

CLAIMS RESOLUTION TRIBUNAL

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

Certified Award

to Claimant Paul Meyer

in re Account of Paul Meyer

Claim Number: 400335/AZ

Award Amount: 49,375.00 Swiss Francs

This Certified Award is based upon the claim of Paul Meyer (the “Claimant”) to the accounts of Max Meyer.¹ This Award is to the account of Paul Meyer (the “Account Owner”) at the Biel branch of the [REDACTED] (the “Bank”).²

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 himself, Paul Meyer, as the Account Owner. The Claimant indicated that he was born on 18 July 1921 in Dusseldorf, Germany, where he lived with his parents and four siblings until 1938, when his family, who was Jewish, fled to Amsterdam, the Netherlands. According to the Claimant, his family’s property, including a factory in Amsterdam that produced anodes for the electroplating industry, was looted by the Nazis in 1941. The Claimant further indicated that he fled from Amsterdam to Haifa, Palestine (now Israel), via France and Spain, and joined a Jewish brigade called *Sarafand* that fought in campaigns in Europe during the Second World War. Finally, the Claimant indicated that his parents remained in Amsterdam until 1945 and that they emigrated to Australia after the War; the Claimant indicated that he also emigrated to Australia.

The Claimant indicated that his brother [REDACTED], who was born on 5 April 1919 in Dusseldorf, perished in Mauthausen on 6 October 1941 and that his sister [REDACTED], who

¹ The CRT will treat the claim to these accounts in a separate determination.

² The CRT notes that on the February 2001 published list of accounts determined by the Independent Committee of Eminent Persons (“ICEP”) to be probably or possibly those of Victims of Nazi Persecution (the “ICEP List”) and on the List of account Owners Published in 2005 (the “2005 List”), the name Paul Meyer appears multiple times. Upon careful review, the CRT has determined that the other persons named Paul Meyer are not the same person addressed in the current decision and, consequently, the Claimant did not identify these other account owners as himself.

was born on 22 January 1924 in Dusseldorf, perished in Mauthausen on 10 January 1942. The Claimant further indicated that his father, [REDACTED], who was born on 28 December 1879 in Halberstadt, Germany, died in 1954 in Sydney, Australia and that his mother, [REDACTED], née [REDACTED], who was born on 1 January 1891 in Mährisch Ostrau, Czechoslovakia (now part of the Czech Republic), died in 1992 in Sydney. The Claimant further indicated that his brother [REDACTED], who was born on 30 July 1913 in Dusseldorf, died in 1996 in Brazil and that his brother [REDACTED], who was born on 6 December 1915 in Dusseldorf, died in 2001 in France.

In support of his claim, the Claimant submitted his father's death certificate indicating that [REDACTED], who was born in Halbersta [sic], Germany in 1879, died on 9 December 1954 in Sydney; that he was buried in a Jewish cemetery; that he was married to [REDACTED], née [REDACTED]; and that his children were [REDACTED] (age 41), [REDACTED] (deceased), [REDACTED] (age 38), [REDACTED] (deceased) and [REDACTED] (age 33, who lived in Australia).

The Claimant further submitted his own passport, indicating that Paul Meyer was born on 18 July 1921 in Dusseldorf.

The Claimant previously submitted an Initial Questionnaire to the Court in 1999, asserting his entitlement to assets looted from him by the Nazis.

Information Available in the Bank's Records

The Bank's record consists of printouts from the Bank's database. According to these records, the Account Owner was Paul Meyer. These records do not indicate the Account Owner's domicile. The Bank's records indicate that the Account Owner held an account, the type of which is not indicated, numbered 20154. The Bank's records further indicate that the last contact between the Account Owner and the Bank occurred on 12 September 1936, and that the account was suspended by the Bank on 28 February 1977, as of which date the account held a balance of 11.10 Swiss Francs ("SF"). The account remains open and dormant.

The CRT's Analysis

Identification of the Account Owner

The Claimant'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 the account must have been opened while the Claimant was still a minor. However, the CRT considers it plausible that the account was opened on the Claimant's behalf by his parents or other adult member of his family.

In support of his claim, the Claimant submitted documents, including his father's death certificate and his own passport, providing independent verification that the person who is

claimed to be the Account Owner has the same name recorded in the Bank's records as the name of the Account Owner.

The CRT notes that the other claim to this account was disconfirmed because that claimant failed to establish a familial relationship to the person claimed to be the Account Owner. 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 he is Jewish, that he fled Nazi Germany to the Netherlands with his family in 1938, that his family's assets were looted by the Nazis, and that he fled from the Netherlands to Palestine. The Claimant also submitted his father's death certificate, which indicates that his family was Jewish.

Additionally, the CRT notes that a database containing the names of victims of Nazi persecution includes persons named [REDACTED] (born on 5 April 1919 in Dusseldorf) and [REDACTED] (born on 22 January 1924 in Dusseldorf) and indicates that their parents were [REDACTED] and [REDACTED], that they lived in Dusseldorf and then in Amsterdam, and that they perished in Mauthausen on 6 October 1941 and 10 July 1942, respectively. This information matches the information about the Account Owner's siblings provided by the Claimant. The database is a compilation of names from various sources, including the Yad Vashem Memorial of Israel.

The Claimant's Relationship to the Account Owner

As discussed above, the Claimant has plausibly demonstrated that he is the Account Owner.

The Issue of Who Received the Proceeds

The Bank's records indicate that the account remains open and dormant.

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 he is the Account Owner. 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 28 February 1977 was SF 11.10. In accordance with Article 31(1) of the Rules, this amount is increased by an adjustment of SF 495.00, which reflects standardized bank fees charged to the account between 1945 and 1977. Consequently, the

adjusted balance of the account at issue is SF 506.10. 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 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 will carry out further research on his claim to determine whether there are additional Swiss bank accounts to which he 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
30 May 2007