

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]
represented by Francine Henriette Celina Peyrolade

in re Account of Blanche Bloch

Claim Number: 218113/AY

Award Amount: 10,375.00 Swiss Francs

This Certified Award is based upon the claim of [REDACTED 1], née [REDACTED], (the “Claimant”) to the published accounts of [REDACTED].¹ This Award is to the unpublished account of Blanche Bloch (the “Account Owner”) at the [REDACTED] (the “Bank”).²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 the Account Owner as her maternal aunt by marriage, Blanche Bloch, née Bader, who was born in approximately 1893, probably in Dambach-la-Ville, France, and was married to [REDACTED] on 29 October 1920 in Mulhouse, France. According to the Claimant, [REDACTED] was the brother of the Claimant’s mother, [REDACTED], née [REDACTED]. The Claimant stated that [REDACTED] and Blanche Bloch lived at Rue de L’Etoile and at Boulevard du Chemin-de-Fer in Mulhouse, where [REDACTED] was a cattle dealer. The Claimant stated that [REDACTED] and Blanche Bloch had no children. The Claimant also stated that Blanche and [REDACTED] Bloch, who were Jewish, went into hiding in Avignon, France, during the Second World War to avoid Nazi persecution. The Claimant indicated that [REDACTED] and Blanche Bloch returned to Mulhouse in 1945. The Claimant stated that Blanche Bloch died in approximately 1983 in Strasbourg, France, and that [REDACTED] died on 16 July 1983, also in Strasbourg.

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

² The CRT will address the Claimant’s entitlement to the published accounts of Blanche Bloch in a separate decision.

In support of her claim, the Claimant submitted numerous documents, including [REDACTED]'s birth certificate indicating that her parents were [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]'s birth certificate showing a notation that he was married to Blanche Bader on 29 October 1920 in Mulhouse, and indicating that his parents were [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]; the Claimant's and her sister's birth certificates indicating that their mother was [REDACTED], and a family photograph featuring [REDACTED] and other relatives.

The Claimant indicated that she was born on 11 November 1925 in Mulhouse. The Claimant is representing her sister, [REDACTED 2], née [REDACTED], who was born on 14 June 1920, also in Mulhouse.

Information Available in the Bank's Record

The Bank's record relevant to this account consists of a list of dormant savings accounts. According to this record, one of the listed Account Owners was Blanche Bloch. The Bank's record does not indicate that Account Owner's place of residence. According to the Bank's record, the Account Owner held a savings account, which was opened on an unknown date. The Bank's record also shows that the account balance as of 1 January 1999 was 5.22 Swiss Francs. The account remains open and dormant today.

The CRT's Analysis

Identification of the Account Owner

The Claimant has plausibly identified the Account Owner. The Claimant's aunt's name matches the name of the Account Owner. The CRT notes that the Bank's record does not contain any specific information about the Account Owner other than her name. In support of her claim, the Claimant submitted numerous documents, including [REDACTED]'s birth certificate which includes a notation indicating that he was married to Blanche Bader on 29 October 1920 in Mulhouse, providing independent verification that the married name of the person who is claimed to be the Account Owner is the same as that shown in the Bank's record as the name of the Account Owner. Furthermore, the CRT notes that there are no other claims to this account. Taking all 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 went into hiding in Avignon, France during the Second World War to avoid Nazi persecution.

The Claimant's Relationship to the Account Owner

The Claimant has plausibly demonstrated that she is related to the Account Owner by submitting specific information and documents, demonstrating that the Account Owner was the Claimant's maternal aunt. These documents include [REDACTED]'s birth certificate indicating that her parents were [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]'s birth certificate containing a notation that he was married to Blanche Bader and indicating that his parents were [REDACTED] and [REDACTED], and the Claimant's and her sister's birth certificates indicating that their mother was [REDACTED]. There is no information to indicate that the Account Owner has other surviving heirs other than her sister, whom the Claimant is representing.

The Issue of Who Received the Proceeds

The Bank's record indicates 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. Second, the Claimant has plausibly demonstrated that the Account Owner was her aunt, and that relationship justifies an Award. Finally, the CRT has determined that neither the Account Owner nor her heirs received the proceeds of the claimed account.

Amount of the Award

In this case, the Account Owner held one savings account. The Bank's record indicates that the value of the savings account as of 1 January 1999 was 5.22 Swiss Francs. In accordance with Article 31(1) of the Rules, this amount is increased by an adjustment of 925.00 Swiss Francs, which reflects standardized bank fees charged to the account between 1 January 1945 and 1 January 1999. This amount is reduced by 718.32 Swiss Francs to reflect interest paid to the account at issue. Consequently, the adjusted balance of this account is 211.90 Swiss Francs. According to Article 29 of the Rules, if the amount in a savings 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 an amount of 10,375.00 Swiss Francs.

Division of the Award

According to Article 23(1)(g) of the Rules, if none of the persons entitled to an award under Article 23(1)(a-f) has submitted a claim, the CRT may make an award to any relative of the Account Owner, whether by blood or by marriage, who has submitted a claim, consistent with principles of fairness and equity. The Claimant is representing her sister, [REDACTED 2]. The Claimant and her sister are both related to the Account Owner by marriage. Accordingly, the Claimant and her sister are each entitled to one-half of the 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 her claim to determine whether there are additional Swiss bank accounts to which she 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
29 June 2004