

CLAIMS RESOLUTION TRIBUNAL

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

Certified Award

to Claimant [REDACTED]

in re Accounts of Geoffrey Schaison and Edmond Bloch

Claim Numbers: 209264/MW; 209265/MW

Award Amount: 15,500.00 Swiss Francs

This Certified Award is based upon the claim of [REDACTED] (the “Claimant”) to the published accounts of Geoffrey Schaison (“Account Owner Schaison”) and Edmond Bloch (“Account Owner Bloch”) (together the “Account Owners”) at the Geneva 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 owners, and the bank have been redacted.

Information Provided by the Claimant

The Claimant submitted two Claim Forms identifying the Account Owners as his father, Geoffrey Schaison, and his maternal grandfather, Edmond Bloch. The Claimant stated that Geoffrey Schaison was born on 16 October 1902 in Paris, France, and was married to Germaine Bloch in 1930 in Paris. According to the Claimant, Geoffrey and Germaine Schaison had two children: Gérard (the Claimant) and Gilbert. The Claimant stated that his father, who was Jewish, lived in Nazi-occupied France during the Second World War. According to the information provided by the Claimant, his father, who was an architect, lived in Eaubonne, France, on rue des Tilleuls until 1945, when he moved to Paris. The Claimant stated that his father died in October 1985 in Paris.

The Claimant explained that Edmond Bloch was born in approximately 1880 in France, and was married to [REDACTED]. According to the Claimant, the couple had two children: Germaine (the Claimant’s mother), who was born on 17 September 1906 in Neuilly-sur-Seine, France, and Michel, who was born in 1910, also in Neuilly-sur-Seine. The Claimant explained that his grandfather, who was a medical doctor, lived and practiced on rue Montrosier in Neuilly-sur-Seine. The Claimant indicated that his grandfather, who was Jewish, lived in Nazi-occupied France during the Second World War. According to the Claimant, Edmond Bloch died in 1950, and [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] died in 1965 and 1980, respectively. The Claimant indicated that he was born on 27 September 1931 in Neuilly-sur-Seine.

Information Available in the Bank's Records

The Bank's records consist of two bank registry cards, a printout from the Bank's database of closed accounts, and a protocol of a safe deposit box opening. According to these records, the Account Owners were Geoffrey Schaison and Edmond Bloch.

The Bank's records indicate that Account Owner Schaison was the owner of a custody account and a demand deposit account, both numbered G.R. 18691, and that the Power of Attorney Holder to these accounts was his wife, [REDACTED], née [REDACTED]. According to these records, Geoffrey Schaison and his wife initially lived at 2, rue Bellanger in Neuilly-sur-Seine, France, and later at 10, allée de Tilleuls in Eubonne, France. The custody account and the demand deposit account were opened on 4 June 1936 and were both closed on 12 January 1940. The value of these accounts on the dates of their closure is unknown.

According to the Bank's records, Account Owner Bloch was Edmond Bloch, who used an address 19 rue Montrosier, Neuilly-sur Seine. The Bank's records indicate that Account Owner Bloch and Account Owner Schaison jointly held a safe deposit box that was opened on 30 May 1936. The Bank's records further indicate that because the rental fees for the safe deposit box were not paid, the Bank forcibly opened the safe deposit box on 11 May 1950. According to the Bank's protocol, the safe deposit box contained valueless documents, such as the safe deposit box rental contract, bank statements, receipts and bank correspondence from the years 1936 to 1938. According to the Bank's records, the documents were preserved by the Bank until 1995, when they were destroyed.

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 Owners

The Claimant has plausibly identified the Account Owners. His grandfather's and his parents' names match the published names of the Account Owners and the Power of Attorney Holder. The Claimant provided precise street addresses used by his grandfather and his parents, which match unpublished information about the Account Owners contained in the Bank's records. The Claimant identified the relationship between Account Owner Schaison and the Power of Attorney Holder, which also matches unpublished information contained in the Bank's records. The CRT notes that while the Account Owners' names were published separately by the Independent Committee of Eminent Persons ("ICEP") to be probably or possibly those of Victims of Nazi Persecution (the "ICEP List"), the Claimant identified the Account Owners as

being related, which matches unpublished information contained in the Bank's records. The CRT further notes that there are no other claims to these accounts.

Status of the Account Owners as Victims of Nazi Persecution

The Claimant has made a plausible showing that the Account Owners were Victims of Nazi Persecution. The Claimant stated that the Account Owners were Jewish and lived in Nazi-occupied France.

The Claimant's Relationship to the Account Owners

The Claimant has plausibly demonstrated that he is related to the Account Owners by submitting specific biographical information demonstrating that the Account Owners were his maternal grandfather and his father. The CRT notes that the Claimant identified unpublished information about the Account Owners as contained in the Bank's records, which supports the plausibility that he is related to the Account Owners, as he has asserted in his Claim Form.

The Issue of Who Received the Proceeds

Concerning the safe deposit box, the Bank's records indicate the safe was forcibly opened on 11 May 1950 under a bank protocol and contained documents. The documents were preserved by the Bank until 1995, when they were destroyed.

Concerning the custody and demand deposit accounts, numbered G.R. 18691, the Bank's records indicate that both accounts were closed on 12 January 1940, which is prior to the Nazi invasion of France on 10 May 1940. Therefore, the CRT determines that Account Owner Schaison or the Power of Attorney Holder was able to access these accounts, and concludes that Account Owner Schaison closed the accounts and received the proceeds of the custody and demand deposit accounts himself.

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 the Rules. Second, the Claimant has plausibly demonstrated that Account Owner Schaison was his father and Account Owner Bloch was his maternal grandfather, and those relationships justify an Award. Third, the CRT has determined that neither the Account Owners nor their heirs received the proceeds of the safe deposit account.

Amount of the Award

The Account Owners jointly held one safe deposit box. The Bank's records indicate that the safe deposit box contained valueless documents, such as the safe deposit box rental contract, bank statements, receipts and bank correspondence from the years 1936 to 1938. The CRT notes that it was unable to confirm that the documents were valueless because the Bank destroyed them in 1995. Accordingly, the CRT determines that the value of the account is unknown. According to

Article 29 of the Rules, when the value of an account is unknown, as is the case here, when the value 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 ICEP Investigation, in 1945 the average value of a safe deposit box was SF 1,240.00. The current value of the amount of the award is determined by multiplying the value as determined by Article 29 by a factor of 12.5, in accordance with Article 31(1) of the Rules. Consequently, the total award amount in this case is SF 15,500.00.

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 his claims 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
28 September 2004