

CLAIMS RESOLUTION TRIBUNAL

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

Certified Award

to Claimant [REDACTED]

in re Account of Guido Meier

Claim Number: 500976/BI¹

Award Amount: 49,375.00 Swiss Francs

This Certified Award is based upon the claim of [REDACTED] (the “Claimant”) to the published account of Guido Meier (the “Account Owner”) at the Delémont 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 uncle, Julius Guido Meier (Meijer or Meyer), who was born on 13 September 1894 in Maasmünster, Germany (now Masevaux, France), and was married to [REDACTED], née [REDACTED], in Frankfurt, Germany. The Claimant indicated that her aunt and uncle, who were Jewish, lived in Frankfurt, where her uncle worked as a banker, and that they had one child, [REDACTED], who was born on 26 February 1923 in Frankfurt. The Claimant further indicated that in the spring of 1939 her uncle fled with his family to Amsterdam, the Netherlands, where he resided until September 1942, when he was deported to Westerbork in the Netherlands. According to the Claimant, her uncle was then deported again and perished somewhere in central Europe on 31 March 1944. In addition, the Claimant indicated that her aunt was deported to Poland, where she perished in approximately 1940 or 1941; and that her cousin [REDACTED] was deported to the Sobibor extermination camp in Poland, where she perished on 11 June 1943.

In support of her claim, the Claimant also submitted a letter, dated 6 January 1947, from Mr. Cort Jäger of Amsterdam to [REDACTED], Guido’s brother, describing the fate of Guido and

¹ The Claimant submitted four additional claims, which are registered under Claim Numbers 219249, 220277, 220278 and 500991. In a separate decision, the CRT awarded the accounts of Leopold Lindemann to the Claimant. See *In re Accounts of Leopold Lindemann* (approved on 11 April 2005). The CRT will treat the remaining claims in separate determinations.

his family. According to the letter, Guido (referred to in the letter only by this name) was an employee of Mr. Jäger's father from the spring of 1939 until September 1942, at which point he was deported to Westerbork. The letter further states that Guido was deported to Germany, and that Mr. Jäger had not heard from him after the War and could not locate his whereabouts. Additionally, Mr. Jäger indicated that Guido's wife, [REDACTED], was deported to Poland in 1940 or 1941 and that Guido's daughter [REDACTED] was deported to Germany. Neither of the two had been heard from after the War. Finally, Mr. Jäger added that he was sending a similar letter to Guido's sister, who lived in France.

The Claimant also submitted additional documents with separate claims filed by the Claimant, including: 1) her own birth certificate, indicating that [REDACTED] was born on 22 May 1934 in Schiltigheim, France, and that her parents were [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]; and 3) her mother's death certificate, indicating that [REDACTED], who was born on 6 December 1909 in Cernay, Germany (now France) and was the widow of [REDACTED], died on 7 May 1997 in Chevreuse, France.² The Claimant indicated that she was born on 22 May 1934 in Schiltigheim.

Information Available in the Bank's Records

The Bank's records consist of printouts from the bank's database of collective accounts. According to these records, the Account Owner was Guido Meier. The Bank's records do not indicate the Account Owner's place of residence.

The Bank's records indicate that the Account Owner held an account, the type of which is not indicated, numbered 13766. The Bank's records indicate that the account was suspended on or before 14 December 1987, when it was in a collective account at the Bank and held a balance of 59.95 Swiss Francs ("SF").

The auditors who carried out the investigation of this bank to identify accounts of Victims of Nazi Persecution pursuant to instructions of the Independent Committee of Eminent Persons ("ICEP" or the "ICEP Investigation") indicated that there was no evidence of activity on this account after 1945. The account remains in the Bank's collective account today.

The CRT's Analysis

Identification of the Account Owner

The Claimant's uncle'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 his name.

The CRT notes that a database containing the names of victims of Nazi persecution includes a person named Guido Meijer, and indicates that his date of birth was 13 September 1894, that his

² As stated above, the CRT will treat these claims in separate determinations.

place of birth was Masmünster, and that he perished in 31 March 1944 in central Europe. This information matches the information about the Account Owner provided by the Claimant. The CRT notes that the database also includes a person named Guido Meier, and indicates that he was married to [REDACTED] and lived in Frankfurt and Amsterdam prior to the War. This information also matches information about the Account Owner provided by the Claimant. The database is a compilation of names from various sources, including the Yad Vashem Memorial of Israel. Additionally, the CRT notes that the name Guido Meier appears only once on the February 2001 published list of accounts determined by ICEP to be probably or possibly those of victims of Nazi persecution.

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, and that he perished in a concentration camp in 1944. The Claimant also submitted a letter from the son of the Account Owner's employer in the Netherlands, indicating that the Account Owner was deported to Germany and could not be located after the War. As noted, a person named Guido Meier (Meijer) was included in the CRT's database of victims.

The Claimant's Relationship to the Account Owner

The Claimant has plausibly demonstrated that she is related to the Account Owner by submitting specific biographical information demonstrating that the Account Owner was the Claimant's maternal uncle. The CRT notes that the Claimant identified information which matches information contained in the Yad Vashem records.

The CRT notes that the Claimant submitted a letter addressed to a [REDACTED], which describes the fate of his brother, Guido, and indicates that he had a sister in France. The CRT notes that it is plausible that this letter is a document which most likely only a family member would possess. The CRT further notes that the Claimant provided copies of her mother's death certificate and a copy of her own birth certificate, which provide independent verification that the person claimed to be the sister of the Account Owner had the surname [REDACTED] and resided in France.

Finally, the CRT notes that the foregoing information is of the type that family members would possess and indicates that the Account Owner was well known to the Claimant as a family member, and all of this information supports the plausibility that the Claimant is related to the Account Owner, as she has asserted in her Claim Form. There is no information to indicate that the Account Owner has other surviving heirs.

The Issue of Who Received the Proceeds

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

Basis for the Award

The CRT has determined that an Award may be made in favor of the Claimant. First, the claim is admissible in accordance with the criteria contained in Article 18 of the Rules Governing the Claims Resolution Process (the "Rules"). Second, the Claimant has plausibly demonstrated that the Account Owner was her maternal uncle, and that relationship justifies an Award. Third, the CRT has determined that neither the Account Owner nor his heirs received the proceeds of the claimed account.

Amount of the Award

In this case, the Account Owner held one account of unknown type. The Bank's records indicate that the value of the account as of 14 December 1987 was SF 59.95. In accordance with Article 31(1) of the Rules, this amount is increased by an adjustment of SF 685.00, which reflects standardized bank fees charged to the account between 1945 and 1987. Consequently, the adjusted balance of the account at issue is SF 744.95. According to Article 29 of the Rules, if the amount in an account of unknown type was less than SF 3,950.00 and in the absence of plausible evidence to the contrary, the amount in the account shall be determined to be SF 3,950.00. 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 49,375.00.

Scope of the Award

The Claimant should be aware that, pursuant to Article 20 of the Rules, the CRT shall carry out further research on her claims 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
27 February 2007