

CLAIMS RESOLUTION TRIBUNAL

In re Holocaust Victim Assets Litigation
Case No. CV96-4849

Certified Award

to Claimant [REDACTED]
also acting on behalf of [REDACTED]

in re Account of Anna Geiger

Claim Number: 501625/HB

Award Amount: 10,375.00 Swiss Francs

This Certified Award is based upon the claim of [REDACTED], née [REDACTED], (the “Claimant”) to the account of Alzbeta and Alois Geiger.¹ This Award is to the published account of Anna Geiger (the “Account Owner”) at the Kreuzlingen branch of the [REDACTED] (the “Bank”).

All awards are published, but where a claimant has requested confidentiality, as in this case, the names of the claimant, any relatives of the claimant other than the account owner, and the bank have been redacted.

Information Provided by the Claimant

The Claimant submitted a Claim Form identifying the Account Owner as her maternal grandmother, Anna Lederer (Ledererova), née Geiger (Geigerova), who was born on 7 November 1865 in Lhota P. Racem, Austria-Hungary (today Lhota pod Radcem, Czech Republic), and was married to [REDACTED]. According to the Claimant, her grandmother, who was Jewish, resided in Novy Bydzov, Czechoslovakia (today Czech Republic), and had one daughter, [REDACTED] (the Claimant’s mother). The Claimant indicated that during the Second World War, her grandmother was deported to Theresienstadt, and that on 22 October 1942 she was deported to Treblinka, where she perished.

In support of her claim, the Claimant submitted documents, including: (1) her own birth certificate, dated 23 October 1931 in Vrchlabi, Czechoslovakia, indicating that [REDACTED] was born on 14 October 1931 in Hostinne, Czechoslovakia, that her parents were [REDACTED] and [REDACTED], who were married on 27 October 1927 in Prague and resided at Prosecece no. 18 in Prague, and that her maternal grandparents were [REDACTED], who was a businessman, and Anna Geiger (Geigerova); (2) the Claimant’s brother’s birth certificate, dated 27 January 1933 in Vrchlabi, indicating that [REDACTED] was born on 17 January 1933 in

¹ The CRT will treat the claims to these accounts in separate determinations.

Prosecne, that his mother resided at Prosecene no. 20, and that his maternal grandmother was Anna Lederer, née Geigerova; (3) her parents' marriage certificate, dated 18 January 1943 in Prague, indicating that [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] were married on 29 October 1927 in Prague, that [REDACTED], who was born on 9 November 1903 in Lisna, Czechoslovakia, resided at Prosecne no. 18, was Jewish, and that [REDACTED]'s mother was Anna Geigerova; (4) a detailed family tree, indicating that Anna Lederer had three grandchildren: the Claimant, [REDACTED], and [REDACTED], née [REDACTED], who died on 13 March 1994 in Nove Mesto na Morave, Czech Republic; and (5) a certificate issued by the Ministry of Social Welfare in Prague, dated 11 November 1946, indicating that Anna Ledererova, who was born on 7 November 1865 and resided in Novy Bydzov, was deported on 22 October 1942 from Terezin concentration camp to Treblinka, where she was probably killed. The CRT notes that this document was sent as a reply to an inquiry made by *JUDr.* Frantisek Podvinec with respect to Anna Ledererova.

The Claimant indicated that she was born on 14 October 1931 in Hostinne. The Claimant is representing her brother, [REDACTED], who was born on 17 January 1933 in Prosecne.

Information Available in the Bank's Records

The Bank's records consist of printouts from the Bank's database. According to these records, the Account Owner was Anna Geiger, who held a savings/passbook account. The Bank's records do not indicate the Account Owner's domicile. The Bank's records indicate that the account was transferred to a suspense account on 13 March 1986, as of which date it had a balance of 29.00 Swiss Francs ("SF"). The account remains suspended.

The CRT's Analysis

Identification of the Account Owner

The Claimant's maternal grandmother's name matches the published name of the Account Owner. The CRT notes that the Bank's records do not contain any specific information about the Account Owner other than her name.

In support of her claim, the Claimant submitted documents, including: (1) her own birth certificate, indicating that [REDACTED]'s maternal grandmother is Anna Geiger; (2) her parents' marriage certificate, indicating that [REDACTED]'s mother was Anna Geigerova; and (3) a document issued by the Ministry of Social Welfare in Prague, indicating that Anna Ledererova was born on 7 November 1865 and resided in Novy Bydzov. These documents provide independent verification that the person who is claimed to be the Account Owner had the same name recorded in the Bank's record as the name of the Account Owner.

The CRT notes that the name Anna Geiger appears only once on the February 2001 published list of accounts determined by the Independent Committee of Eminent Persons to be probably or possibly those of victims of Nazi persecution (the "ICEP List"). The CRT notes that there are no

other claims to this account. Taking all of these factors into account, the CRT concludes that the Claimant has plausibly identified the Account Owner.

Status of the Account Owner as a Victim of Nazi Persecution

The Claimant has made a plausible showing that the Account Owner was a Victim of Nazi Persecution. The Claimant stated that the Account Owner was Jewish, that she resided in Nazi occupied Czechoslovakia, and that she was deported to Theresienstadt and subsequently to Treblinka, where she perished.

The Claimant's Relationship to the Account Owner

The Claimant has plausibly demonstrated that she is related to the Account Owner by submitting specific information and documents, demonstrating that the Account Owner was the Claimant's maternal grandmother. These documents include her own birth certificate, indicating that [REDACTED]'s maternal grandmother is Anna Geiger and her brother's birth certificate, indicating that [REDACTED]' maternal grandmother was Anna Lederer, née Geigerova.

The CRT notes that the Claimant indicated that she had another sibling who passed away in 1994. According to information provided by the Claimant, this sibling may have had descendants, but because they are not represented in the Claimant's claim, the CRT will not treat their potential entitlement to the Account Owner's account in this decision.

The Issue of Who Received the Proceeds

The Bank's records indicate that the account was transferred to a suspense account, where it remains.

Basis for the Award

The CRT has determined that an Award may be made in favor of the Claimant and her brother, whom she represents. First, the claim is admissible in accordance with the criteria contained in Article 18 of the Rules. Second, the Claimant has plausibly demonstrated that the Account Owner was her grandmother, and that relationship justifies an Award. Third, the CRT has determined that neither the Account Owner nor her heirs received the proceeds of the claimed account.

Amount of the Award

In this case, the Account Owner held one savings/passbook account. The Bank's records indicate that the value of the savings/passbook account as of 13 March 1986 was SF 26.00. In accordance with Article 31(1) of the Rules, this amount is increased by an adjustment of SF 665.00, which reflects standardized bank fees charged to the savings/passbook account between 1945 and 1986. Consequently, the adjusted balance of the account at issue is SF 694.00. According to Article 29 of the Rules, if the amount in a savings/passbook account was less than SF 830.00, and in the absence of plausible evidence to the contrary, the amount in the account

shall be determined to be SF 830.00. The current value of the amount of the award is determined by multiplying the balance as determined by Article 29 by a factor of 12.5, in accordance with Article 31(1) of the Rules, to produce a total award amount of SF 10,375.00.

Division of the Award

According to Article 23(1)(c) of the Rules, if the Account Owner's spouse has not submitted a claim, the award shall be in favor of any descendants of the Account Owner who have submitted a claim, in equal shares by representation. In this case, the Claimant, who is the granddaughter of the Account Owner, is representing her brother, [REDACTED]. Accordingly, the Claimant and her brother are each entitled to one-half of the total award amount.

Scope of the Award

The Claimant should be aware that, pursuant to Article 20 of the Rules, the CRT will carry out further research on her claim to determine whether there are additional Swiss bank accounts to which she might be entitled, including research of the Total Accounts Database (consisting of records of 4.1 million Swiss bank accounts which existed between 1933 and 1945).

Certification of the Award

The CRT certifies this Award for approval by the Court and payment by the Special Masters.

Claims Resolution Tribunal
23 March 2007