

CLAIMS RESOLUTION TRIBUNAL

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

Certified Award

to Claimant Miriam Teeman-Halden
represented by Nina Halden-Rönnlund

in re Account of Zygmunt Teemann

Claim Number: 401508/AZ

Award Amount: 26,750.00 Swiss Francs

This Certified Award is based upon the claim of Miriam Teeman-Halden, née Teeman (Tejman), (the “Claimant”) to the published account of Zygmunt Teemann (the “Account Owner”) at the Zurich branch of the [REDACTED] (the “Bank”).

All awards are published. Where a claimant has not requested confidentiality, as in this case, only the name of the bank has been redacted.

Information Provided by the Claimant

The Claimant submitted a Claim Form identifying the Account Owner as her paternal uncle, Zygmunt Teemann (Teeman), who was born in approximately 1890 in Ubejska, Siberia (now Yenisey, Russia), and was married to Eva Teemann, née Furst, in approximately 1920 in Lodz, Poland. The Claimant indicated that her uncle, who was Jewish, was the managing director of *Mitranza (Miedynarodowe Towarzystwo Transportowi Zeguli, SA)*, which was located at Wolczanska 17 in Lodz, where he also resided with his wife and their children, Adam, Kalina, and Stanislaw. According to the Claimant, in October 1939, her uncle’s company was seized by the Nazis and he and his family were all deported to the Warsaw ghetto, where they resided at Smoczastrasse 35, and where they perished. The Claimant further indicated that she, her father Jan, her mother Ida, and her brother Stefan, who lived in Lodz, were deported to the Lodz ghetto and that she is the only surviving member of both families. The Claimant indicated that she was born on 10 March 1926 in Lodz.

Information Available in the Bank’s Records

The CRT notes that 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”) did not report an account belonging to Zygmunt Teemann during their investigation of the Bank. The documents evidencing an account

belonging to Zygmunt Teemann were obtained from the Swiss Federal Archive and from the publication of the Press Office of the Polish Ministry of Finance.

Information Available in the Swiss Federal Archive

By Federal Decree of 20 December 1962, the Swiss Federal Council obliged all individuals, legal entities, and associations to report any Swiss based assets whose last-known owners were foreign nationals or stateless persons of whom nothing had been heard since 9 May 1945 and who were known or presumed to have been victims of racial, religious, or political persecution (“the 1962 Survey”).

In the records of the Swiss Federal Archive in Bern, Switzerland, there are documents concerning the registration of assets belonging to Zygmunt Teemann, numbered 226. These records indicate that the Account Owner was Zygmunt (Siegmond) Teemann, who was a Polish national and who was the director of *Internationale Transport und Schiffahrts-Gesellschaft “Mitranza” A.G.* in Lodz, Poland. These records further indicate that, as of 1932, the Account Owner’s address was in the care of his company and that, in 1942, the Bank received a postcard from his niece, Claire Braunschweig, who resided in Zurich, Switzerland, indicating that he then resided at Smoczastrasse 35 in Warsaw, Poland. These records indicate that the Account Owner held a demand deposit account with a balance of 851.50 Swiss Francs (“SF”) as of 1 September 1963. The records from the Swiss Federal Archive do not refer to the ultimate disposition of the assets.

Information Published by the Press Office of the Polish Ministry of Finance

In the publication entitled *Nasze finanse*, published by the Press Office of the Polish Ministry of Finance in 1998, there is information concerning the assets of Zygmunt Teemann, extracted from documents contained in the Swiss Federal Archive. According to this record, the Account Owner was Zygmunt Teemann, who was a Polish national residing at Smoczastrasse 35 in Warsaw, and who was the director of *Miedzynarodowa Spolka Transportowa i Transportu Morskiego “Miltranza AG”* [sic]. This record further indicates that the Account Owner’s alternate contact address, as of 1932, was in the care of his company, which was located in Lodz.

This record indicates that the Account Owner held a demand deposit account and that the last contact between the Bank and the Account Owner or his heirs occurred in 1942, when the Bank was in contact with the Account Owner’s niece, Claire Braunschweig, who lived in Zurich. Furthermore, this record indicates that the account held a balance of SF 851.50 as of 27 February 1964 and that SF 76.75 in bank fees was deducted between 1964 and 1970. Finally, this record indicates that the remaining balance of SF 774.75 was transferred on 15 August 1975 to the Polish National Bank.

The CRT's Analysis

Identification of the Account Owner

The Claimant's uncle's name, nationality, city and country of residence, company, title, and street address in the Warsaw ghetto match the published name, nationality, city and country of residence, company, title, and Warsaw street address of the Account Owner. The CRT notes that the Claimant identified the unpublished address of the Account Owner in Lodz, as well as the unpublished spelling of the Account Owner's company from the Swiss Archive records (*Mitranza*) rather than the spelling from the Polish publication (*Miltranza*), which was incorrectly copied from those records. The CRT further notes that *Mitranza* is a consolidation or acronym of *Miedzynarodowej Towarzystwo Transportowi Zeguli, SA* (emphasis added), which was provided by the Claimant as the full name of the company.

The CRT notes that the name Zygmunt Teemann appears only once on the January 2005 published list of additional accounts determined by ICEP to be probably or possibly those of victims of Nazi persecution (the "2005 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 his company was seized by the Nazis in October 1939, and that he was deported to the Warsaw ghetto, where he 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 biographical information, demonstrating that the Account Owner was the Claimant's uncle. 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 publication of the Press Office of the Polish Ministry of Finance indicates that the account was paid to the Polish National Bank on 15 August 1975.

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 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 demand deposit account. The Swiss Federal Archive records indicate that the balance of the account as of 1 September 1963 was SF 851.50. In accordance with Article 31(1) of the Rules, this amount is increased by an adjustment of SF 285.00, which reflects standardized bank fees charged to the account between 1945 and 1963. Consequently, the adjusted balance of the account at issue is SF 1,136.50. According to Article 29 of the Rules, if the amount in a demand deposit was less than SF 2,140.00, and in the absence of plausible evidence to the contrary, the amount in the account shall be determined to be SF 2,140.00. 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 26,750.00.

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
17 November 2006