

3300050

Claimant, a Jehovah's Witness, was born in Eisenach, Germany in 1930. On approximately 10 December 1944, the local Gestapo chief of Eisenach, warned Claimant's father, a leading German industrialist and Vorstand of the Ausschutz Munition, that his arrest was imminent. Claimant's father decided to flee with his family to Switzerland where he had a father and other living relatives. Claimant's brother, deserted the Wehrmacht from a field hospital and joined the family.

During the night of 14 December 1944, they successfully crossed the Swiss border north of Schaffhausen near the village of Bargaen where they turned themselves in to the local Grenzpolizei at 4 a.m. The family was interrogated the entire next day. The officer in charge demanded that Claimant's father prove that his life was in danger. This was impossible. Claimant's father proposed to pay for train transport for the family to Basel or Geneva where they could be turned over to the Allies. This was not allowed even though Claimant's father had sufficient money in Swiss francs. Further, they were not allowed to call their relatives for help. At the end of the day, the family was given the ultimatum to either voluntarily return to Germany or be turned over to the German border police. Claimant, a minor, was granted asylum. His brother, although a deserter, was denied asylum.

Within 12 hours of returning to Germany, Claimant's family was arrested and incarcerated at the Gestapo prison in Weimar. On the evening of 3 April 1944, Claimant's entire family was executed by the Gestapo.

Claimant was detained in a quarantine camp for one week. He was retrieved from the camp by his Swiss aunt and placed in a foster home where he remained until his emigration to the United States after the war.

3300072

Claimant, a Jehovah's Witness, was born in Poland in 1929. Claimant stated that his granduncle held regular Bible studies conducted by Jehovah's Witnesses in his residence. In 1943, Claimant's entire family and all of his relatives were seized by National Socialists, deported to Germany and sent to concentration camps. In August 1943, Claimant took a train from Ludenscheid to Liestal. From there, he journeyed to Lorrach where he attempted to enter Switzerland illegally. In Lorrach, he was apprehended and forced to return to Ludenscheid where he was subjected to medical experiments, hard labour and starvation. He was forced to work at the Paulman & Krone Company which manufactured ammunition.

3300079

Claimant, a Jehovah's Witness, was born in a ghetto (Burkvaydlager) in Breslau, Germany in May of 1943. Claimant's parents were deported from Ukraine to Germany in 1942. In Germany, they performed agricultural work for private farmers. Because her parents refused to work on Sundays, they were persecuted by the Nazi regime. When they refused to work on Sundays, they were beaten, incarcerated and sent to concentration camps and ghettos. Her father was killed in October of 1944 for refusing to work on Sunday. Her mother, was sent to a labour market where she joined a line of cattle heading for Switzerland. Claimant's mother made the journey to Switzerland on foot carrying Claimant who had heart problems and pneumonia. When they arrived in Switzerland, the Swiss authorities told Claimant's mother that

Claimant was born in 1913 in France. Jehovah's Witness by faith, Claimant refused to join the German Army and thus, was imprisoned for eight days. Subsequently, he was forcibly sent as a German soldier to Poland. However, Claimant managed to escape the army and sought asylum in Switzerland. On 5 May 1944, Claimant entered Switzerland, illegally, through Lörrach. However, he was arrested and was detained at Bahnhof prison, in Basel. Later, Claimant was transferred to camps in Winterthur and Olden.

3300093

Claimant was born in 1937 in USSR. Claimant's family were members of the Jehovah's Witness faith. Claimant believes that they were removed from USSR and persecuted because of their faith. In October 1943, Claimant and her sisters were taken to Estonia where they were detained in a camp. In February 1944, they were deported to a camp in the city of Friedrichshafen, Germany. After the camp was bombed, they were transferred to a camp in the city of "Gotnatyngen". Claimant did not perform any labour because she was a child. There, the Nazis used to leave all children naked so that they would not run to their parents. During the bombardment of the camp in April 1945, they ran and hid in craters to avoid being hurt by splinters. As they later found out, they were in Swiss territory. In the morning, a policeman approached them, told them not to be afraid and took them to a refugee camp. They were locked inside of a kind of a big shed for disinfection. Later, they were kept in a camp in the city of Solothurn behind barbed wire, but were not guarded. In Switzerland, Claimant's sisters were required to work. Claimant's sisters used to leave for work in the morning but Claimant does not know what kind of work they did. They went back to Russia in September 1945. Claimant's also mentioned the names of the cities of "Rikon" and "Tseythayn" in Switzerland.

3300209

Claimant was born in 1927 in Austria. He is Jehovah's Witness. In 1940, he was expelled from primary school because he refused to *Heil Hitler* and join the "Hitler-Youth." In April 1941, Claimant and his father were arrested. Claimant's father was sentenced to four years of imprisonment and Claimant was transferred to a reform school where he remained until he managed to escape in October 1941. In the spring or early summer of 1944, Claimant traveled from Vienna via Innsbruck and attempted to enter Switzerland near Nauders. Before crossing the border, Claimant met American pilots, who were shot down by the German Army and who informed him that the only way to enter Switzerland was legally through the border station at Nauders. They told him that the Swiss expelled all refugees who attempted to enter Switzerland illegally and that at Nauders there were no German soldiers. However, 200 meters before the Swiss Borderline, Claimant was arrested by a German soldier. Claimant was transferred to Vienna. Between September 1944 and January 1945, Claimant was forced to work. Later, he was transferred to a police prison in Ingtau where he was detained until April 1945.

3300154

Claimant was born in Latvia in 1928. Claimant and her family are Jehovah's Witnesses. The family refused to participate in the political life of the country. Male family members refused to serve in the army. Claimant's aunt, an American citizen, obtained emigration permits to the United States via Switzerland for the family. When the family arrived at the Swiss border sometime between 1942-1943 so that they could enter Switzerland to obtain their visas for the United States, they were denied entry. They went to Poland where they obtained visas to the United Kingdom.

3340254

Claimant was born in 1927 in Yugoslavia. As a child he attended Jehovah's Witnesses meetings with his parents. Claimant's father was the owner of some coal mines and established trade contacts with Switzerland through his partner who transported the coal to Davos, Switzerland. After the Nazis killed Claimant's father and brother, his father's partner tried to rescue Claimant by sending him to Switzerland with his secretary. Claimant and the secretary traveled from Tuzla via Zagreb, Ljubljana, Udine and attempted to enter Switzerland by crossing the Italian border. Claimant cannot remember the border point, but recalls that they headed towards the city of Davos. However, the secretary could not convince the border guards to allow Claimant to enter Switzerland and Claimant was immediately expelled at the border. Later, the secretary managed to bring Claimant back to Tuzla. In 1942, Claimant was detained in the prison in Tuzla.

3340071

Claimant was born in 1930 in Yugoslavia. He is Jehovah's Witness. In the spring of 1941, Claimant and his grandfather fled from Yugoslavia and sought asylum in Switzerland. They traveled from Beograda, Osjek, Zagreb, Trieste, Bologna, Milan, Saronno, Como, Varese, Lugano, Callalo until they arrived at Gondo where they attempted to cross the Italian-Swiss border. However, at the border the Swiss border guards beat them, confiscated their money and handed them over to the Italian authorities. Later, they managed to return to Yugoslavia where Claimant was arrested by the Nazi occupation forces and forced to perform labour.

3340403

Claimant was born in 1930 in Poland. She is Jehovah's Witness. In approximately 1941, she was deported to Buchenwald concentration camp where she was detained with other Jehovah's Witnesses. Around 1943, Claimant and some other Jehovah's Witnesses were released from the camp. Subsequently, they sought asylum in Switzerland. They traveled from Innsbruck, Austria and entered Switzerland near the Liechtensteinian border. They were admitted into Switzerland and were detained in a refugee camp near Winterthur. During their stay in Switzerland, they were forced to perform forced labour in agriculture and in the railroads. When the war ended, Claimant was expelled from Switzerland.