 1938. In an attempt to escape deportation to a concentration camp, Claimant, his family and some other Romanies (including the family of his future wife) left Germany in 1940 to seek asylum in Switzerland. They were denied entry into Switzerland. They went to Italy next. In 1942, they went to Croatia. They lived in hiding until 1944 when they were caught and sent to Morbrg/Drau camp where they remained until the beginning of 1945.

3300182

Claimant was born in Germany, near Berlin in 1924. Claimant is Romani. In the fall of 1940, Claimant's family made plans to flee to Switzerland. They travelled to the home of relatives in Konstanz. Claimant's father decided that he would go alone and assess the possibilities for Romanies to enter Switzerland. Unfortunately, they had heard that many Romanies were arrested when crossing the border and were wary. After several days, Claimant's father returned and reported that there was not the slightest possibility for them to enter Switzerland. Based on what he could determine, Romanies were not admitted. The family returned to Koln where they were later arrested and placed in a concentration camp. Claimant was interned at Ravensbrück-Buchenwald from 1942 - 1943 and was transferred to Altenburg in 1944 where she remained until the end of the war.

3300201

same as 3300202

Claimants are brothers who were born in Germany in 1936 and 1939, respectively. They are Romani. Claimants' family fled to Switzerland to seek asylum from Nazi persecution in 1942. They travelled with a tractor and caravan and tried to enter Switzerland from Treveso, Italy. They were immediately expelled by the Swiss border guards. The family was not permitted to re-enter Italy. They were forced to

leave their tractor and flee on foot. They travelled at night to Austria and the Czech Republic. They lived in hiding and worked for local peasants for food.

3300202

same as 3300201

Claimants are brothers who were born in Germany in 1936 and 1939, respectively. They are Romani. Claimants' family fled to Switzerland to seek asylum from Nazi persecution in 1942. They travelled with a tractor and caravan and tried to enter Switzerland from Treveso, Italy. They were immediately expelled by the Swiss border guards. The family was not permitted to re-enter Italy. They were forced to leave their tractor and flee on foot. They travelled at night to Austria and the Czech Republic. They lived in hiding and worked for local peasants for food.

3340016

Claimant, a Romani, was born in Germany in 1937. Her family fled from Germany with two other families to seek asylum in Switzerland in 1941. They obtained visas to enter Switzerland in Berlin. They traveled by train, horse and foot until they reached the German-Swiss border where they attempted to enter Switzerland. They were denied entry. They were captured by German soldiers and sent to camps where they remained until the end of the war.

3340017

Claimant, a Romani, was born in Germany in 1920. According to his recollection, his family fled to Switzerland in March or April 1939. They attempted to cross the border near Bregenz. They were immediately expelled and first taken to Vienna. From Vienna, they were sent to Dachau, Buchenwald, Stutthof and Lauenburg. Claimant stated that he was severely beaten while at Buchenwald. He was imprisoned from May 1939 to May 1945, a total of 6 years.

3340024

Claimant, a Romani, was born in Germany in 1924. Claimant and her family consisting of 20 individuals, fled from Nazi persecution in Germany to Prague, Czechoslovakia. They met with the same persecution and fled to France. In April of 1940, Claimant's father went to Basel to survey the situation at the border. Upon his return, he told the family that the border guards were on high alert and that it would not be possible to enter Switzerland. The family decided to separate because it was difficult finding food for so many people. Claimant went with her father and son to Strasbourg where they were arrested by the Nazis. Claimant was deported to several camps, including Ravenbrück and Auschwitz, where her son was arrested.

3340033

Claimant, a Romani, was born in 1924 in Lügde, Germany. Claimant sought asylum in Switzerland during the winter of 1942 - 1943. Claimant attempted to enter Switzerland illegally through Weil. Claimant was denied entry, caught by the Nazis and deported to a concentration camp to perform slave labour. She was sent to

Auschwitz and from there Ravensbrück and Bergen-Belsen. Claimant remained in camps until the end of the war.

3340057

Claimant, a Romani, was born in Germany in 1934. Claimant and her family were arrested and sent to labour camps. Claimant was sent to Königsberg camp where she was forced to perform labour and experienced harsh living conditions. After the camp was liberated, Claimant went to Italy and France. She also tried to enter Switzerland legally in 1945 although she did not have any documents. She was denied entry into Switzerland. Subsequently, she made several other attempts to enter Switzerland but she was caught and expelled.

3340142

Claimant, a Romani, was born in Offenbach, Germany in 1927. Because of Nazi persecution, Claimant and his family fled to Czechoslovakia. Because of persecution experienced there, they fled to Switzerland through Germany in 1942. They were assisted in their illegal attempt to enter Switzerland. Despite the efforts of their "guide," they were caught at Swiss border and immediately expelled. The Nazis arrested them and deported them to concentration camps where they remained until the end of the war.

3340154

Claimant, a Romani, was born in 1934 in Germany. Claimant and her family lived a life on the run near the borderline of Germany and Switzerland. Between 1939 - 1940, they attempted to enter Switzerland several times near Basel and Winterthur. They were always denied entry. Claimants' grandparents were eventually arrested in Strasbourg and sent to a camp. Claimant's mother was able to escape with her children. Claimant, her mother and siblings lived in hiding and worked for farmers for food until the end of the war.

3340166

Claimant, a Romani, was born in Sanok, Poland in 1937. He and his family were deported from Poland and put on a cattle car headed to Germany. The train was stopped outside of Prague and the family fled. They were captured and put on another train that stopped at Budapest where they were held at the train station until the end of the war. In the spring of 1945, Claimant and his family fled to Switzerland and travelled through Germany to Lichtenstein and attempted to enter Switzerland near Lindau and Bregen. They were expelled and returned to Germany.

3340181

Claimant is a Romani who was born in Germany in 1925. At the time of the war, she lived with her family in Berlin. During the 1942 Christmas holidays, they learned from a neighbor who had returned home for the holidays from the frontline that Romanies and Jews were being killed in a camp. The neighbor advised them to leave the country as soon as possible because their lives were in danger. Her parents did

not believe him initially. But as more and more Jews and Roma were deported and their circle of friends became smaller, they decided to flee to Switzerland. In mid-February 1943, the family left with a German man who had a small truck who they paid to take them across the border illegally. The trip took several days because they hid during the day and travelled at night. When they reached Singen, her father checked the border crossing and learned that illegal immigrants had been killed there. The next day, they tried to cross the border at Schaffhausen but were denied entry because the border guards told them that since they were non-Jewish and citizens of Germany, they had nothing to fear. After their return to Berlin, the family was deported to Auschwitz. Claimant was sent to a labor transport while her mother and siblings remained at Auschwitz. Her father was shot while being transported and her mother and siblings were killed in the gas chambers.

3340211

same as 3300042 and 3300080

Claimants are three sisters who were born in 1929, 1932 and 1934, respectively. They are Romani. They lived in Karlsruhe, Germany prior to fleeing to Switzerland to escape Nazi persecution. Their mother was born in Switzerland and they had relatives there. Claimants' family attempted to enter Switzerland with documents in 1939 near Kreuzlingen. They were expelled from Switzerland and delivered to the German police who took them to Dorfgastein, Austria where they were interned until 1939. They were sent to a camp near Salzburg (Maxglan) from 1939 to 1942. From 1942 to 1945, they were at Lackenbach concentration camp.

3340280

Claimant, a Romani, was born in Loppenburg, Germany in 1939. Claimant's family fled from Nazi persecution in Germany and travelled to Switzerland by foot for the most part, and hitch-hiked when possible. In either late 1943 or early 1944, they attempted to enter Switzerland near Schaffhausen. They were refused entry.

HOLOCAUST VICTIM ASSETS PROGRAMME (SWISS BANKS)
GROUP VI SUBMISSION
REFUGEE CLASS
CASE SUMMARIES

3300007
(related to Claim No. 3300068)

Claimant was born in 1933 in Germany. She is Romani. When Claimant was a child, she and her family attempted to enter Switzerland. However, they were refused entry and expelled at the border. Between February 1943 and the end of the war, Claimant was detained at Marzahn camp.

3300009

Claimant was born in 1941 in Czechoslovakia. She is Romani. She and her parents sought asylum in Switzerland. They attempted to enter Switzerland at night. However, their entry was denied. After the expulsion, they lived on the run. During the war, they were arrested by the Nazis and deported to labour camps. In her claim form and subsequent correspondence with IOM, Claimant stated that, as she heard this story from her late parents, she cannot deliver more details.

3300014
(related to Claim No. 3300029)

Claimant was born in 1939 in Czechoslovakia. She is Romani. After the Nazis burnt down her family's house, Claimant, her parents and siblings sought asylum in Switzerland. They traveled without documents and attempted to enter Switzerland along the German-Swiss borderline. However, their entry was denied. Until the end of the war, they had to live in hiding.

3300029
(related to Claim No. 3300014)

Claimant was born in 1942 in Czechoslovakia. He is Romani. After the Nazis burnt down his family's house, Claimant, his parents and siblings sought asylum in Switzerland. They traveled without documents and attempted to enter Switzerland along the German-Swiss borderline. However, their entry was denied. Until the end of the war, they had to live in hiding.

3300037

Claimant was born in 1935 in Poland. He is Romani. In March 1940, Claimant and his mother were sent to Majdanek concentration camp. In May 1940, they were transferred to Wesel camp in Germany. Upon arrival at Wesel, they escaped and attempted to seek asylum in Switzerland. They were informed that the only way to enter Switzerland was legally by train from Wesel to Basel. They managed to buy train tickets, illegally, and traveled through Koln, Bonn and Freiburg until they

3300057

Claimant was born in 1935 in Germany. She is Romani. During the Nazi period Claimant and her family constantly lived on the run and suffered from cold and malnutrition. She stated that at that time, seeking asylum in Switzerland was their only hope. They attempted to enter Switzerland near Kreuzlingen and Schaffhausen in the autumn. However, their entry was denied. They remained in hiding until the end of the war. As Claimant was a child at that time, she cannot deliver more details.

3300059

Claimant was born in 1940 in France. She is Romani. Because of Nazi persecution, Claimant and her family attempted to enter Switzerland. However, they were immediately expelled at the border. In her claim form and subsequent correspondence, Claimant stated that, as she was very young at that time, she cannot deliver more details.

3300060

Claimant was born in 1926 in Germany. She is Romani. When Claimant was a child, she and her parents attempted to flee from Germany and sought asylum in Switzerland. However, they were denied entry. Later, they were deported to the Warsaw Ghetto. Claimant's son stated that, due to Claimant's serious illness Claimant could not deliver more details.

3300061

Claimant was born in 1922 in Germany. She is Romani. In the late summer or autumn of 1942/1943, Claimant attempted to enter Switzerland, illegally, since her identity card was confiscated. She traveled by bike and foot because she believed that people would not suspect that she would attempt to flee from Germany by bike. She traveled from Bochum, Germany along the forests until she arrived at the German-Swiss borderline. She managed to sneak into Switzerland but later was caught by the border guards who beat her and expelled her back to Germany.

3300065

Claimant was born in 1944 in Germany. She is Romani. Claimant states that, around Christmas 1943, her grandmother and her mother received notification that they would be taken to Auschwitz in the middle of January 1944. Thus, they decided to flee to Switzerland. At that time, Claimant's mother was seven months pregnant with Claimant in her womb. Claimant was born prematurely during their flight to Switzerland, eight months into the pregnancy. The family asked for asylum at the Swiss border, but was refused entry. They managed to escape to Alsace, where they remained in hiding until the end of the war.

3300068

(related to Claim No. 3300007)

Claimant was born in 1933 in Germany. He is Romani. When Claimant was a child, his and his family attempted to enter Switzerland several times. However, they were

always denied entry. Between 1943 and the end of the war, Claimant was detained at Lackenbach camp. In his claim form and subsequent correspondence, Claimant stated that, as he heard this story from his late mother, he cannot deliver more details.

3300070

Claimant was born in 1920 in Heilbronn, Germany. Her father was Jewish, however, as her mother was Romani, Claimant identifies herself as Romani. In 1933, she and her family entered Switzerland via Weil am Rhein. In 1934, they were expelled to France and later that year, were expelled from France to Binningen, Switzerland. Between 1934 and 1937, she and her family were transferred, by the respective cantonal police, to the following cities: Basel, Binningen, Liestal, Lugano, Locarno and other cities. By relocating Claimant's family the Swiss authorities tried to encourage Claimant's family to return to Germany. Around 1937, they were interned at the "White House" in Basel. In 1937, they were expelled from Switzerland by the Swiss police to Schaan, Liechtenstein. In 1940, Claimant came back to Switzerland to a reunion of her father's family. However, she did not receive a work permit and had to leave Switzerland.

3300078

Claimant was born in 1942 in Germany. She is Romani. Claimant stated that she and her parents fled to France soon after her birth, and lived in hiding until the end of the war. Claimant's parents worked for peasants for very little food. They lived on the run and never stayed too long in one place. They attempted to enter Switzerland. However, they were refused entry. In her correspondence with IOM, Claimant stated that, as she heard this story from her late father, she cannot deliver more details.

3300084

Claimant was born in 1935 in Germany. She is Romani. Because of Nazi persecution Claimant and her family lived on the run. Around 1944/1945, Claimant's family entered Switzerland, illegally, from the canton of Zurich. They stayed in Switzerland for approximately seven to eight months. During their stay in Switzerland, they lived on the run and hid near the city of Zurich. Eventually, they were caught and expelled by the Swiss authorities to France. There, Claimant's father was shot to death. Claimant, her mother and siblings were detained at a camp near Angouleme.

3300085

Claimant was born in 1937 in Kölleda, Germany. He is Romani. Claimant stated that after the Nazis confiscated his family's belongings and destroyed their circus, he and his family sought asylum in Switzerland. However, they were denied entry. In his correspondence with IOM, Claimant stated that, as he heard this story from his late parents, he cannot deliver more details.

3300096

Claimant was born in December 1943 in Czechoslovakia. She is Romani. From 1943, Claimant's family constantly lived on the run. According to stories she heard from her aunt, her family attempted to seek asylum in Switzerland from the German-Swiss border. However, their entry was denied. In her claim form, subsequent correspondence and telephone interview Claimant stated that, as she heard this story from late family members, she cannot deliver more details.

3300097

Claimant was born in 1933 in Germany. He is Romani. In 1939, because of Nazi persecution, Claimant's family went underground. Later that year, they attempted to enter Switzerland, illegally. Claimant cannot remember the point of entry. However, he stated that their entry was denied by the Swiss border guards. Subsequently, they went to Czechoslovakia where they lived on the run in inhumane conditions until the end of the war.

3300098

Claimant was born in 1935 in Germany. She is Romani. In 1939, because of Nazi persecution, Claimant's family went underground. Later that year, they attempted to enter Switzerland, illegally. Claimant cannot remember the point of entry. However,

she stated that their entry was denied by the Swiss border guards. Subsequently, they went via Austria to the Balkans where they lived on the run in inhumane conditions until the end of the war.

3300110

Claimant was born in 1925 in Germany. She is Romani. In 1938 or 1939, Claimant attempted to enter Switzerland to flee from Nazi persecution. However, her entry was denied. Consequently, in May 1940, Claimant was arrested and sent to several ghettos and concentration camps. During her detention, Claimant was forced to perform labour. She was liberated in 1945.

3300138

Claimant was born in 1927 in Germany. She is Romani. During the war, Claimant's family sought asylum in Switzerland. They traveled by car with some other friends from Frankfurt to Basel and attempted to enter Switzerland, legally. However, their entry was denied. Until the end of the war, Claimant's family lived in hiding.

3300167

Claimant was born in 1925 in Germany. He is Romani. During the summer of 1938 or 1939, Claimant's family attempted to enter Switzerland, legally, with their documents. However, their entry was denied because they were Romanies. Later, Claimant was forced to work for the Department of Defence of the SS and he was constantly harassed by the police. Claimant did not deliver more information.

3300168

Claimant was born in 1942 in France. He is Romani. In the winter of 1942-1943 Claimant and his mother attempted to enter Switzerland, illegally. However, they were denied entry. Later, they hid in France. In his claim form, subsequent correspondence and telephone interview, Claimant stated that, as he heard this story from his late parents, he cannot deliver more details.

3300221

Claimant was born in 1937 in Czechoslovakia. He is Romani. During the war, the Germans burnt down Claimant's family's house and took their horses. The German soldiers told them that they would beat them to death. Subsequently, Claimant's family attempted to seek asylum in Switzerland. However, their entry was denied. Later, they went back to Czechoslovakia and hid in the mountains until the end of the war.

3340003

Claimant was born in 1937 in Germany. He is Romani. After the war began, Claimant's family went underground to avoid Nazi persecution and lived on the run. As Claimant's father was born in Altstätten, Switzerland and as his parents often traveled to Switzerland before the war, Claimant's family sought asylum in Switzerland on several occasions, illegally. However, they were always denied entry. Later, they hid in the forest near the border. Claimant believes that it was the French-Swiss border as between 1940 and 1941 Claimant's family was detained at camps in France. Subsequently they escaped from the camp and lived on the run until the end of the war.

3340015

Claimant was born in 1929 in Germany. She is Romani. In 1940, Claimant's family was deported to Plaschof, Poland where they were detained and forced to perform labour for several German companies. Before the end of the war, they fled from the camp and sought asylum in Switzerland. They traveled from Poland via Czechoslovakia and Austria until they arrived at Switzerland. In April 1945, they entered Switzerland and were admitted into the country. They were held in a camp. When the war ended, Claimant's family returned to Germany.

3340020

Claimant was born in May 1943 in Lauenburg, Germany. He is Romani. At the end of 1943, Claimant and his mother traveled from Lauenburg via Niedersachsen and attempted to seek asylum in Switzerland from Baden-Wurttemberg. They tried to enter Switzerland illegally because they did not have documents. However, they were immediately expelled at the border. Until the end of the war, Claimant and his mother lived on the run.

3340031

Claimant was born in 1926 in Germany. He is Romani. In 1942, Claimant and his father attempted to seek asylum in Switzerland. In their attempt to enter Switzerland they were assisted by some acquaintances of his father. They traveled with their car and tried to cross the Swiss border either near Basel or Bern, presenting his father's showman's certificate. They were detained for a couple of days in Switzerland where all their valuables were confiscated. Subsequently, they were expelled to Germany where they were arrested. Claimant was sent to perform forced labour at the Alois Heiss factory. In 1943, Claimant and his family were deported to Auschwitz, Buchenwald and Bergen Belzen concentration camps where he remained until the end of the war.

3340052

Claimant was born in 1929 in Germany. She is Romani. In April 1940, Claimant and her family fled from Germany and attempted to seek asylum in Switzerland where her parents were born. Because they were Romanies they knew that they could not be admitted into the country legally, thus, they attempted to enter Switzerland illegally. They were arrested at the border and were detained there by a Swiss officer, who accepted a bribe from her father. Nevertheless, the officer expelled them from Switzerland to France. There, they were arrested and detained at Saint Moritz, Angouleme and Chargeaux camps. They were liberated in 1944.

3340101

Claimant was born in 1925 in Hungary. She is Romani. Claimant stated that in April 1944, the gendarmes of Tevel came to the Romani settlement of Lengyel and sent all Romanies to the ghetto of Bonyhad where they performed forced labour. In 1944, Claimant was released. In November 1944, she attempted to seek asylum in Switzerland. She traveled from Croatia via Austria, "Villach" and crossed the Swiss border, illegally, near Lugano. However, she was expelled from Switzerland. Around April 1945, Claimant returned to Hungary.

3340159

Claimant was born in 1929 in Poland. She is Romani. Between 1940 and 1941, Claimant was detained at Belzyc camp where the Nazis murdered her first child soon after she gave birth. In 1942, she was transferred to the Warsaw Ghetto where she remained until 1943. Between 1943 and 1945, Claimant, her husband and parents constantly lived on the run. In 1944, Claimant's family traveled from Poland to Switzerland in a journey that took several months and were assisted by an

underground organization whose members showed them the route. They entered the country illegally from the German-speaking part of Switzerland and arrived at a small city where they were arrested. Claimant had a bag with jewelry and because she did not want to give it to the Swiss soldiers, she was brutally beaten. Then, they confiscated the jewelry and expelled Claimant's family. Claimant cannot specify names of places because she is illiterate.

3340164

Claimant was born in 1934 in Germany. He is Romani. Because of Nazi persecution, Claimant's family fled from Germany and sought asylum in several countries. Between 1939 and 1945 they lived on the run and were in Austria, Russia, Romania, Hungary and the Balkans. Claimant stated that often they did not know in which country they were. Claimant believes that it is highly conceivable that when they fled from Germany to Austria they attempted to enter Switzerland. However, since a long period of time has passed since the war, he cannot provide accurate information.

3340179

Claimant was born in 1910 in Germany. He is Romani. In 1936 or 1937, Claimant sought asylum in Switzerland. He traveled through Germany and attempted to enter Switzerland near Basel, legally, with a German ID that indicated that he was Romani. However, his entry was denied. Later, Claimant was arrested and detained at Belsiz camp where he was forced to perform labour.

3340218

(related to Claim No. 3340219)

Claimant was born in 1942 in France. He is Romani. In 1943, following the Nazi persecution of the Romanies in France, Claimant's family attempted to seek asylum in Switzerland. They entered Switzerland, illegally, near Basel and managed to make their way into the country. However, a couple of weeks later, they were arrested by the Swiss police. They were taken to the German speaking part of Switzerland from where they were expelled to Germany. Later, Claimant's family had to live in hiding until the end of the war.

3340219

(related to Claim No. 3340218)

Claimant was born in 1938 in France. She is Romani. Following the Nazi persecution of Romanies in France, Claimant's family attempted to seek asylum in Switzerland in 1943. They entered Switzerland, illegally, near Basel. However, a couple of weeks later, they were arrested by the Swiss police. They were taken to the German speaking part of Switzerland and were expelled from Switzerland to Germany. Later, Claimant's family had to live in hiding until the end of the war.

3340221

Claimant was born in 1942 in Germany. He is Romani. At the end of 1944, Claimant and his family attempted to seek asylum in Switzerland. They traveled with horses and a carriage from Münster via Osnabrück, Hannover, Karlsruhe and Freiburg until they arrived at Bad Säckingen where they tried to enter Switzerland. However, their

entry was denied. After the expulsion, they went back to Hannover and Osnabrück where they lived in a barracks settlement. During that time, Claimant's father was forced to operate an anti-aircraft gun.

3340223

Claimant was born in 1931 in Germany. He is Romani. In May 1943, his mother and siblings were deported to Auschwitz concentration camp where they were murdered. Claimant managed to escape and joined his father in Landshut. Until the end of the war, Claimant and his father lived on the run. Claimant stated that they hid in Austria and Czechoslovakia. He also asserted that he believed that they attempted to seek asylum in Switzerland, however, as he was unsure about it, he did not want to state so in his personal statement because he did not want to mislead IOM.

3340225

Claimant was born in 1927 in Hungary. He is Romani. In the beginning of 1945, Claimant attempted to enter Switzerland, illegally, from Germany. However, the border guard pointed a gun at Claimant and denied his entry into Switzerland. Claimant was detained at Dachau concentration camp between 28 March and 29 April 1945. There, he was forced to perform agricultural labour, dig tank traps, put decomposed corpses into bags and carry them to the cemetery.

3340232

Claimant was born in 1930 in Czechoslovakia. She is Romani. During the war, Claimant's family escaped to the forests and the mountains where they lived in hiding. Later, they were arrested and detained at Komarno camp in Hungary. Claimant stated that during the war she and her family attempted to enter Switzerland. However, their entry was denied. In her claim form and subsequent correspondence, Claimant stated that she cannot deliver more details.

3340264

Claimant was born in 1913 in Germany. She is Romani. Between 1939 and 1945, Claimant, her husband and parents lived constantly on the run. She stated that during

that period they sought asylum in Switzerland on several occasions. They traveled from Strasbourg and attempted to enter Switzerland, legally and illegally, from the region of Alsace. However, they were always arrested at the border and their entry was denied. Claimant stated that during the war, they hid in Germany, the Balkans, Czechoslovakia and Hungary.

3340300

Claimant was born in 1923 in Germany. She is Romani. Between 1941 and 1943 she was forced to work for a German company that produced boots. In her correspondence with IOM, Claimant's daughter stated that her mother attempted to seek asylum in Switzerland during the war. However, her entry was denied. As Claimant is very sick, she cannot deliver more details.

3340301

Claimant was born in 1937 in Hungary. She is Romani. In May 1944, Claimant's family traveled from Maribor, Slovenia via Graz and Innsbruck, Austria to Altstätten and Heerbrugg in Switzerland. They had no documents because they were afraid that someone would discover their ethnic origin. They tried to enter Switzerland, illegally, near Heerbrugg. However, they were caught and brutally beaten before they were expelled. From October 1944 until the end of the war, they were detained at Komarom camp.

3340305

Claimant was born in 1930 in Germany. He is Romani. Following the deportation of Romanies to Auschwitz in 1943, Claimant and his family escaped to the forests and the mountains. Later, they attempted to seek asylum in Switzerland. Based on the information Claimant's parents learned near the border, they decided that the family would try to cross the border illegally. However, when they arrived at the border they were afraid of being arrested and went back. Later, they hid in a deserted caravan car between Frankenberg and Korbach. There, the head of a nearby village discovered them and harassed them. It was only when they worked for local peasants for very little food that the head of the village left them in peace.

3340322

Claimant was born in 1931 in Austria. She is Romani. Around 1939, Claimant and her family attempted to seek asylum in Switzerland. However, they were denied entry. In 1941, Claimant and her family were sent to Lackenbach camp where Claimant was forced to work. In 1943, Claimant was sent to Grumbach to work in a coal distillery. Claimant did not deliver more details.

3340348

Claimant was born in 1935 in Germany. She is Romani. In 1942, Claimant's family fled from Berlin and sought asylum in Switzerland. They attempted to cross the border illegally. However, they were caught, expelled and sent back to Germany. Later, they were arrested by the German police and sent to Berlin where their mobility was limited. In 1943, they were deported to Auschwitz concentration camp where

Claimant and her mother were subjected to medical experiments. Later, they were transferred to Bergen Belzen concentration camp where they remained until 1945.

3340349

Claimant was born in 1921 in Germany. She is Romani. In the autumn of 1938, Claimant's family sought asylum in Switzerland. They traveled from Baden through the city of Donaueschingen, their father's hometown, to Schaffhausen, Switzerland. They attempted to enter Switzerland, legally, with ID cards. However, their entry was denied. Later, in the spring and summer of 1939, Claimant's family attempted five times to enter at the border, illegally. However, they were always caught and immediately expelled. On their last attempt to enter Switzerland, the Swiss border guards handed them over to German soldiers who sent them back to Baden. In 1943, Claimant's family was deported to Auschwitz concentration camp where Claimant's child died. Later, Claimant was transferred to Ravensbrück, Buchenwald and Schlieben concentration camps where she remained until the end of the war.

3340351 (Family I)

(related to Claim Nos. 3300064 (Family I) 3300067(Family I) 3300102 (Family II)
3300128 (Family II) 3300129 (Family II) 3300131 (Family II)
all previously submitted with IOM Group V Report)

These are the claims of two Romani families. In particular, the families of two brothers who suffered persecution during the Nazi Regime because they were Romani. Family I's claimants include the wife and son of one brother. Family II's claimants include four of the children of the other brother. With the passage of time, their memories have faded but they were all contacted by telephone and confirmed that they recalled that the two families always travelled together.

Family I's persecution began when the father was dismissed from military service because he was Romani in 1942. He, his wife (3300067), daughter and son (3300064) fled to Switzerland on their horse and wagon but were denied entry. They tried at two different border locations and were denied entry at each location. The children of Family II also recalled that both families tried to enter Switzerland by train, on at least one occasion, and also by stagecoach and were denied entry into Switzerland. They do not remember all of the border points where they attempted to enter Switzerland but recalled one, Argau. They were forced to return to Munich where they had to perform forced labour at Giesinger Hill. On 8 March 1943, Family I was arrested by the Gestapo and taken to the police station in Ehstrasse where they met the brother of the father of Family II who was there with his children. About two weeks later, they were all sent to Auschwitz in carriages that were meant for cattle. In Family I, the father and son were separated from the mother and daughter. According to the mother of Family I, she met her own mother and sister at Auschwitz, who was there with her five children. Her mother, sister and sister's children were all killed in the gas chamber. Her sister-in-law and her three children met with a similar fate.

The mother of Family I stated that totally exhausted women and children were forced to do heavy manual labour such as building streets, transporting slag and carrying stones. Their only pay was beatings and mistreatment. She stated that she was beaten to a half-dead condition because she stole a turnip once. She was sterilized in Ravensbrück and because of this has suffered the rest of her life. She was also

vaccinated against typhus and got sick because of it. Later, when they were taken to Mauthausen, they had to travel there by foot. Those who could not make it were shot at once. The father of Family I was sent to Dirlewangen Battalion and promised that his family would be liberated if he went. They were liberated by British troops in Bergen-Belsen. The worst experience for the mother was famine, the sufferings of her children and the constant fear of being killed. Her son was not returned to the family until 1946 with the help of UNRAA. A newspaper article attached to the claims tells the story of her son.

The children of family II were subjected to medical experiments at Auschwitz and performed forced labour at Ravensbrück, Mauthausen and Bergen-Belsen.

3340357

Claimant was born in 1939 in France. He is Romani. In the summer of 1941 or 1942, Claimant and his family sought asylum in Switzerland. Traveling with their "carnet anthromitique" [sic], they made several attempts to enter Switzerland near Almase [sic], Lozane [sic] and Geneva. However, each time they reached the Swiss border, they were informed that their entry must be denied as the Swiss law forbade the entry of nomads into the country. Claimant stated that the expulsion at the Swiss border caused their situation to deteriorate. During the war, Claimant and his family were detained at Poitiers, Angouleme and Montebelet camps.

3340381

Claimant was born in 1927 in Yugoslavia. He is Romani. Between February 1942 and December 1943, Claimant was forced to perform labour in Valjevo municipality, which was under German control. Later, Claimant escaped and traveled with other Romanies to Switzerland where they sought asylum. They attempted to enter Switzerland in the winter of 1943-1944 from the Italian-Swiss borderline. However, they were denied entry. Until the end of the war, Claimant lived in hiding.

3340383

Claimant was born in 1919 in Yugoslavia. He is Romani. In April 1941, Claimant was deported to Germany where he performed forced labour at Stalag 5A and Stalag 5B camps. During his detention, he was forced to dig trenches and perform construction labour. On 6 April 1945, Claimant and some other prisoners were admitted into Switzerland with the assistance of the International Red Cross. They entered the country from the German speaking part of Switzerland and were sent to a quarantine camp in Bern. Later, they were transferred to Vujsan camp where they were forced to work. On 28 August 1945, Claimant left Switzerland and returned to Yugoslavia.

HOLOCAUST VICTIM ASSETS PROGRAMME (SWISS BANKS)
GROUP VIII SUBMISSION
REFUGEE CLASS
CASE SUMMARIES

3300118

Claimant was born in 1943 in USSR. She is Romani. During the war, Claimant and her mother fled from Nazi persecution and lived in hiding. After Claimant's mother was shot by the Nazis, a Romani, who worked with metal, took Claimant and her mother under his custody. Later, they entered Switzerland, illegally, in the car of this man. They hid from the Swiss authorities and tried to work in collecting metal scraps. However, they were caught and expelled from Switzerland. Until the end of the war they lived in hiding. Claimant stated that as she is illiterate and since she was a young girl at the time, she cannot deliver detailed information.

3300231

(related to Claim No. 3300232)

Claimant was born in 1932 in Germany. She is Romani. In 1940, Claimant's parents were forced to perform agricultural labour in Tirol, Austria. In 1941, Claimant's family escaped from Tirol and went to Scheunen where they retrieved some cars that they had left there. From there, they traveled to Italy by car. They planned to seek asylum in Switzerland. However, Claimant's mother wanted to get her older children, who lived in Germany, and to take them with her to Switzerland. Thus, they traveled from Italy to Bayern, Germany. There, they found that Claimant's older siblings had already been deported to concentration camps. Later, Claimant's family attempted to enter Switzerland. They traveled by car with other Romanies. However, they were denied entry because of their ethnic origin. They returned to Coburg, Germany. Soon after, Claimant's mother was deported to various concentration camps. She died of typhus in Bergen Belzen before the end of the war. Claimant and her brother were saved by an elderly lady who hid them in a damp cellar in Coburg.

3300232

(related to Claim No. 3300231)

Claimant was born in 1940 in Austria. He is Romani. In 1940, Claimant's parents were forced to perform agricultural labour in Tirol, Austria. In 1941, Claimant's family escaped from Tirol and went to Scheunen where they retrieved some cars that they had left there. From there, they traveled to Italy by car. They planned to seek asylum in Switzerland. However, Claimant's mother wanted to get her older children, who lived in Germany, and to take them with her to Switzerland. Thus, they traveled from Italy to Bayern, Germany. There, they found that Claimant's older siblings had already been deported to concentration camps. Later, Claimant's family attempted to enter Switzerland. They traveled by car with other Romanies. However, they were denied entry because of their ethnic origin. They returned to Coburg, Germany. Soon after, Claimant's mother was deported to various concentration camps. She died of

typhus in Bergen Belzen before the end of the war. Claimant and his sister were saved by an elderly lady who hid them in a damp cellar in Coburg.

3300240

Claimant was born in 1939 in France. He is Romani. Around April-May 1940, Claimant and his family fled from Nazi persecution and sought asylum in Switzerland. They traveled by horse and carriage and attempted to cross the Swiss border near Annemasse. However, they were refused entry. Later, they attempted to enter Spain near Perpignan, but were denied entry. In 1941, they returned to Paris and found that their property was confiscated. Later, they were arrested and sent to a Nazi camp where they remained until the end of the war.

3340183

Claimant was born in 1929 in Yugoslavia. She is Romani. In 1943, Claimant was sent to Jasenovac camp. In 1945, she escaped from the camp and sought asylum in Switzerland, illegally, through the Austrian-Swiss borderline. After crossing the border she was caught by the Swiss authorities and was admitted into the country. Later, she was forced to work for a factory. Claimant cannot remember the name of the town but stated that she escaped from there and went to Italy and from there to Zagreb, Yugoslavia.

3340214

Claimant was born in 1935 in Yugoslavia. He is Romani. In 1941, Claimant and his father were arrested. On 30 September 1943, they fled from Nazi persecution and entered Switzerland, illegally, near Lake Como. Later, they were sent to a small village called Tretoram (sig.) near the city of Yverdon. There they were detained and mistreated. Claimant's father was forced to perform different types of labour. In 1944, Claimant and his father were expelled from Switzerland. Later, they were arrested and detained in a Nazi camp. In 1945, they returned to Yugoslavia.

3340227

Claimant was born in 1935 in Czechoslovakia. She is Romani. During the war, Claimant was persecuted on racial grounds. Claimant and her family were taken to a forest where, under threat of beating and death, they were forced to dig pits in the ground. Claimant's family managed to escape to Switzerland. However, they were not admitted into the country. They were held in a forest for approximately 2 weeks and then they were liberated by the Russians.

3340290

Claimant was born in 1938 in Hungary. She is Romani. Between April and November 1944, Claimant and her family were detained at Komarom concentration camp. After they were liberated, they sought asylum in Switzerland. They traveled via Austria, and attempted to enter Switzerland, illegally. However, they were expelled at the border. The border guards, who expelled them, told them to seek asylum in another

country. Claimant stated that, as she heard this story from her late mother, she cannot deliver more details.

3340365

Claimant was born in 1941 in Hungary. She is Romani. In March 1944, Claimant and her family sought asylum in Switzerland. They traveled from Hungary via Austria and attempted to enter Switzerland illegally. However, they were caught at the border, mistreated and immediately expelled. Later, they returned to Hungary. In November 1944, they were sent to Komarom concentration camp. They were liberated in February 1945.

3340397

Claimant was born in 1933 in Hungary. She is Romani. In 1944, Claimant's family fled from Hungary and attempted to seek asylum in Switzerland. They tried to enter Switzerland, illegally, since they had no documents. However, their entry was denied. Later, they returned to Hungary. In November 1944, Claimant and her family were arrested by the Nazi Regime and sent to Komarom concentration camp. In February 1945, they were liberated.

3340423

Claimant was born in 1937 in Hungary. She is Romani. In November 1944, Claimant's family was arrested and deported to a concentration camp in Poland where they were detained until April 1945. Later, Claimant's family sought asylum in Switzerland. They traveled from Vienna and entered Switzerland, illegally, near St. Gallen. After they managed to make their way into the country, they were caught and expelled.

3340451

Claimant was born in 1940 in Germany. He is Romani. After his birth, Claimant and his parents fled from Nazi persecution of Romanies in Germany. As his parents were born in Switzerland, they attempted to seek asylum there. However, their entry was denied. Soon after, they escaped to France where they were arrested by the Nazi Regime. Between 1940 and 1944, they were detained at Saint Maurice, Angouleme and Chargeaux camps. During their detention, they suffered from harsh living conditions and were subjected to medical experiments.

3340454

Claimant was born in 1934 in Belgium. He is Romani. In 1941, Claimant's father contacted an employee of the Swiss Embassy in Brussels for the purpose of seeking asylum in Switzerland. After the employee received money and gold from Claimant's father, he disappeared. At the end of 1942, Claimant, his parents and two siblings sought asylum in Switzerland. They traveled from Belgium to France and attempted to enter Switzerland, illegally, from the region of Jura. They were assisted by an underground guide by the name of Favre. They entered Switzerland by night and arrived in the German speaking area of the Swiss Jura Mountains. The following day,

they were discovered by Swiss citizens who notified the police. They were arrested and detained in prison. During their detention, their property was confiscated by the Swiss policemen who brutally mistreated them because of their ethnic origin. Soon after being expelled from Switzerland on 9 December 1942, they were arrested in France and were sent to Melechen camp. On 15 January 1943, they were deported to Auschwitz concentration camp. There, Claimant's parents and siblings were murdered and Claimant was subjected to medical experiments. When Claimant was 11 years old he was liberated from the camp. Claimant stated that if Switzerland had permitted asylum to his family, that atrocity could have been avoided.

3340502

Claimant was born in 1925 in Germany. She is Romani. In the autumn of 1938, Claimant's family sought asylum in Switzerland. They traveled from Baden through the city of Donaueschingen, their father's hometown, to Schaffhausen, Switzerland. They attempted to enter Switzerland, legally, with ID cards. However, their entry was denied. Later, in the spring and summer of 1939, Claimant's family attempted five times to cross the border, illegally. However, they were always caught and immediately expelled. On their last attempt to enter Switzerland, the Swiss border guards handed them over to German soldiers who sent them back to Baden. In 1943, Claimant's family was deported to Auschwitz concentration camp. Later, Claimant was transferred to Ravensbrück and Bergen Belzen concentration camps where she remained until the end of the war.

3340503

Claimant was born in 1943 in Hungary. She is Romani. During the war, Claimant and her family tried to flee from Nazi persecution and sought asylum in Switzerland. However, their entry was denied. Until the end of the war, they had to live in hiding.

3340504

Claimant was born in 1942 in Hungary. She is Romani. During the war, Claimant and her family tried to flee from Nazi persecution and sought asylum in Switzerland. However, their entry was denied. Until the end of the war, they had to live in hiding.

3340505

Claimant was born in 1941 in Hungary. He is Romani. During the war, Claimant and his family tried to flee from Nazi persecution and sought asylum in Switzerland. However, their entry was denied. Until the end of the war, they had to live in hiding.

3340506

Claimant was born in 1938 in Hungary. He is Romani. During the war, Claimant was persecuted on racial grounds. He had to hide in forests. He lived in very harsh conditions which undermined his health. To avoid persecution, Claimant asked for entry into Switzerland and protection. However, the Swiss authorities refused that request.

3340507

Claimant was born in 1940 in Hungary. She is Romani. During the war, Claimant was persecuted on racial grounds. To avoid persecution, she asked for entry into Switzerland and protection. However, the Swiss authorities refused that request.

3340508

Claimant was born in 1939 in Czechoslovakia. She is Romani. During the war, Claimant was persecuted on racial grounds. She had to hide in forests. She lived in very harsh conditions which undermined her health. To avoid persecution, Claimant asked for entry into Switzerland and protection. However, the Swiss authorities refused that request.

3340509

Claimant was born in 1932 in Czechoslovakia. She is Romani. During the war, Claimant and her family tried to flee from Nazi persecution and sought asylum in Switzerland. However, their entry was denied. Until the end of the war, they had to live in hiding.

3340511

Claimant was born in 1929 in Czechoslovakia. She is Romani. During the war, Claimant and her family tried to flee from Nazi persecution and sought asylum in Switzerland. However, their entry was denied. Until the end of the war, they had to live in hiding.

3340512

Claimant was born in 1942 in Czechoslovakia. She is Romani. During the war, Claimant and her family tried to flee from Nazi persecution and sought asylum in Switzerland. However, their entry was denied. Until the end of the war, they had to live in hiding.

3340513

Claimant was born in 1943 in Czechoslovakia. She is Romani. During the war, Claimant was persecuted on racial grounds. She was a child at that time. Claimant and the other members of her family were gathered in a forest and forced to dig trenches. They were not allowed to bring any clothes or food with them. If someone tried to escape, the Germans killed him. In 1945, Claimant's family tried to escape to Switzerland, but they did not succeed.

3340514

Claimant was born in 1936 in Czechoslovakia. He is Romani. During the war, Claimant and his family tried to flee from Nazi persecution and sought asylum in Switzerland. However, their entry was denied. Until the end of the war, they had to live in hiding.

3340515

Claimant was born in 1933 in Czechoslovakia. She is Romani. During the war, Claimant and her family tried to flee from Nazi persecution and sought asylum in Switzerland. However, their entry was denied. Until the end of the war, they had to live in hiding.

3340517

Claimant was born in 1924 in Hungary. She is Romani. In 1944, Claimant tried to flee from Nazi persecution in Hungary and sought asylum in Switzerland. She hid in a train and attempted to cross the border illegally. However, she was caught by the Swiss border guards who expelled her because of her ethnic origin. Later, Claimant was handed over to the Austrians. She went back home through the woods and had to eat leaves and roots on her way. In Hungary, Claimant was arrested by the Nazi Regime and sent to Komarom concentration camp.

3340518

Claimant was born in 1931 in Czechoslovakia. He is Romani. During the war, Claimant and his family tried to flee from Nazi persecution and sought asylum in Switzerland. However, their entry was denied. Until the end of the war, they had to live in hiding.

INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR MIGRATION
HOLOCAUST VICTIM ASSETS PROGRAMME (SWISS BANKS)
REFUGEE CLASS
GROUP XII SUBMISSION

CASE SUMMARIES

3300024

Claimant was born in 1940 in Güss camp in France. He is Romani. Between 1939 and 1943, Claimant and his family were detained at Güss camp in France where they suffered from harsh living conditions. Between 1943 and 1945, Claimant's family attempted to enter Switzerland. However, their entry was denied.

3300055

Claimant was born in 1939 in Geiselhöring, Germany. She is Romani. Claimant and her parents sought asylum in Switzerland between 1941-1942. They traveled to Singen at the German-Swiss border. There, they heard that there were many German soldiers at Singen and that it would be very difficult to cross the border. Subsequently, they went eastwards along the German-Swiss borderline until they arrived at Lake Bodensee where they attempted to enter Switzerland from the lake near Schaffhausen. However, they were caught by Swiss border guards and were immediately expelled. Soon afterwards, they were caught by German soldiers who took Claimant away from her parents. Claimant's parents were executed in the forest. Claimant was sent to several ghettos and camps where she remained until liberation.

3300058

Claimant was born in 1931 in Germany. She is Romani. Following the Nazi persecution of Claimant's family in 1942, Claimant and her family sought asylum in Switzerland. However, they were denied entry. Later, they were arrested and sent to Kontiner Weg camp near Königsberg. Towards the end of the war, they escaped from the camp and attempted to enter Switzerland, but were refused entry again.

3300159

Claimant was born in 1931 in France. He is Romani. After the Nazi occupation of France, Claimant and his family were racially persecuted as Nomadic Romanies. In 1941, they sought asylum in Switzerland. However, the Swiss border guards denied their entry and used what Claimant calls "Gestapo methods." Subsequently, they went to Lyon where, in 1942, they were arrested and detained in a camp until 1943. Later, they traveled to Dijon where they lived in hiding until the end of the war.

3300224

Claimant was born in 1919 in Kriva, Bessarabia. He is Romani. Around 1941, Claimant was deported from Ukraine to Austria where he performed forced labour for a German accumulator company. After a year, he was forcibly transferred to Switzerland where he was forced to work for the same company. During his stay in Switzerland, Claimant stayed in the canton of Zurich. He was forced to perform manual labour, mainly, cutting and carrying timber. Since Claimant was forced to work, detained and not paid, he escaped from Switzerland, after 6 or 8 months. From Zurich he went along the Danube River until he arrived at Budapest where he voluntarily, joined the Yugoslav Liberation Army. As Claimant is sick, he cannot deliver more details.

3300252

(related to Claim No. 3300170 that was previously submitted with IOM's Group V Report, and to Claim Nos. 3300254, 3300258, 3300260, 3300261 which are also being submitted with this Group XII Report)

Claimant was born in 1937 in Germany. He is Romani. In the beginning of 1940 after Claimant's father was sent to a concentration camp, Claimant, his family and other Romanies (approximately 30 to 40 people), fled from Germany in order to avoid deportation to a concentration camp. They sought asylum in Switzerland by attempting to cross the border near Schaffhausen. However, their entry was denied. After their expulsion, they were in constant flight from the Nazis and their allies. From Schaffhausen, they went to Czechoslovakia and Austria. In 1944, they were arrested in Austria and sent to a forced labour camp near Vienna where they remained until liberation at the beginning of 1945.

3300254

(related to Claim No. 3300170 that was previously submitted with IOM's Group V Report, and to Claim Nos. 3300252, 3300258, 3300260, 3300261 which are also being submitted with this Group XII Report)

Claimant was born in 1935 in Germany. She is Romani. In the beginning of 1940 after Claimant's father was sent to a concentration camp, Claimant, her family and other Romanies (approximately 30 to 40 people), fled from Czechoslovakia in order to avoid deportation to a concentration camp. They sought asylum in Switzerland by attempting to cross the border near Schaffhausen. However, their entry was denied. After their expulsion, they were in constant flight from the Nazis and their allies. From Schaffhausen, they went to Czechoslovakia and Austria. In 1944, they were arrested in Austria and sent to a forced labour camp near Vienna where they remained until liberation at the beginning of 1945.

3300255

Claimant was born in 1943 in Austria. He is Romani. Claimant stated that around 1944, his family sought asylum in Switzerland. They attempted to enter Switzerland from Austria. However, their entry was denied. Later, they returned to Austria where they were arrested by German soldiers.

3300256

(related to Claim No. 3300259 which is also being submitted with this Group XII Report)

Claimant was born in 1933 in Germany. She is Romani. In 1942, the Gestapo restricted Claimant's family's mobility and ordered them to stay in the vicinity of Oppeln. Later, some of Claimant's family members were deported to camps. Subsequently, Claimant and the remainder of her family fled to Austria. From there, they sought asylum in Switzerland. They traveled to the Lustenau area and attempted to enter Switzerland near St. Margrethen. However, they were caught at the border and were denied entry. Later, they lived in hiding in Austria and Czechoslovakia. In 1944, they were arrested in Austria and forced to perform labour for the Müller company.

3300257

Claimant was born in 1936 in Germany. He is Romani. After Claimant's father and older siblings were deported to concentration camps, Claimant, his mother and younger siblings fled Poland and attempted to enter Switzerland. They traveled through Czechoslovakia and Austria and attempted to enter Switzerland near Lustenau. However, the Swiss authorities denied their entry because of their Roma origins. They returned to Austria where, later, they were arrested and sent to perform forced labour for a company that produced guns. Claimant stated that he heard this story from his late mother.

3300258

(related to Claim No. 3300170 that was previously submitted with IOM's Group V Report, and to Claim Nos. 3300252, 3300254, 3300260, 3300261 which are also being submitted with this Group XII Report)

Claimant was born in 1928. She did not specify her place of birth. She is Romani. In the beginning of 1940 after Claimant's father was sent to a concentration camp, Claimant, her family and other Romanies (approximately 30 to 40 people), fled from Germany in order to avoid deportation to a concentration camp. They sought asylum in Switzerland by attempting to cross the border near Schaffhausen. However, their entry was denied. After their expulsion, they were in constant flight from the Nazis and their allies. From Schaffhausen, they went to Czechoslovakia and Austria. In 1944, they were arrested in Austria and sent to a forced labour camp near Vienna where they remained until liberation at the beginning of 1945.

3300259

(related to Claim No. 3300256 which is also being submitted with this Group XII Report)

Claimant was born in 1922 in Germany. He is Romani. In 1942, the Gestapo restricted Claimant's family's mobility and ordered them to stay in the vicinity of Oppeln. Later, some of Claimant's family members were deported to camps. Subsequently, Claimant's and the remainder of his family fled to Austria. From there, they sought asylum in Switzerland. They traveled to the Lustenau area and attempted to enter Switzerland near St. Margrethen. However, they were caught at the border and were denied entry. Later, they lived in hiding in Austria and Czechoslovakia. In 1944, they were arrested in Austria and forced to performed labour for the Müller company.

3300260

(related to Claim No. 3300170 that was previously submitted with IOM's Group V Report, and to Claim Nos. 3300252, 3300254, 3300258, 3300261 which are also being submitted with this Group XII Report)

Claimant was born in 1938 in Czechoslovakia. He is Romani. In the beginning of 1940 after Claimant's father was sent to a concentration camp, Claimant, his family and other Romanies (approximately 30 to 40 people), fled from Czechoslovakia in order to avoid deportation to a concentration camp. They sought asylum in Switzerland by attempting to cross the border near Schaffhausen. However, their entry was denied. After their expulsion, they were in constant flight from the Nazis and their allies. From Schaffhausen, they went to Czechoslovakia and Austria. In 1944, they were arrested in Austria and sent to a forced labour camp near Vienna where they remained until liberation at the beginning of 1945.

3300261

(related to Claim No. 3300170 that was previously submitted with IOM's Group V Report, and to Claim Nos. 3300252, 3300254, 3300258, 3300260 which are also being submitted with this Group XII Report)

Claimant was born in 1927 in Germany. He is Romani. In the beginning of 1940 after Claimant's father was sent to a concentration camp, Claimant, his family and other Romanies (approximately 30 to 40 people), fled from Czechoslovakia in order to avoid deportation to a concentration camp. They sought asylum in Switzerland by attempting to cross the border near Schaffhausen. However, their entry was denied. After their expulsion, they were in constant flight from the Nazis and their allies. From Schaffhausen, they went to Czechoslovakia and Austria. In 1944, they were arrested in Austria and sent to a forced labour camp near Vienna where they remained until liberation at the beginning of 1945.

3300265

(related to Claim Nos. 3340218 & 3340219 that were previously submitted with IOM's Group VI Report, and to Claim Nos. 3300266, 3300268, 3300269, 3300270, 3300274 which are also being submitted with this Group XII Report)

Claimant was born in 1935 in Germany. He is Romani. Following the Nazi persecution of the Romanies, Claimant's family and other Romani families fled Germany and sought asylum in Switzerland. Around 1943, they entered Switzerland, illegally, near Basel. After a couple of weeks, they were arrested near Zurich and expelled from Switzerland to Germany. Later, they traveled to Austria where they lived in hiding. Claimant and five (5) other relatives with whom he escaped from Germany and fled to Switzerland have filed claims with IOM and are included in this Group XII submission. Two other relatives filed claims that were included in Group VI Report.

3300266

(related to Claim Nos. 3340218 & 3340219 that were previously submitted with IOM's Group VI Report, and to Claim Nos. 3300265, 3300268, 3300269, 3300270, 3300274 which are also being submitted with this Group XII Report)

Claimant was born in 1929 in Germany. She is Romani. Following the Nazi persecution of the Romanies, Claimant's family and other Romani families fled Germany and sought asylum in Switzerland. Around 1943, they entered Switzerland, illegally, near Basel. After a couple of weeks, they were arrested near Zurich and expelled from Switzerland to Germany. Later, they traveled to Austria where they lived in hiding. Claimant and five (5) other relatives with whom she escaped from Germany and fled to Switzerland have filed claims with IOM and are included in this Group XII submission. Two other relatives filed claims that were included in Group VI Report.

3300268

(related to Claim Nos. 3340218 & 3340219 that were previously submitted with IOM's Group VI Report, and to Claim Nos. 3300265, 3300266, 3300269, 3300270, 3300274 which are also being submitted with this Group XII Report)

Claimant was born in 1933 in Germany. He is Romani. Following the Nazi persecution of the Romanies, Claimant's family and other Romani families fled Germany and sought asylum in Switzerland. Around 1943, they entered Switzerland, illegally, near Basel. After a couple of weeks, they were arrested near Zurich and expelled from Switzerland to Germany. Later, they traveled to Austria where they lived in hiding. Claimant and five (5) other relatives with whom he escaped from Germany and fled to Switzerland have filed claims with IOM and are included in this Group XII submission. Two other relatives filed claims that were included in Group VI Report.

3300269

(related to Claim Nos. 3340218 & 3340219 that were previously submitted with IOM's Group VI Report, and to Claim Nos. 3300265, 3300266, 3300268, 3300270, 3300274 which are also being submitted with this Group XII Report)

Claimant was born in 1938 in Germany. She is Romani. Following the Nazi persecution of the Romanies, Claimant's family and other Romani families fled Germany and sought asylum in Switzerland. Around 1943, they entered Switzerland, illegally, near Basel. After a couple of weeks, they were arrested near Zurich and expelled from Switzerland to Germany. Later, they traveled to Austria where they lived in hiding. Claimant and five (5) other relatives with whom she escaped from Germany and fled to Switzerland have filed claims with IOM and are included in this Group XII submission. Two other relatives filed claims that were included in Group VI Report.

3300270

(related to Claim Nos. 3340218 & 3340219 that were previously submitted with IOM's Group VI Report, and to Claim Nos. 3300265, 3300266, 3300268, 3300269, 3300274 which are also being submitted with this Group XII Report)

Claimant was born in 1941 in Germany. She is Romani. Following the Nazi persecution of the Romanies, Claimant's family and other Romani families fled Germany and sought asylum in Switzerland. Around 1943, they entered Switzerland, illegally, near Basel. After a couple of weeks, they were arrested near Zurich and expelled from Switzerland to Germany. Later, they traveled to Austria where they lived in hiding. Claimant and five (5) other relatives with whom she escaped from Germany and fled to Switzerland have filed claims with IOM and are included in this Group XII submission. Two other relatives filed claims that were included in Group VI Report.

3300274

(related to Claim Nos. 3340218 & 3340219 that were previously submitted with IOM's Group VI Report, and to Claim Nos. 3300265, 3300266, 3300268, 3300269, 3300270 which are also being submitted with this Group XII Report)

Claimant was born in 1943 in Belgium. He is Romani. Following the Nazi persecution of the Romanies, Claimant's family and other Romani families fled Germany and sought asylum in Switzerland. Around 1943, they entered Switzerland, illegally, near Basel. After a couple of weeks, they were arrested near Zurich and expelled from Switzerland to Germany. Later, they traveled to Austria where they lived in hiding. Claimant and five (5) other relatives with whom he escaped from Germany and fled to Switzerland have filed claims with IOM and are included in this Group XII submission. Two other relatives filed claims that were included in Group VI Report.

3300275

Claimant was born in 1942 in Germany. She is Romani. In 1943, Claimant, her grandmother and siblings fled from Austria and sought asylum in Switzerland. However, at the border they were arrested by Swiss border guards who expelled them from Switzerland. Later, they were arrested by the SS and sent to perform forced labour for the Martin Muller company.

3300283 (Family I)

(related to 3300064 (Family I), 3300067(Family I), 3300102 (Family II), 3300128 (Family II), 3300129 (Family II), 3300131 (Family II), and 3340351 (Family I) that were previously submitted with IOM's Group V and VIII Reports, and to 3340552 (FamilyIV) which is also being submitted with this Group XII Report)

These are the claims of four Romani families; in particular, the families of three siblings who suffered persecution during the Nazi Regime because they were Romani. Family I's claimants include the wife and son of one brother. Family II's claimants include four of the children of the other brother. Family III's claimants include the husband and son of one sister. Family IV's claimant is the sister of the wife of Family's I brother. With the passage of time, their memories have faded but they were all contacted by telephone and confirmed that they recalled that the families always travelled together.

Families I's and III's persecution began in 1942, when the fathers were dismissed from military service because they were Romanies. Family I's father, his wife (3300067), daughter and son (3300064) fled to Switzerland with their horse and wagon but were denied entry. They tried at two different border locations and were denied entry at each location. The children of Family II also recalled that the families tried to enter Switzerland by train, on at least one occasion, and also by stagecoach and were denied entry into Switzerland. They do not remember all of the border points where they attempted to enter Switzerland but recalled one, Argau. They were forced to return to Munich where they had to perform forced labour at Giesinger Hill. On 8 March 1943, Family I was arrested by the Gestapo and taken to the police station in Ehstrasse where they met the brother of the father of Family II who was there with his children. About two weeks later, they were all sent to Auschwitz in carriages that were meant for cattle. In Family I, the father and son were separated from the mother and daughter. According to the mother of Family I, she met her own mother and sister at Auschwitz, who was there with her five children. Her mother, sister and sister's children were all killed in the gas chamber. Her sister-in-law and her three children met with a similar fate.

The children of family II were subjected to medical experiments at Auschwitz and performed forced labour at Ravensbrück, Mauthausen and Bergen-Belsen.

The father of Family III was deported with the rest of the family to Auschwitz where he remained until liberation. The mother and the son of Family III and Family IV's claimant managed to escape and lived in hiding until the end of the war.

3340025

Claimant was born in 1935 in Germany. He is Romani. In 1941, Claimant's family fled Nazi persecution and sought asylum in Switzerland. They traveled with their wagon and attempted to enter Switzerland from the canton of Zurich. However, their entry was denied. Later, they were arrested by the Nazi Regime and sent to concentration camps. Claimant was liberated in 1945.

3340134

Claimant was born in 1923 in Germany. She is Romani. In 1943, Claimant attempted to enter Switzerland in order to escape Nazi persecution. However, she was denied entry. Subsequently, she was arrested by the Nazis and sent to Ravensbruck, Schlieben and Altenburg Taucheu concentration camps. During her detention, Claimant was forced to perform forced labour and suffered from harsh living conditions. Claimant was liberated in 1945.

3340135

Claimant was born in 1925 in Germany. She is Romani. As a result of Nazi persecution, Claimant's family fled Germany to Czechoslovakia. However, they were also persecuted in Czechoslovakia. Thus in 1944, they fled through Passau to Beuren and Bässlingen at the German-Swiss border. A farmer named Bunkhofer let them stay at his farm, which was roughly 100 meters from the border, and attempted to arrange for them to bribe the Swiss border guards and be allowed entry. Claimant's mother gave him jewels on two different occasions to Swiss border guards. However, this arrangement was unsuccessful, and the family was refused entry both times. The German Army eventually took over the farm. The farmer assisted Claimant's family to flee by train to Hamburg, where they stayed in hiding until the end of the war.

3340222

Claimant was born in 1932 in Germany. He is Romani. In 1942, Claimant's family escaped from Essen, Germany and fled to Austria where they lived in hiding. Later, they sought asylum in Switzerland. They attempted to enter Switzerland from the Austrian-Swiss border. However, their entry was denied. Until the end of the war Claimant's family lived in hiding.

3340501

Claimant was born in 1934 in Germany. She is Romani. Following Nazi persecution, Claimant and her mother attempted to flee Germany and sought asylum in Switzerland. They traveled clandestinely to Switzerland and attempted to enter Switzerland near the city of Frauenfeld. However, they were arrested by the border guards. Later, they were sent to perform agricultural labour. They were liberated in May 1945.

3340516

(related to Claim Nos. 3340227, 3340508, 3340509, 3340511, 3340510, 3340512, 3340513, 3340515, 3340518 3340219 that were previously submitted with IOM's Group VIII Report)

Claimant was born in 1929 in Czechoslovakia. He is Romani. During the war, Claimant's family was persecuted on racial grounds. To avoid persecution, they asked for entry into Switzerland and protection. However, the Swiss authorities refused that request. Until the end of the war, Claimant's family had to live in hiding.

3340552 (Family IV)

(same as 3300064 (Family I), 3300067(Family I), 3300102 (Family II), 3300128 (Family II), 3300129 (Family II), 3300131 (Family II) and 3340351 (Family I) that were previously submitted with IOM's Group V and VIII Reports, and to 3300283 (Family I) which is also being submitted with this Group XII Report)

These are the claims of four Romani families; in particular, the families of three siblings who suffered persecution during the Nazi Regime because they were Romani. Family I's claimants include the wife and son of one brother. Family II's claimants include four of the children of the other brother. Family III's claimants include the husband and son of one sister. Family IV's claimant is the sister of the wife of Family's I brother. With the passage of time, their memories have faded but they were all contacted by telephone and confirmed that they recalled that the families always travelled together.

Families I's and III's persecution began in 1942, when the fathers were dismissed from military service because they were Romanians. Family I's father, his wife (3300067), daughter and son (3300064) fled to Switzerland with their horse and wagon but were denied entry. They tried at two different border locations and were denied entry at each location. The children of Family II also recalled that the families tried to enter Switzerland by train, on at least one occasion, and also by stagecoach and were denied entry into Switzerland. They do not remember all of the border points where they attempted to enter Switzerland but recalled one, Argau. They were forced to return to Munich where they had to perform forced labour at Giesinger Hill. On 8 March 1943, Family I was arrested by the Gestapo and taken to the police station in Ehstrasse where they met the brother of the father of Family II who was there with his children. About two weeks later, they were all sent to Auschwitz in carriages that were meant for cattle. In Family I, the father and son were separated from the mother and daughter. According to the mother of Family I, she met her own mother and sister at Auschwitz, who was there with her five children. Her mother, sister and sister's children were all killed in the gas chamber. Her sister-in-law and her three children met with a similar fate.

The children of family II were subjected to medical experiments at Auschwitz and performed forced labour at Ravensbrück, Mauthausen and Bergen-Belsen.

The father of Family III was deported with the rest of the family to Auschwitz where he remained until liberation. The mother and the son of Family III and Family IV's claimant managed to escape and lived in hiding until the end of the war.

3340650

Claimant was born in 1934 in Germany. She is Romani. In 1943, after the deportation of Claimant's father to Buchenwald concentration camp, Claimant, her grandmother, mother and two brothers sought asylum in Switzerland. They tried to enter through the German part of Switzerland but were denied entry at the border. Subsequently, they were arrested by the German Army and were put on a train to Auschwitz. However, due to technical problems on the way, they were sent to Angerburg camp where they remained until the end of the war.

3340728

(related to Claim No. 3300004 that was previously submitted with IOM's Group V Report)

Claimant was born in 1931 in Germany. She is Romani. As a result of Nazi persecution, Claimant's family fled Germany to Czechoslovakia. However, they were also persecuted in Czechoslovakia. Thus in 1944, they fled through Passau to Beuren and Bässlingen at the German-Swiss border. A farmer named Bunkhofer let them stay at his farm, which was roughly 100 meters from the border, and attempted to arrange for them to bribe the Swiss border guards and be allowed entry. Claimant's mother gave him jewels on two different occasions to Swiss border guards. However, this arrangement was unsuccessful, and the family was refused entry both times. The German Army eventually took over the farm. The farmer assisted Claimant's family to flee by train to Hamburg, where they stayed in hiding until the end of the war.

3340781

(related to Claim No. 3300240 that was previously submitted with IOM's Group VIII Report)

Claimant was born in 1939 in Paris, France. She is Romani. Around April-May 1940, Claimant and her family fled from Nazi persecution and sought asylum in Switzerland. They traveled by horse and carriage and attempted to cross the Swiss border near Annemasse. However, they were refused entry. Later, they attempted to enter Spain near Perpignan, but were denied entry. In 1941, they returned to Paris and found out that their property was confiscated. Later, they were arrested and sent to a Nazi camp in France where they remained until the end of the war.

3340841

Claimant was born in 1913 in Germany. He is Romani. In 1942, Claimant sought asylum in Switzerland to avoid Nazi persecution. He attempted to enter Switzerland near Basel. However, the Swiss border guards denied his entry and handed him over to the Germans. Later, he was sent to Auschwitz concentration camp. He was then transferred to Ravensbruck and Bergen Belzen concentration camps. During his detention, Claimant performed forced labour and suffered from harsh living conditions. He was liberated in April 1945.

HOLOCAUST VICTIM ASSETS PROGRAMME (SWISS BANKS)

GROUP XVI SUBMISSION

REFUGEE CLASS

CASE SUMMARIES

3340861

Claimant was born in 1936 in Germany. She is Romani. After the war began, Claimant's family fled from Germany and went to live in hiding. In 1944, they traveled through Czechoslovakia and Austria and entered Switzerland, illegally, through the city of Bregenz. As they were afraid of the Swiss authorities they lived clandestinely and changed constantly their hiding places, varying from the forest, haystacks and deserted farms. Approximately after one month, the Swiss police arrested them near Frauenfeld and expelled them from Switzerland. Subsequently, they were arrested by the German Army and sent to perform agricultural forced labour. As Claimant was nine years old at the time she could not delivered additional information.

3340864

(related to 3340865, 334866, 3340867, 3340869, 3340870, 3340871)

Claimant was born in 1937 in Germany. He is Romani. Following Nazi persecution, Claimant, her family and other Romanies fled from Germany to Austria. Around 1944, they sought asylum in Switzerland. They attempted to cross the border through Austria. However, their entry was denied. Later, they returned to Austria and lived in hiding until the end of the war.

3340865

(related to 3340864, 334866, 3340867, 3340869, 3340870, 3340871)

Claimant was born in 1935 in Germany. She is Romani. Following Nazi persecution, Claimant, her family and other Romanies fled from Germany to Austria. Around 1944, they sought asylum in Switzerland. They attempted to cross the border in Austria. However, their entry was denied. Later, they returned to Austria and lived in hiding until the end of the war.

3340866

(related to 3340864, 334865, 3340867, 3340869, 3340870, 3340871)

Claimant was born in 1933 in Germany. She is Romani. Following Nazi persecution, Claimant, her family and other Romanies fled from Germany to Austria. Around 1944, they sought asylum in Switzerland. They attempted to cross the border in Austria. However, their entry was denied. Later, they returned to Austria and lived in hiding until the end of the war.

3340867

(related to 3340864, 334865, 3340866, 3340869, 3340870, 3340871)

Claimant was born in 1940 in Germany. She is Romani. Following Nazi persecution, Claimant, her family and other Romanies fled from Germany to Austria. Around 1944, they sought asylum in Switzerland. They attempted to cross the border in Austria. However, their entry was denied. Later, they returned to Austria and lived in hiding until the end of the war.

3340869

(related to 3340864, 334865, 3340866, 3340867, 3340870, 3340871)

Claimant was born in 1940 in Germany. She is Romani. Following Nazi persecution, Claimant, her family and other Romanies fled from Germany to Austria. Around 1944, they sought asylum in Switzerland. They attempted to cross the border in Austria. However, their entry was denied. Later, they returned to Austria and lived in hiding until the end of the war.

3340871

(related to 3340864, 334865, 3340866, 3340867, 3340869, 3340870)

Claimant was born in 1942 in Germany. He is Romani. Following Nazi persecution, Claimant, her family and other Romanies fled from Germany to Austria. Around 1944, they sought asylum in Switzerland. They attempted to cross the border through Austria. However, their entry was denied. Later, they returned to Austria and lived in hiding until the end of the war.

3340872

Claimant was born in 1932 in Germany. He is Romani. After Claimant's father was deported to Mauthausen Concentration Camp, Claimant's family fled to Austria. Later, they sought asylum in Switzerland. However, they were denied entry at the border and were forced to return to Austria. In 1942, they were arrested by the Gestapo and sent to a camp at Traismauer, Austria where they performed forced labour until 1944.

3340873

Claimant was born in 1939 in Germany. He is Romani. After his birth, Claimant and his parents fled from Nazi persecution of Romanies in Germany. They traveled to Austria and later attempted to enter Switzerland near the cities of Bregenz and Lindau. However, they were caught by a Swiss border guard and denied entry. They returned to Austria and later traveled to Italy where they lived in hiding until the end of the war.

HOLOCAUST VICTIM ASSETS PROGRAMME (SWISS BANKS)

REFUGEE CLASS

GROUP XX SUBMISSION

CASE SUMMARY

3301004

Claimant was born in 1940 in Hamburg, Germany. He is Sinti. Between 1939 and 1943, Claimant's family was detained in Hamburg. During that period of time, Gestapo had arrested Claimant and his family several times. In 1943, following a bombing raid that partially destroyed their Gestapo prison, Claimant's family managed to escape from that prison. Subsequently, Claimant and his family attempted to enter Switzerland. However, their entry was denied. Claimant and his family were sent back to Germany, where they continued to live illegally in forests and villages, mainly in Bavaria.