

CLAIMS RESOLUTION TRIBUNAL

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

Certified Denial

to Claimant Walter Wolfe
also acting on behalf of Edith Strauss

in re Account of L. Wolff

Claim Number: 201609/MG¹

This Certified Denial is based on the claim of Walter Wolfe (the “Claimant”) to the account of Leo David Wolff. This Denial is to the published account of L. Wolff (the “Account Owner”) at the [REDACTED] (the “Bank”).^{2,3}

All denials 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 asserting that his father, Leo David Wolff, who was born on 5 May 1880 in Kobern, Mosel, Germany, and was married to Rosalia Wolff on 21 Mach 1905 in Koblenz, Germany, owned a Swiss bank account. The Claimant stated that his father, who was Jewish, was a businessman who resided in Guels-Koblenz until 1941, when he was deported first to Auschwitz, then to Treblinka, and finally to Izbica, where he was murdered. The Claimant indicated that he was born on 15 November 1916 in Guels-Koblenz, Germany.

Information Available in the Bank’s Records

The CRT notes that the Claimant submitted a claim to an account belonging to his relative, Leo Wolff. The auditors who carried out the investigation to identify accounts of Victims of Nazi Persecution pursuant to instructions of the Independent Committee of Eminent Persons (“ICEP”

¹ The Claimant submitted an Initial Questionnaire to the Court in 1999 and a Claim Form to the CRT. The CRT is treating the Initial Questionnaire and the Claim Form under the consolidated Claim Number 201609.

² The CRT did not locate an account belonging to Leo David Wolff 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”).

³ In this claim, the Claimant also claimed the account of Theo Wolff. The CRT will treat the claim to this account in a separate determination.

or the “ICEP Investigation”) reported one account whose owner’s name matches that provided by the Claimant. The account is identified below by its Account Identification Number, which is a number assigned to the account by the ICEP auditors for tracking purposes.

Account 5024949

The Bank’s records indicate that the Account Owner was L. Wolff, who resided in Lucerne, Switzerland.

The CRT’s Analysis

Admissibility of the Claim

The CRT has determined that the claim is admissible according to Article 18 of the Rules Governing the Claims Resolution Process, as amended (the “Rules”).

Identification of the Account Owner

The CRT concludes that the Claimant has not identified the Account Owner as his relative. Although the name of his father matches the published first initial and last name of the Account Owner, the information provided by the Claimant differs materially from the published information about the Account Owner available in the Bank’s records. Specifically, the Claimant stated that his father resided in Germany until his deportation. In contrast, the Bank’s records show that the Account Owner resided in Lucerne, Switzerland. Consequently, the CRT is unable to conclude that the Account Owner and the Claimant’s father are the same person.

The CRT has taken utmost care in matching the names of the person identified by the Claimant as a possible account owner to names of actual account owners identified in the Account History Database prepared pursuant to the ICEP Investigation, which identified accounts probably or possibly belonging to Victims of Nazi Persecution, as defined in the Rules. The CRT uses advanced name matching systems that consider variations of names, including name variations provided by Yad Vashem, Israel, to ensure that all possible name matches are identified. The CRT has reviewed this claim carefully and analyzed matches to accounts belonging to account owners with alternative spellings of Leo Wolff’s surname, which include Wolf, and has determined that these accounts do not belong to the Claimant’s relative.

Right of Appeal

Pursuant to Article 30 of the Rules, the Claimant may appeal this Denial to the Court through the Special Masters within ninety (90) days of the date of the letter accompanying this decision. Appeals should be delivered to the following address: Office of Special Master Michael Bradfield, 51 Louisiana Ave., NW, Washington, DC 20001 USA.

The Claimant should send appeals in writing to the above address and should include all reasons for the appeal. If more than one account has been denied in this Certified Denial, the Claimant should identify the Account Identification Number, or the alternative surname of the Account Owner identified above, which forms the basis of the appeal. Appeals submitted without either a plausible suggestion of error or relevant new evidence may be summarily denied.

Scope of the Denial

The Claimant should be aware that the CRT will carry out further research on his claim to determine whether an award may be made based upon the information provided by the Claimant or upon information from other sources.

Certification of the Denial

The CRT certifies this Denial for approval by the Court.

Claims Resolution Tribunal
9 November 2006