

# CLAIMS RESOLUTION TRIBUNAL

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

## **Certified Award**

to Claimant Renate Kaufmann  
represented by Charlotte Friedrich

## **in re Account of Renate Kaufmann**

Claim Number: 212789/DE; 224064/DE

Award Amount: 10,375.00 Swiss Francs

This Certified Award is based upon the claim of Renate Kaufmann (the “Claimant”) to the published account of Renate Kaufmann (the “Account Owner”) at the Schwamendingen 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 two Claim Forms identifying herself as the Account Owner, Renate Martha Kaufmann, who was born on 22 August 1937 to [REDACTED], née [REDACTED], and [REDACTED] in Essen, Germany. The Claimant indicated that her father, who was Jewish, worked as an engineer. According to the Claimant, her mother and father were married on 21 December 1934 in Nippes Cologne, Germany. The Claimant indicated that her father was deported to labor camp and then to Theresienstadt where he perished on 5 October 1944.

In support of her Claim, the Claimant submitted copies of: 1) her parent’s marriage certificate issued in 1934, indicating that [REDACTED], an engineer, married [REDACTED], née [REDACTED], on 21 December 1934 in Nippes Cologne; 2) her father’s birth certificate dated 13 December 1938, indicating that [REDACTED] was born on 24 August 1901 in Gottingen, Germany to [REDACTED] and [REDACTED], née [REDACTED], both of whom were considered Jewish, and that the Nazi authorities considered [REDACTED] to be Jewish, and added the middle name [REDACTED] to his birth certificate; 3) her own birth certificate indicating that she, Renate Martha Kaufmann, was born on 22 August 1937; 4) a letter from the Jewish Community in Cologne (*Jüdische Gemeinde Köln*) dated 19 September 1945, indicating that [REDACTED], born on 24 August 1901, was found to be fully Jewish (“*Volljude*”), that he was deported from a labor camp in Müngersdorf, Germany to Theresienstadt, where he perished, and that his wife, [REDACTED], and his child, Renate, should be issued leave to travel from

Oberscheffach, Germany; 5) her father's death certificate dated 17 May 1946, indicating that [REDACTED], son of [REDACTED] and [REDACTED], née [REDACTED], [REDACTED] and husband of [REDACTED], née [REDACTED], perished on 5 October 1944 in Theresienstadt; 6) a certificate stamped by the Lower State Court (*Amtsgericht*) in Cologne, indicating that [REDACTED]'s wife, [REDACTED], née [REDACTED], and his child, Renate Martha Kaufmann, are the only heirs to his estate; 7) the Claimant's United States Certificate of Naturalization noting that Renate Kauffmann previously held German citizenship and that she obtained United States citizenship on 9 November 1999; and 8) a copy of the Claimant's current United States passport noting Renate Kaufmann's birth date as 22 August 1937 and her place of birth as Germany.

The Claimant indicated that she was born on 22 August 1937 in Essen.

### **Information Available in the Bank's Records**

The Bank's record consists of a list of suspense accounts from the Bank's database. According to this record, the Account Owner was *Fraülein* (Miss) Renate Kaufmann. The Bank's record does not indicate the Account Owner's domicile.

The Bank's record indicates that the Account Owner held savings/passbook account, numbered 1370-61718-6. The records further indicate that on an unknown date the account was transferred to a suspense account, where it remains today. The amount in the account was 15.40 Swiss Francs ("SF") as of an unknown date.

### **The CRT's Analysis**

#### Identification of the Account Owner

The Claimant's name matches the published name of the Account Owner. The Claimant was a young child at the time that the account was opened, and this information matches the unpublished title "*Fraülein*" ("Miss") in the Bank's records. The CRT considers it plausible that the Claimant's parents or other adult family member opened the account in her name while she was a child, and notes that this was a common practice particularly for savings/passbooks accounts, as the type at issue here. The CRT notes that the Bank's record does not contain any specific information about the Account Owner other than her name and title.

In support of her claim, the Claimant submitted documents, including: 1) her birth certificate noting that her name is Renate Marffa Kaufmann; 2) a certificate stamped by the Lower State Court (*Amtsgericht*) in Cologne, indicating that Renate Martha Kaufmann is an heir of the late [REDACTED]; 3) the Claimant's United States Certificate of Naturalization noting that Renate Kaufmann previously held German citizenship; and 4) a copy of the Claimant's United States passport indicating that Renate Kaufmann was born in Germany on 22 August 1937, providing independent verification that the person who is claimed to be the Account Owner had the same name recorded in the Bank's record as the name of the Account Owner.

The CRT notes that the name Renate Kaufmann 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 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 indicated that her father was Jewish. The Claimant submitted copies of: 1) her father’s birth certificate dated 13 December 1938, indicating that [REDACTED] and his parents were considered Jewish, and that the Nazi authorities added the middle name “Israel” to his birth certificate; 2) a letter from the Jewish Community in Cologne (*Jüdische Gemeinde Köln*) dated 19 September 1945, indicating that [REDACTED], was found to be fully Jewish (“*Volljude*”) and that he was deported from a labor camp in Müngersdorf to Theresienstadt where he perished; and 3) her father’s death certificate dated 17 May 1946, indicating that [REDACTED] perished on 5 October 1944 in Theresienstadt.

#### The Claimant’s Relationship to the Account Owner

The Claimant has plausibly demonstrated that she is the Account Owner by submitting specific information and documents, demonstrating that the Account Owner is the Claimant. These documents include: 1) her own birth certificate indicating that Renate Marffa Kaufmann was born on 22 August 1937; 2) a letter from the Jewish Community in Cologne (*Jüdische Gemeinde Köln*) indicating that Renate is the daughter of [REDACTED]; 3) a certificate stamped by the Lower State Court (*Amtsgericht*) in Cologne, indicating that Renate Martha Kaufmann is an heir to her father’s estate; 4) the Claimant’s United States Certificate of Naturalization indicating that Renate Kaufmann previously held German citizenship; and 5) a copy of the Claimant current United States passport, indicating Renate Kaufmann was born on 22 August 1937 in Germany.

There is no information to indicate that the Account Owner has other surviving heirs.

#### The Issue of Who Received the Proceeds

The Bank’s record indicates that the account was transferred to a suspense account, where it remains today.

#### Basis for the Award

The CRT has determined that an Award may be made in favor of the Claimant. First, the claims are 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 she is the Account Owner and that justifies an Award. Third, 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/passbook account. The Bank's records indicate that the value of this account was SF 15.40 on an unknown date. As the Bank's records do not contain a corresponding date with this balance, the account is treated as an account of unknown balance. According to Article 29 of the Rules, when the balance of an account is unknown, as is the case here, the average value of the same or a similar type of account in 1945 is used to calculate the current value of the account being awarded. Based on the investigation carried out pursuant to the instructions of the Independent Committee of Eminent Persons (the "ICEP Investigation"), in 1945 the average value of a savings/passbook account was SF 830.00. 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 10,375.00.

### **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 claims 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  
30 May 2008