

# CLAIMS RESOLUTION TRIBUNAL

---

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

## **Certified Award**

to Claimant Françoise Uguen  
represented by Jonathan James Palmer, *Mondex Corporation*

## **in re Account of Ernest Bloch**

Claim Number: 402157/BW

Award Amount: 49,375.00 Swiss Francs

This Certified Award is based upon the claim of Françoise Uguen (the “Claimant”) to the published account of Ernest Bloch (the “Account Owner”) at the Geneva branch of the [REDACTED] (the “Bank”).

All awards 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 identifying the Account Owner as her paternal great-grandfather, Ernst Bloch, who was born in 1900 in France. The Claimant indicated that her great-grandfather, who was Jewish, was a surgeon and lived in Paris, France, until he was deported to Auschwitz, where he perished.

In support of her claim, the Claimant submitted a copy of her family tree, which indicates that her mother, Angela Uguen, née Kuske, was married to Michel Rene George Uguen; that Michel Uguen’s mother was Michelin Uguen, née Bloch; and that Michelin Bloch was the daughter of Ernest Bloch.

The Claimant indicated that she was born on 12 March 1971 in Darwin, Australia.

### **Information Available in the Bank’s Record**

The Bank’s record consists of a printout from the Bank’s database. According to this record, the Account Owner was Ernest Bloch, who resided at 178 Boulevard Berthier in Paris, France. The Bank’s record indicates that the Account Owner held an account, the type of which is not indicated, numbered 16376. The Bank’s record further indicates the account was opened on 22 July 1913, and that it was transferred to a suspense account on 5 May 1955. The amount in the

account on the date of its transfer was 42.85 Swiss Francs (“SF”). The account remains open and dormant.

## **The CRT’s Analysis**

### Identification of the Account Owner

The Claimant’s great-grandfather’s name and country of residence match the published name and country of residence of the Account Owner. The Claimant identified the Account Owner’s city of residence, which matches unpublished information about the Account Owner contained in the Bank’s record. The CRT notes that the Bank’s record indicates that the account was opened in 1913, at which time the Claimant’s relative would have been 13 years old. The CRT further notes that the only record available from the Bank is a printout from its database, and that it is plausible that a family member could have opened the account on behalf of the Claimant’s relative.

Additionally, the CRT notes that a database containing the names of victims of Nazi persecution includes a page of testimony submitted by the Claimant’s mother Angela Ugen in 1979, which indicates that Ernest Bloch was born in France in 1900, which matches 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 name Ernest Bloch appears only once on the February 2001 published list of accounts determined by the Independent Committee of Eminent Persons to be probably or possibly those of victims of Nazi persecution (“ICEP” or the “ICEP List”).

The CRT notes that the other claims to this account were disconfirmed because those claimants provided a different country of residence than the 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 perished in Auschwitz. As noted above, a person named Ernest Bloch was included in the CRT’s database of victims.

### 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 a family tree, demonstrating that the Account Owner was the Claimant’s paternal great-grandfather. There is no information to indicate that the Account Owner has other surviving heirs.

The CRT further notes that the Claimant identified unpublished information about the Account Owner as contained in the Bank's record; and that the Claimant also identified information which matches information contained in the Yad Vashem records. Finally, the CRT notes that the foregoing information is of the type that family members would possess and indicates that the Account Owner was well known to the Claimant as a family member, and all of this information supports the plausibility that the Claimant is related to the Account Owner, as she has asserted in her Claim Form.

#### The Issue of Who Received the Proceeds

The Bank's record indicates that the account was transferred to a suspense account and 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 the Account Owner was her paternal great-grandfather, and that relationship justifies an Award. 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 an account of unknown type. The Bank's record indicates that the value of this account as of 5 May 1955 was SF 42.85. In accordance with Article 31(1) of the Rules, this amount is increased by an adjustment of SF 165.00, which reflects standardized bank fees charged to the account between 1945 and 1955. Consequently, the adjusted balance of the account at issue is SF 207.85. 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 SF 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 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  
31 August 2007