

CLAIMS RESOLUTION TRIBUNAL

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

Certified Award

to Claimant [REDACTED]
represented by Erez Bernstein

in re Account of Manfred Reifer

Claim Number: 501849/JG

Award Amount: 49,375.00 Swiss Francs

This Certified Award is based upon the claim of [REDACTED], née [REDACTED], (the “Claimant”) to the published account of Manfred Reifer (the “Account Owner”) at 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 father, Dr. Manfred (later Meir) Reifer, who was born in 1888 in Romania, and was married to [REDACTED]. The Claimant stated that her father, who was Jewish, resided in Cernauti, Romania (today Chernivtsi or Czernowitz, Ukraine). The Claimant explained that her father was an historian, journalist, and newspaper owner who held the academic title of doctor of philosophy.¹ The Claimant stated that she had one sibling, [REDACTED], who perished in 1943.

The Claimant explained that during the Second World War, her family remained in Czernowitz, where their assets, including the newspaper business, were seized by the Nazis. The Claimant stated that her family was arrested, and was being prepared to be deported to Transnistria when the Claimant’s father had a heart attack, which he survived; as a result of the heart attack, the family’s deportation was delayed, and they remained in Czernowitz throughout the Second World War.

¹ According to published websites, Manfred Reifer was a historian and prominent Jew of Cernauti, who served as a member of the Romanian parliament following the city’s incorporation into Romania after the First World War. See http://www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/jsource/judaica/ejud_0002_0004_0_04224.html.

The Claimant stated that she and her parents emigrated to Palestine (now Israel) in 1945. The Claimant indicated that her father died in 1952, and that her mother died in 1983, both in Tel Aviv, Israel.

The Claimant submitted copies of: (1) her father's Romanian identity card, dated 1930, which indicates that Manfred Reifer was forty-two years old, worked as a journalist, and resided in Cernauti; (2) her marriage certificate, dated 24 April 1941, which indicates that her father's name was Manfred Reifer; (3) a printout received from an Israeli burial company, which indicates that Manfred Reifer was born on 1 April 1888 and died on 21 March 1952; and (4) an undated printout that purports to be an excerpt from a text entitled *History of Jews in Bukowina, Volume II*, which indicates that Dr. Manfred Reifer studied in Czernowitz, was a member of the Romanian Parliament, worked with leading figures of the Zionist Movement, that his son, [REDACTED], died on 28 February 1943, that his daughter, [REDACTED], was married to Dr. [REDACTED], and that Manfred Reifer's widow, [REDACTED], née [REDACTED], lived in Tel Aviv, Israel.

The Claimant indicated that she was born on 31 August 1919 in Czernowitz.

Information Available in the Bank's Records

The Bank's records consist of a list of newly-opened numbered accounts, and a list of closed numbered accounts. According to these records, the Account Owner was Dr. Manfred Reifer, who resided in Cernauti, Romania. The Bank's records indicate that the Account Owner held a numbered account of unknown type, held under the numbered account relationship 66529, which was opened on 31 October 1938.

The Bank's records indicate that the account was closed to fees on 30 June 1949. The amount in the account on the date of its closure is unknown.

The CRT's Analysis

Identification of the Account Owner

The Claimant has plausibly identified the Account Owner. The Claimant's father's name and country of residence match the published name and country of residence of the Account Owner.² The Claimant also identified the Account Owner's academic title and city of residence, which match unpublished information about the Account Owner contained in the Bank's records.

In support of her claim, the Claimant submitted documents, including her father's identity card, her marriage certificate, a printout from an Israeli burial company, and an excerpt from *History of Jews in Bukowina, Volume II*, providing independent verification that the person who is

² The CRT notes that the city names of Czernowitz, Cernauti, and Chernivitsi are all name variations of the same city.

claimed to be the Account Owner had the same name and resided in the same city recorded in the Bank's records as the name and city of residence of the Account Owner.

The CRT notes that the name Manfred Reifer 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 ("ICEP" or the "ICEP List"). The CRT notes that there are no other claims to this account.

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 he resided in Nazi-allied Romania, that his assets were seized by the Nazis, and that he was arrested and narrowly escaped deportation to Transnistria.

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 father. These documents include her marriage certificate, indicating that her father was Manfred Reifer; and an excerpt from *History of Jews in Bukowina, Volume II*, indicating that Dr. Manfred Reifer's daughter [REDACTED] married Dr. [REDACTED]. 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 closed to fees on 30 June 1949.

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. Second, the Claimant has plausibly demonstrated that the Account Owner was her father, and that relationship justifies an Award. Third, the CRT has determined that it is plausible 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. Pursuant to Article 29 of the Rules, when the value of an account is unknown, as is the case here, the average value of the same or a similar type of account in 1945 is used to calculate the current value of the account being awarded. Based on the investigation carried out pursuant to the instructions of the Independent Committee of Eminent Persons ("ICEP" or the "ICEP Investigation"), in 1945 the average value of an account of unknown type was 3,950.00 Swiss Francs. The current value of this amount is calculated by multiplying it 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.

Certification of the Award

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

Claims Resolution Tribunal
13 February 2009