

= Joel Brand =

Joel Brand ( 25 April 1906 ? 13 July 1964 ) was a rescue worker , born in Transylvania and raised in Germany , who became known during the Holocaust for his efforts to save Hungary 's Jews from deportation to Auschwitz , after the German invasion of that country in March 1944 .

A leading member of Budapest 's Aid and Rescue Committee , which smuggled Jews out of occupied Europe , Brand was approached in April 1944 by Adolf Eichmann , the German Schutzstaffel ( SS ) officer in charge of the deportations . Eichmann proposed that Brand broker a deal between the SS and the United States or Britain , in which the Nazis would exchange one million Jews for 10 @,@ 000 trucks for the Eastern front and large quantities of tea and other goods . It was the most ambitious of a series of such deals between Nazi and Jewish leaders ; Eichmann called it " Blut gegen Waren " ( " blood for goods " ) .

Nothing came of the proposal , which the London Times called one of the most loathsome stories of the war . Historians believe that the SS , including its commander , Heinrich Himmler , intended the negotiations as cover for peace talks with the Western Allies that would exclude the Soviet Union and perhaps even Adolf Hitler . Whatever its purpose , the proposal was thwarted by the British government . They arrested Brand in Aleppo ( then under British control ) , where he had gone to propose Eichmann 's offer to the Jewish Agency , and put an end to it by leaking details to the media .

The failure of the proposal , and the wider issue of why the Allies were unable to save the 435 @,@ 000 Hungarian Jews deported to Auschwitz between May and July 1944 , became the subject of bitter debate for many years . In 1961 Life magazine called Brand " a man who lives in the shadows with a broken heart . " He told an interviewer shortly before his death in 1964 : " An accident of life placed the fate of one million human beings on my shoulders . I eat and sleep and think only of them . "

= = Background = =

= = = Early life = = =

One of seven children , Brand was born to a Jewish family in Naszód , Siebenbürgen ( Transylvania ) , then part of Austria @-@ Hungary , now N?s?ud , Romania . His mother was from Naszód , the daughter of a banker , and his father was the founder of the Budapest telephone company . Brand 's paternal grandfather , also Joel Brand , had owned the post office in Mukacheve .

The family moved to Erfurt in Germany when Brand was four . Brand attended school until 1923 and said he had completed his Abitur . When he was 19 he went to stay with an uncle in New York , then worked his way across the United States , washing dishes and working on roads and in mines . He joined the Communist Party , worked for the Comintern as a sailor , and sailed to Hawaii , the Philippines , South America , China and Japan . In or around 1930 he returned to Erfurt , where his father had founded another telephone company . Brand took a job with the company and became a functionary with the Thuringian KPD ( Communist Party of Germany ) .

He was living in Germany on 30 January 1933 when Adolf Hitler was sworn in as Chancellor , and as a communist was arrested just before the Reichstag fire on 27 February that year . Released in 1934 , he settled in Budapest where he worked again for his father 's company . He joined the Poale Zion , a Marxist @-@ Zionist party , became a vice @-@ president of the Budapest Palestine Office , which organized Jewish emigration to Palestine , and sat on the governing body of the Jewish National Fund .

= = = Aid and Rescue Committee = = =

In 1935 Brand married Haynalka " Hansi " Hartmann and together they opened a knitwear and glove factory on Rozsa Street , Budapest , which after a few years had a staff of over 100 . The

couple had met as members of a hachsharah , a group of Jews preparing to move to Palestine to work on a kibbutz , but Brand 's plans changed when his mother and three sisters fled to Budapest from Germany and he had to support them .

Brand 's involvement in smuggling Jews into Hungary began in July 1941 , when Hansi Brand 's sister and brother @-@ in @-@ law were caught up in the Kamianets @-@ Podilskyi deportations . The Hungarian government sent 18 @,@ 000 Jews to German @-@ occupied Ukraine because they were unable to prove they were Hungarian citizens ; 14 @,@ 000 ? 16 @,@ 000 of them were shot by the SS . Brand paid a Hungarian counter @-@ espionage officer to bring his wife 's relatives back safely .

Through the Poale Zion party , the Brands joined other Zionists engaged in rescue work , including Rezs? Kasztner , a lawyer and journalist from Kolozsvár ( Cluj ) , and Ottó Komoly , an engineer , and in January 1943 the group set up the Aid and Rescue Committee with Komoly as chairperson . The committee raised money , forged documents , maintained contacts with intelligence agencies and ran safe houses . Brand testified during Adolf Eichmann 's trial that , between 1941 and the invasion in March 1944 , they had helped 22 @,@ 000 ? 25 @,@ 000 Jews reach Hungary .

Oskar Schindler became one of the committee 's contacts , smuggling letters and money into the Kraków ghetto on their behalf . During a visit by Schindler to Budapest in November 1943 , they learned that he had been bribing Nazi officers to let him bring Jewish refugees into his factory in Poland , which he ran as a safe haven . This further encouraged the committee , after the invasion of Hungary , to try negotiating with the SS .

= = March ? May 1944 = =

= = = Invasion of Hungary = = =

The Germans invaded Hungary on Sunday , 19 March 1944 , meeting no resistance . Following Hungary 's annexation in 1941 of parts of Romania , Yugoslavia and Czechoslovakia , there were 725 @,@ 000 Jews in the country , as well as over 60 @,@ 000 Jewish converts to Christianity and others the Nazis counted as Jews , according to Yehuda Bauer . Most were liberal Jews and fully assimilated , nearly 30 percent were Orthodox , and a small minority were Zionists .

Restrictions on Jews were already in place before the invasion , including a prohibition on marrying Christians . After the invasion , Randolph Braham writes , the Hungarian government immediately began the process of isolating Jews from the rest of the community . From 5 April Jews over the age of six had to wear a 3 @.@ 8 x 3 @.@ 8 inch ( 10 x 10 cm ) yellow badge . They were forbidden from using telephones , owning cars or radios , travelling or moving home , and had to declare the value of their property . Jewish civil servants , journalists and lawyers were sacked , non @-@ Jews could not work in Jewish households . Books by Jews were removed from libraries and Jewish authors could no longer be published .

Brand was hidden in a safe house by Josef Winniger , a courier for German military intelligence , who had been selling Brand information about Jewish refugees ; Kasztner and Komoly also went into hiding . The committee wanted to establish contact with the Germans and offered a go @-@ between \$ 20 @,@ 000 to arrange a meeting with SS Hauptsturmführer Dieter Wisliceny , one of Eichmann 's assistants .

David Crowe writes that the SS had become an economic force in its own right by 1944 , thanks to its plundering of Jewish businesses and ownership of factories that used slave labour from concentration camps . Jewish rescue workers made several attempts to exploit SS corruption . Gisi Fleischmann and Rabbi Michael Dov Weissmandl paid Dieter Wisliceny \$ 20 @,@ 000 in 1942 to suspend the deportation of Jews from Slovakia , though whether the bribe was the reason for the suspension is debatable .

Fleischmann and Weissmandl 's rescue group , the Working Group , devised a more ambitious proposal in November that year . Known as the Europa plan or Grossplan , the aim was to bribe the SS with money from Jews overseas , primarily the United States , to stop the deportation of all Jews

to Poland . Various sums have been mentioned in connection with this , including \$ 2 ? 3 million . Nothing came of it , reportedly because Heinrich Himmler intervened in August 1943 .

The Aid and Rescue Committee decided to ask Wisliceny whether the SS were , as Kasztner wrote in a later report , " prepared to negotiate with the illegal Jewish rescue committee on an economic basis about the moderation of the anti @-@ Jewish measures . " Brand and Kasztner met Wisliceny on 5 April . They told him they were in a position to continue Fleischmann 's negotiations and could offer \$ 2 million with a down payment of \$ 200 @,@ 000 . They asked that there be no deportations , mass executions or pogroms in Hungary , no ghettos or camps , and that Jews who held immigration certificates for Palestine ( issued by the British mandatory government ) be allowed to leave . Wisliceny accepted the \$ 200 @,@ 000 , but indicated that \$ 2 million might not be enough . He said there would be no deportations and no harm to the Jewish community while negotiations continued , and arranged for Aid and Rescue Committee exemptions from anti @-@ Jewish laws to allow its members to travel and use cars and telephones .

= = = First meeting with Eichmann = = =

Following the contact with Wisliceny , Brand received a message on 25 April that SS Obersturmbannführer Adolf Eichmann wanted to see him . Eichmann had arrived in Budapest as head of the Sonder Einsatzkommando overseeing the deportation of the Jews . Brand was told to wait in the Opera Caf? and from there was driven by the SS to Eichmann 's headquarters at the Hotel Majestic .

SS Untersturmbannführer Kurt Becher , an emissary of Reichsführer @-@ SS Heinrich Himmler , was also at the meeting . In a tone that Brand compared to the " clatter of a machine gun , " Eichmann offered to sell him one million Jews , not for money , but for goods from overseas :

I have already made investigations about you and your people and I have verified your ability to make a deal . Now then , I am prepared to sell you one million Jews ... Goods for blood ? blood for goods . You can take them from any country you like , wherever you can find them ? Hungary , Poland , the Ostmark , from Theresienstadt , from Auschwitz , wherever you like .

Eichmann said he would discuss the proposal with Berlin , and that in the meantime Brand should decide what kinds of goods he was in a position to offer . Brand asked how the committee was supposed to obtain these goods . Eichmann said he should open negotiations with the Allies overseas and that Eichmann would arrange a travel permit . Brand suggested Istanbul , where another committee member had a Jewish Agency contact . He testified years later that on leaving the hotel he felt like a " stark madman . "

= = = Further meetings = = =

Eichmann sent for Brand again a few days later . Eichmann was accompanied this time by Gerhard Clages , also known as Otto Klages , chief of Himmler 's Sicherheitsdienst ( security service ) in Budapest . Clages ' presence meant that three of Himmler 's senior officers ? Eichmann , Becher and Clages ? had involved themselves with the Brand proposal . Clages handed Brand \$ 50 @,@ 000 and 270 @,@ 000 Swiss francs that the Germans had intercepted , sent to the Aid and Rescue Committee by rescue workers in Switzerland via the Swedish Embassy in Budapest .

Eichmann told Brand that he wanted 10 @,@ 000 new trucks for the Waffen @-@ SS to use on the Eastern front , one truck for every 100 Jews , as well as 200 tons of tea , 200 tons of cocoa , 800 tons of coffee and 2 @,@ 000 @,@ 000 cases of soap . If Brand returned from Istanbul with confirmation that the Allies had accepted the proposal , Eichmann said he would release 10 percent of the one million . The deal would proceed with 100 @,@ 000 Jews released for every 1 @,@ 000 trucks .

It remains unclear whether Eichmann told Brand to return to Budapest by a particular date . According to Bauer , Brand said at various points that he was advised he could " take [ his ] time " or given one , two or three weeks . Hansi Brand testified during Eichmann 's trial that in the meantime she and her children had to remain in Budapest , effectively as hostages . Brand and Eichmann met

several more times , the final time on 15 May , the day the deportations began . Between then and 8 July 1944 , 437 @, @ 402 Jews , almost the entire Jewish population of the Hungarian countryside , are recorded as having been deported to Auschwitz on 147 trains , a rate of around 12 @, @ 000 a day . Most were gassed .

= = May ? October 1944 = =

= = = Brand leaves for Istanbul = = =

Brand secured a letter of recommendation for the Jewish Agency from the Hungarian Jewish Council . He was told he would be travelling with Bandi Grosz ( real name , Andor Gross ) , a Hungarian who had worked for Hungarian and German military intelligence ; Grosz would travel to Istanbul as the director of a Hungarian transport company . The SS drove the men from Budapest to Vienna on 17 May , where they stayed the night in a hotel reserved for the SS .

Grosz later testified that Brand 's mission had been a cover for his own . He said he had been told by Clages to arrange a meeting in a neutral country between senior German and American officers , or British if necessary , to broker peace between the German Sicherheitsdienst and the Western Allies .

= = = Meeting with Jewish Agency = = =

In Vienna Brand was given a German passport in the name of Eugen Band . He cabled the Jewish Agency in Istanbul to say he was on his way , and arrived by German diplomatic plane on 19 May . Paul Rose writes that Brand had no idea at this point that the deportations to Auschwitz had already begun .

Brand had been told by the Jewish Agency by return cable that " Chaim " would meet him in Istanbul . Convinced of the importance of his mission , he believed this was Chaim Weizmann , president of the World Zionist Organization , later the first president of Israel . In fact the man who had arranged to meet him was Chaim Barlas , head of the Istanbul group of Zionist emissaries . Not only was Barlas not there , but there was no entry visa waiting for Brand , and he was threatened with arrest and deportation . Brand saw this as the first betrayal by the Jewish Agency . Bauer argues that Brand , then and later , failed to grasp that the Jewish Agency was powerless . That his passport was in the name of Eugen Band would have been enough to cause the confusion .

The visa situation was sorted out by Bandi Grosz and the men were taken to a hotel , where they met the Jewish Agency delegates . Brand was furious that no one sufficiently senior was available to negotiate a deal . The Jewish Agency agreed to arrange for Moshe Sharett ( previously Shertok ) , head of its political department and later second prime minister of Israel , to travel to Istanbul to meet him . Brand passed them a plan of Auschwitz ( probably from the Vrba @-@ Wetzler report ) and demanded that the gas chambers , crematoria and railways lines be bombed . The discussions left him discouraged and depressed . He wrote that the delegates lacked any sense of urgency and were focused more on internal politics and Jewish emigration to Palestine , rather than the slaughter in Europe : " [ They ] were undoubtedly worthy men ... But they lacked any awareness of how critical was the period of history in which they were living . They had not looked death in the face day after day , as we had in Budapest ... "

= = = Interim agreement = = =

Ladislaus Löb writes that proposals and counter @-@ proposals flew between Istanbul , London and Washington . The Jewish Agency and Brand wanted the Allies to string the Germans along in the hope of slowing the deportations .

The Agency gave Brand a document , dated 29 May 1944 , that offered \$ 400 @, @ 000 for every 1 @, @ 000 Jewish emigrants to Palestine , one million Swiss francs per 10 @, @ 000 Jewish

emigrants to neutral countries such as Spain , and 10 @, @ 000 Swiss francs a month if the deportations were to stop . If the SS would allow the Allies to supply food , clothes and medicine to the Jews in concentration camps , the Nazis would be supplied with the same . Rose writes that the agreement was intended only to give Brand something to take back to Budapest .

Brand cabled his wife on 29 and 31 May to tell her ( and thereby Eichmann ) about the agreement , but there was no response . Rezs? Kasztner and Hansi Brand had been held in Budapest between 27 May and 1 June by the Hungarian Arrow Cross . They received the telegrams when they were released , but Eichmann refused to halt the deportations .

= = = Arrested by British = = =

In Istanbul Brand was told that Moshe Sharett was unable to obtain a visa for Turkey . The Jewish Agency asked Brand to meet him instead in Aleppo on the Syrian @-@ Turkish border . He was reluctant ; the area was under British control and he was afraid they would want to question him , but the Agency told him it would be safe and he left by train with two of its delegates .

While on the train , Brand was approached by two representatives of Zeev Jabotinsky 's Hatzohar ( Revisionist Zionist ) party and the World Agudath Israel Orthodox religious party . They told him the British were going to arrest him in Aleppo : " Die Engl?nder sind in dieser Frage nicht unsere Verb?ndeten " ( " the British are not our allies in this matter " ) . As soon as he arrived at the Aleppo train station on 7 June , he was stopped by a British man in plain clothes and pushed into a Jeep that was waiting with its engine running .

The British drove him to a villa , where for four days they tried to stop Moshe Sharett from meeting him . Sharett " fought a battle of telephones and cables , " Bauer writes , and on 11 June he and the Jewish Agency intelligence group were finally introduced to Brand . The discussion lasted several hours . Sharett wrote in a report of 27 June : " I must have looked a little incredulous , for he said : ' Please believe me : they have killed six million Jews ; there are only two million left alive . ' " At the end of the meeting , Sharett broke the news that the British were insisting Brand not return to Budapest . Brand became hysterical .

= = = Proposal rejected = = =

Brand was taken to Cairo , where he was questioned by the British for weeks . On 22 June he was interviewed by Ira Hirschmann of the American War Refugee Board ; Hirschmann wrote a positive report about Brand , but his influence was limited . Brand went on hunger strike for 17 days in protest at his detention .

The British , Americans and Soviet Union discussed the proposal . British Foreign Secretary ( later Prime Minister ) Anthony Eden wrote a memo on 26 June outlining the options . The British were convinced they were dealing with a Himmler trick , perhaps an attempt to broker a peace deal without the Soviet Union . If the deal had gone ahead and large numbers of Jews had been released in central Europe , Allied airborne and possibly land @-@ based military operations might have had to stop . Bauer believes the British feared this was Himmler 's motive ? to turn the Jews into human shields ? because it would have allowed the Germans to devote their forces to fighting the Red Army .

The Americans were more open to negotiating . A rift developed between them and the British who , Bauer writes , were worried about large @-@ scale Jewish immigration to Palestine , then under British control . There was also concern about the effect of Jewish immigration to the UK or US .

Eden did suggest a counter @-@ proposal on 1 July , but it was reduced , Bauer writes , to a ridiculous minimum . He told the American government that the British would allow Brand to return to Budapest with a message for Eichmann suggesting that 1 @, @ 500 Jewish children be given safe passage to Switzerland , 5 @, @ 000 from Bulgaria and Romania be allowed to leave for Palestine , and that Germany guarantee safe conduct for ships carrying Jewish refugees . He did not say what he would offer in return . On 11 July Prime Minister Winston Churchill put an end to the idea when he told Eden that the murder of the Jews was " probably the greatest and most horrible

crime ever committed , " and that there should be " no negotiations of any kind on this subject . " Of Brand 's mission he wrote : " The project which has been put forward through a very doubtful channel seems itself also to be of the most nondescript character . I would not take it seriously . "

= = = Leak to media = = =

The British leaked details of Eichmann 's proposal to the media . On 19 July 1944 ? the day before the 20 July plot , the attempted assassination of Adolf Hitler ? the New York Herald Tribune ( dateline London , 18 July ) reported that two Hungarian government emissaries in Turkey had proposed that Hungarian Jews be given safe passage in exchange for British and American pharmaceuticals and transport for the Germans . The London Times called it " one of the most loathsome " stories of the war , an attempt to " blackmail , deceive and split " the Allies , and a " new level of fantasy and self @-@ deception . "

The mass deportation of Hungarian Jews had already stopped by the time of the leak . Following publication in mid @-@ June of parts of the Vrba @-@ Wetzler report , describing the use of gas chambers inside Auschwitz , the Jewish Agency in Geneva had cabled London asking that Hungarian ministers be held personally responsible for the killings . The cable was intercepted and passed to Hungarian regent Miklós Horthy , who ordered an end to the deportations on 7 July .

The British released Brand on 5 October 1944 . Brand said they would not allow him to return to Hungary and forced him to travel to Palestine . Bauer disputes this , writing that Brand was simply afraid of returning to Budapest , convinced the Germans would murder him .

= = = Himmler 's involvement = = =

Germany 's Foreign Minister , Joachim von Ribbentrop , had apparently known nothing about the proposal . He cabled Brigadeführer Edmund Veessenmayer of the SS on 20 July 1944 to ask about it , and was told on 22 July that Brand and Grosz had been sent to Turkey on the orders of Heinrich Himmler , head of the SS . Eichmann himself said during interrogation after the war that the order had come from Himmler , as did SS officer Kurt Becher : " Himmler said to me : ' Take whatever you can from the Jews . Promise them whatever you want . What we will keep is another matter . ' " .

Bauer writes that the " clumsiness of the approach has been a wonderment to all observers . " He argues that Eichmann wanted to murder Jews , not sell them , but was forced instead to act as Himmler 's reluctant messenger . On the day Brand left Germany for Istanbul in May 1944 , Eichmann was in Auschwitz checking that it was ready for the trainloads of Jews about to arrive from Hungary . The camp 's commander , Obersturmbannführer Rudolf Höss , said it would be difficult to process such large numbers , whereupon Eichmann ordered that new arrivals be gassed immediately rather than going through " selection . " This does not suggest that he was going to halt the killing until Brand returned from Istanbul .

In Bauer 's view , the presence at one of the meetings of Gerhard Clages of the SS signals that Himmler was focusing on secret peace talks . Brand and Grosz arrived in Istanbul just two months before the attempted assassination of Adolf Hitler on 20 July 1944 . Himmler knew that attempts might be made on Hitler 's life , though not where and when . It is possible that he wanted to broker for peace in case Hitler did not survive , using low @-@ level agents for plausible deniability , and if Hitler did survive , Bauer argues , Himmler could offer him a peace deal with the West that excluded the Soviet Union .

Brand himself came to believe that the proposal had been designed to drive a wedge between the Allies . Two months before his death in 1964 , at the trial in Germany of Eichmann 's deputies Hermann Krumey and Otto Hunsche , he said he had " made a terrible mistake in passing this on to the British . It is now clear to me that Himmler sought to sow suspicion among the Allies as a preparation for his much desired Nazi @-@ Western coalition against Moscow . "

= = = Kasztner train = = =

Brand 's failure to return to Budapest was a disaster for the Aid and Rescue Committee . On 27 May Hansi Brand , who at some point during this period had become Kasztner 's lover , was arrested and beaten by the Hungarian Arrow Cross . Kasztner wrote that on 9 June that Eichmann told him : " If I do not receive a positive reply within three days , I shall operate the mill at Auschwitz " ( " die Muehle laufen lasse " ) . Hansi Brand told Claude Lanzman :

We ... [ lived ] between fear and despair and hope . And that formed itself into such a heap of stuff , that I can 't really describe it ? how it was and what it was . Every evening , we went to pieces and during the night , we tried to build ourselves up again , so we could go into the street ... and look like human beings again ... And [ it ] was like being in a windmill ; it turned and moved .

Bauer argues that the Aid and Rescue committee made the mistake of almost adopting the anti @-@ Semitic belief in unlimited Jewish power , that Jewish leaders could move around freely and persuade the Allies to act , and that American Jews had easy access to money and goods . The committee had similar trust in the Allies , but the latter were preparing for the invasion of Normandy , which began on 6 June 1944 . " At that crucial moment , " writes Bauer , " to antagonize the Soviets because of some hare @-@ brained Gestapo plan to ransom Jews was totally out of the question . "

Despite the setbacks , Kasztner , Hansi Brand and the rest of the committee secured the release of around 1 @,@ 684 Jews , including 273 children , who were allowed to leave Budapest for Switzerland by train on 30 June 1944 . The committee paid SS officer Kurt Becher \$ 1000 per person in foreign currency , shares , jewellery and gold , raised from the wealthier passengers to cover the cost of the rest . After an unexplained detour to the Bergen @-@ Belsen concentration camp , the passengers arrived in Switzerland in two batches in August and December that year . Joel Brand 's mother , sister and niece were on the train , as were 10 members of Kasztner 's family and 388 people from the Kolozsvár ghetto in his home town . Kasztner 's relationship with these passengers led to the criticism that his negotiations with Becher had focused on saving people he knew , an allegation that led to his assassination in 1957 .

= = Later life = =

= = = Move to Israel = = =

Bauer concludes that Brand was a courageous man who had passionately wanted to help the Jewish people , but his life was plagued after the mission by suspicion , including from other members of the Aid and Rescue Committee , because of his failure to return to Budapest . After the British released him , he joined the Stern Gang , who were fighting to remove the British from Palestine . He and Hansi Brand lived for the rest of their lives in Israel , at first moving to the Givat Brenner kibbutz , then Tel Aviv , with their two sons .

Ronald Florence writes that Brand seemed to live only to set the record straight . He offered testimony about the blood @-@ for @-@ goods proposal during several trials , including that of Eichmann in Jerusalem in 1961 and Eichmann 's assistant Hermann Krumei in Frankfurt in 1964 .

= = = Kasztner assassination = = =

Brand testified in 1954 at the controversial libel trial in Jerusalem of Malchiel Gruenwald , who was sued by the Israeli government on behalf of Rezs? Kasztner . Gruenwald was a Hungarian Holocaust survivor who had moved to Israel after the war . In a self @-@ published pamphlet in 1952 he accused Kasztner , by then an Israeli civil servant , of having collaborated with the Nazis by dealing with Eichmann . Brand testified for Kasztner , but instead of defending him took the opportunity to accuse the Jewish Agency , whose officials became the first Israeli government , of having helped the British scupper the blood @-@ for @-@ goods proposal .

After a trial that lasted 18 months , the judge concluded that , by negotiating with Eichmann , failing to warn the many to save the few on the Kasztner train , and writing an affidavit after the war for Kurt

Becher , Kasztner had " sold his soul to the devil . " It was because of Kasztner 's support for Becher that the Americans decided not to prosecute Becher at Nuremberg . Kasztner also wrote affidavits for Hans Jüttner , Dieter Wisliceny and Hermann Krumei .

The judge said that Kasztner 's failure to do more to warn the community that they were being sent to the gas chambers , and not resettled , had helped Eichmann maintain order , and that the Kasztner train had been a payoff . Tom Segev called the ruling " one of the most heartless in the history of Israel , perhaps the most heartless ever . " The Supreme Court of Israel overturned most of the verdict in January 1958 , ruling that the lower court had " erred seriously , " but Kasztner was assassinated in 1957 as a result of the earlier judgment .

= = Death = =

Brand was never able to put behind him the idea that he might have saved a million lives . In 1961 Life magazine called him " a man who lives in the shadows with a broken heart . " He died of a heart attack , aged 58 , during a visit to Germany in July 1964 , telling an interviewer shortly before his death : " An accident of life placed the fate of one million human beings on my shoulders . I eat and sleep and think only of them . "

Over 800 mourners attended his funeral in Tel Aviv , including Colonel Arie Baz on behalf of Israel 's President Zalman Shazar and Teddy Kollek , director @-@ general of the prime minister 's office , on behalf of Prime Minister Levi Eshkol . The eulogy was delivered by Gideon Hausner , the attorney general who prosecuted Adolf Eichmann .