

CLAIMS RESOLUTION TRIBUNAL

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

Certified Award

to Claimant [REDACTED 1]
also acting on behalf of [REDACTED 2]

in re Account of Bruno Meier

Claim Number: 224442/MBC, 300659/MBC¹

Award Amount: 11,090.63 Swiss Francs

This Certified Award is based upon the claim of [REDACTED 1] (the “Claimant”) to the published account of Bruno Meier (the “Account Owner”) at the Zurich-Wiedikon branch of 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 his father, Bruno Meier, who was born on 16 October 1928 in Gambach, Germany to [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. The Claimant stated that his father’s family owned a butcher shop in Gambach. The Claimant further stated that after the outbreak of the Second World War, Bruno Meier, who was Jewish, lived with his grandfather, [REDACTED], and that he later relocated to Frankfurt, Germany, and from there was deported to the Mauthausen concentration camp. The Claimant indicated that his father, who had two sisters, was the only member of his family to survive the Holocaust. The Claimant further indicated that Bruno Meier moved to London, England, after the War. According to the information provided by the Claimant, Bruno Meier was married to [REDACTED 2](now [REDACTED 2]) on 4 November 1951 in London, and the couple had two children: [REDACTED], who was born in 1953, and the Claimant. The Claimant stated that his father died in 1955, and that his paternal aunt, [REDACTED], née [REDACTED], who had three children, died in 1995 at Kibbutz Ein Gev in Israel.

¹ The Claimant submitted fifteen additional claims, which are registered under the Claim Numbers 223105, 223106, 223107, 223108, 223116, 223117, 223118, 223119, 224280, 224281, 224282, 224283, 224440, 224441, and 300658. In separate decisions, the CRT awarded the accounts of Renate Meier and Gustav Meyer to Claimant [REDACTED 1] (the "Claimant"). See *In re Account of Renate Meier* (approved on 30 November 2005) and *In re Account of Gustav Maier* (approved on 27 February 2007). The CRT will treat the remaining claims in separate determinations.

In support of his claim, the Claimant submitted copies of documents, including: 1) his father's birth certificate, indicating that Bruno Meier was born on 16 October 1928 in Gambach, that he was Jewish, and that his parents were [REDACTED] and [REDACTED], née [REDACTED]; 2) an excerpt from an asset declaration, filed in 1939 by his father pursuant to German legislation, indicating that Bruno Meier, who was born on 16 October 1928 and who was Jewish, lived in Gambach; 3) his parents' marriage certificate, indicating that Bruno Meier and [REDACTED 2] were married on 4 November 1951 in England; 4) his father's death certificate, indicating that Bruno Meier, who was a butcher's assistant, died on 15 July 1955 in England; 5) his own birth certificate, indicating that Bernard Meier was born on 27 October 1955 in England, that his parents were Bruno Meier, who was a butcher by profession and was deceased at the time of the birth, and [REDACTED 2], née [REDACTED]; and 6) a letter from a Polish Holocaust museum, stating that Bruno Meier, who was born on 16 October 1929 in Gambach, was imprisoned in Mauthausen concentration camp during the Second World War and that his sister, [REDACTED], perished in Auschwitz.

The Claimant indicated that he was born on 27 October 1955 in London. The Claimant is representing his mother, [REDACTED 2], née [REDACTED], who was born on 12 February 1932 in London.

Information Available in the Bank's Records

The Bank's records consist of a list of suspended accounts and printouts from the Bank's database. According to these records, the Account Owner was Bruno Meier. The Bank's records do not indicate the Account Owner's domicile.

The Bank's records indicate that the Account Owner held a savings account, numbered 7134. The Bank's records further indicate that the account was transferred on 13 May 1980 to a suspense account for dormant assets, where it remains today. The amount in the account on the date of its transfer was 342.25 Swiss Francs ("SF").

The CRT's Analysis

Joinder of Claims

According to Article 37(1) of the Rules Governing the Claims Resolution Process, as amended (the "Rules"), claims to the same or related accounts may be joined in one proceeding at the CRT's discretion. In this case, the CRT determines it appropriate to join the two claims of the Claimant in one proceeding.

Identification of the Account Owner

The Claimant's father'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. In support of his claim, the Claimant submitted copies of documents, including his father's birth certificate, an excerpt from his father's asset declaration, his parents'

marriage certificate, his father's death certificate, his own birth certificate, all providing independent verification that the person who is claimed to be the Account Owner had the same name recorded in the Bank's records as the name of the Account Owner.

Additionally, the CRT notes that a database containing the names of victims of Nazi persecution includes a person named Bruno Meier, and indicates that his date of birth was 16 October 1929 and place of birth was Gambach, which matches the information about the Account Owner provided by the Claimant.² The database is a compilation of names from various sources, including the Yad Vashem Memorial of Israel.

The CRT notes that the name Bruno Meier appears only once 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"). 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 and was deported to the Mauthausen concentration camp. The Claimant also submitted his father's birth certificate, indicating that he was Jewish and that he was born in Germany, as well as a letter from a Polish Holocaust museum, stating that Bruno Meier, who was born on 16 October 1929 in Gambach, was imprisoned in Mathausen concentration camp during the Second World War. As noted above, a person named Bruno Meier was included in the CRT's database of victims.

The Claimant's Relationship to the Account Owner

The Claimant has plausibly demonstrated that he and his mother, whom he represents, are related to the Account Owner by submitting specific information and documents, including the Claimant's birth certificate, demonstrating that the Account Owner was the Claimant's father and the husband of represented party [REDACTED 2]. The CRT notes that the Claimant indicated that his late sister has surviving descendants. However, as they did not file claim forms and are not being represented in this claim, their potential entitlement to the account will not be addressed in this Award.

The Issue of Who Received the Proceeds

The Bank's records indicate that the account was transferred on 13 May 1980 to a suspense account for dormant assets, where it remains today.

² The CRT notes that the year of birth in the Victims' database (1929) matches the year of birth provided in a letter submitted by the Claimant from the Polish Holocaust museum (1929) but is not identical to the year of birth identified by the Claimant in the claim form and in other documents provided by the Claimant (1928). The CRT notes that the years are very close and considers this discrepancy not to affect the Claimant's identification of the Account Owner.

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 his mother, whom he represents, was the Account Owner's wife, and that the Claimant is their son, and these relationships justify an Award. Finally, 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 a savings account. The Bank's records indicate that the value of the account as of 13 May 1980 was SF 342.25. In accordance with Article 31(1) of Rules, this amount is increased by an adjustment of SF 545.00, which reflects standardized bank fees charged to the account between 1945 and 1980. Consequently, the adjusted balance of the account at issue is SF 887.25. The current value of the amount of the award is determined by multiplying this balance by a factor of 12.5, in accordance with Article 31(1) of the Rules, to produce a total award amount of SF 11,090.63.

Division of the Award

According to Article 23(1)(b) of the Rules, if the Account Owner's spouse and descendants have submitted a claim, the spouse shall receive one-half of the account and any descendants who have submitted a claim shall receive the other half in equal shares by representation. In this case, the Claimant is representing his mother, [REDACTED 2], the Account Owner's spouse. Accordingly, the Claimant and represented party, [REDACTED 2], are each entitled to one-half of the total award amount.

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