

CLAIMS RESOLUTION TRIBUNAL

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

Certified Award

to Claimant [REDACTED]

in re Account of Benjamin Bloch

Claim Number: 207274/ES

Award Amount: 10,375.00 Swiss Francs

This Certified Award is based upon the claim of [REDACTED] (the “Claimant”) to the account of Benjamin Bloch (the “Account Owner”) at 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 maternal uncle, Benjamin Bloch, who was married to his maternal aunt, [REDACTED], née [REDACTED]. The Claimant indicated that his uncle had one son, [REDACTED], who was born in approximately 1931. The Claimant indicated that his uncle, who was Jewish, was the director of the Alsatian society of thermometer manufacturers (*Société Alsacienne de thermomètres*), and that he resided on rue Habsheim in Mulhouse, France. The Claimant indicated that in May 1940, after the occupation of France, his uncle and his family escaped to Vichy, France, where they resided on rue d’Alsace. The Claimant stated that in April 1944, his uncle and his family were deported to Auschwitz, where they all perished. The Claimant stated that his uncle probably opened an account in Switzerland because he resided close to the Swiss border and travelled there numerous times. The Claimant indicated that he was born on 28 November 1924 in Strasbourg, France.

Information Available in the Bank’s Records

The Bank’s records consist of an extract from the Bank’s ledger and an account statement. According to these records, the Account Owner was Benjamin Bloch, who was born in 1897 and resided at Rue de Habsheim 31 in Mulhouse, France. The Bank’s records indicate that the Account Owner held a savings/passbook account, numbered 146100-27, and that the amount

in the account on 13 October 1966 was 112.20 Swiss Francs. According to the Bank's records, the account was transferred to a suspense account for dormant assets on 11 October 1970. The Bank's records further indicate that the last known account balance was 338.00 Swiss Francs as of 1 November 1979. The account remains open and dormant.

The CRT's Analysis

Identification of the Account Owner

The Claimant's uncle's name and city and country of residence match the published name and city and country of residence of the Account Owner. The Claimant identified his uncle's street address as rue Habsheim in Mulhouse, France, which matches unpublished information about the Account Owner contained in the Bank's records. The CRT notes that a database containing the names of victims of Nazi persecution includes a person named Benjamin Bloch, and indicates that his date of birth was 20 February 1897, which matches information about the Account Owner contained in the Bank's records. The database further indicates that Benjamin Bloch's places of residence were Mulhouse and Vichy, and that his date of death was 31 December 1944, which is consistent with the information about the Account Owner provided by the Claimant. The database is a compilation of names from various sources, including the Yad Vashem Memorial of Israel. The CRT notes that the one other claim to this account was disconfirmed because that claimant provided a different country of residence than country of residence of 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 the Account Owner was Jewish, and that he was deported, along with his family, in April 1944 to Auschwitz, where they all perished. As noted above, a person named Benjamin Bloch was included in the CRT's database of victims.

The Claimant's Relationship to the Account Owner

The Claimant has plausibly demonstrated that he is related to the Account Owner by submitting a family tree and detailed biographical information, demonstrating that the Account Owner was his uncle. The CRT notes that the Claimant identified unpublished information about the residences of his uncle in Mulhouse and Vichy, France, as contained in the Bank and Yad Vashem records. Furthermore, the CRT notes that the specific information identified by the Claimant indicates that the Account Owner was well known to the Claimant, and this information supports the plausibility that the Claimant is related to the Account Owner.

The Issue of Who Received the Proceeds

The Bank's records indicate 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, as amended (the "Rules"). Second, the Claimant has plausibly demonstrated that the Account Owner was his uncle, and that relationship justifies 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 one savings/passbook account. The Bank's records indicate that the value of the savings/passbook account as of 13 October 1966 was 112.20 Swiss Francs, and the last known account balance was 338.00 Swiss Francs as of 1 November 1979. According to Article 29 of the Rules, if the amount in a savings/passbook account was less than 830.00 Swiss Francs, and in the absence of plausible evidence to the contrary, the amount in the account shall be determined to be 830.00 Swiss Francs. 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 10,375.00 Swiss Francs.

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
22 December 2003