

CLAIMS RESOLUTION TRIBUNAL

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

Certified Denial

to Claimant [REDACTED]

Claimed Account Owners: Jacob Valk and *Warenhaus E. M. Valk Söhne*¹

Claim Number: 224287/SB

This determination is based on the claim of [REDACTED] (the “Claimant”) to a Swiss bank account potentially owned by Jacob Valk and the business, *Warenhaus E. M. Valk Söhne*. The CRT did not locate an account belonging to *Warenhaus E. M. Valk Söhne* in the Account History Database prepared pursuant to the investigation of the Independent Committee of Eminent Persons (“ICEP” or “ICEP Investigation”), which identified accounts probably or possibly belonging to Victims of Nazi Persecution, as defined in the Rules Governing the Claims Resolution Process, as amended (the “Rules”).²

This Certified Denial is to a Swiss bank account potentially owned by the Claimant’s relative, Jacob (Jakob) Valk (the “Claimed Account Owner”).

All denials 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 stating that Jacob Valk, who was Jewish, was a businessman who resided in Emden, Germany.

¹ The Claimant should note that this determination relates only to the Claim Number and Claimed Account Owners stated above, and that the CRT is aware that the Claimant may have submitted other claims.

² The CRT notes that the Claimant submitted an article, dated 6 July 2002, from the *Emder Zeitung* (the Emden newspaper), on the occasion of the recent death in Israel of Jürgen Valk, who was the grandson of Jacob Valk. This newspaper article details the history of the Valk family in Emden. In this article, the name of the store owned by the Valk family is identified as *Kaufhaus J.M. Valk und Söhne, G.m.b.H., Emden*. The CRT notes that no accounts listed under this name or variations of this name were identified in the Account History Database.

The CRT's Investigation

The CRT matched the name of Jacob Valk to the names of all account owners in the Account History Database and identified accounts belonging to individuals whose names match, or are substantially similar to, the name of the Claimed Account Owner. In doing so, the CRT used advanced name matching systems and computer programs, and considered variations of names, including name variations provided by Yad Vashem, The Holocaust Martyrs' and Heroes' Remembrance Authority, in Jerusalem, Israel, to ensure that all possible name matches were identified. However, a close review of the relevant bank records indicated that the information contained therein was inconsistent with the information the Claimant provided regarding the Claimed Account Owner. Accordingly, the CRT was unable to conclude that any of these accounts belonged to the Claimed Account Owner.

The CRT's Analysis

Identification of the Account Owners

The list below contains names of account owners that match the name of the Claimed Account Owner and the reasons why the CRT has concluded that the Claimed Account Owner and an account owner are not the same person. If an account owner's place of residence was published, that place of residence is also listed.

Name: Jacob Valk (Germany)

Account Identification Number: 1013442

Specifically, the Claimant stated that her relative, Jacob Valk, resided in Emden, Germany. In contrast, the records show that the account owner resided in a different city which is over 200 kilometers from Emden. The CRT notes that there are other major cities significantly closer to Emden than the account owner's city of residence, thus rendering it unlikely that a resident of Emden would indicate the account owner's city of residence as his/her place of residence, even for the purposes of maintaining a Swiss bank account.

Name: Jacob Valk Jr. (Hamburg, Germany)

Account Identification Number: 5024811

Specifically, the Claimant stated that her relative, Jacob Valk, resided in Emden, Germany. In contrast, the records show that the account owner resided in Hamburg, Germany, which is over 200 kilometers from Emden. The CRT notes that there are other major cities significantly closer to Emden than Hamburg, thus rendering it unlikely that a resident of Emden would indicate Hamburg as their place of residence, even for the purposes of maintaining a Swiss bank account.

The Claimant should note that all accounts awarded by the CRT are published upon release on the CRT's website at www.crt-ii.org.

Right of Appeal and Request for Reconsideration

Pursuant to Article 30 of the Rules, the Claimant may appeal this decision or submit a request for reconsideration within ninety (90) days of the date of the letter accompanying this decision.

An appeal must be based upon a plausible suggestion of error regarding the CRT's conclusions set out in this decision. Any appeals which are submitted without a plausible suggestion of error shall be summarily denied. A request for reconsideration must be based on new documentary evidence not previously presented to the CRT that, if considered, would have led to a different outcome of the claim. Claimants should briefly explain the relevance of the newly submitted documents in view of the conclusions stated in the certified decision.

The Claimant should send appeals and/or requests for reconsideration in writing to the following address: Oren Wiener, Claims Resolution Tribunal, Attention: Appeals / Request for Reconsideration, P.O. Box 9564, 8036 Zurich, Switzerland. If more than one account has been treated in this decision, the Claimant should identify the account, including, where available, the Account Identification Number, that forms the basis of the appeal and/or request for reconsideration.

Scope of the Denial

The CRT now considers the Claimant's claim to the accounts of Jacob Valk and Waren House E. M. Valk Sohne closed. Please note that this decision applies only to the Claim Number and Claimed Account Owners identified herein, and that the CRT is aware that the Claimant may have claimed accounts held by other persons or entities both in the Claim Number specified above and in other claims submitted to the CRT.

Certification of the Denial

The CRT certifies this Denial for approval by the Court.

Claims Resolution Tribunal
8 August 2007