

CLAIMS RESOLUTION TRIBUNAL

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

Certified Award

to Claimant [REDACTED]

in re Account of Paul Strasser

Claim Number: 217314/MW

Award Amount: 49,375.00 Swiss Francs

This Certified Award is based upon the claim of [REDACTED] (the “Claimant”) to the published account of Margaret Goldzieher.¹ This Award is to the unpublished account of Paul Strasser (the “Account Owner”) at the Biel branch of the [REDACTED] (the “Bank”).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 a Claim Form identifying the Account Owner as his maternal uncle, Paul Strasser. In a telephone call with the CRT on 5 April 2005, the Claimant indicated that his uncle, who was Jewish, was born in approximately 1895 and resided in Hungary. The Claimant indicated in the same telephone call that his uncle survived the Second World War but that he was uncertain when his uncle died. In an earlier telephone call with the CRT on 23 January 2002, the Claimant indicated that Paul Strasser remained in Hungary after his sister (the Claimant’s mother) left for the United States in 1924. In support of his claim, the Claimant submitted his birth certificate indicating that his parents were [REDACTED] and Margaret Goldzieher, née Strasser, and a copy of a newspaper article dated 8 July 1943 indicating that his maternal grandfather, [REDACTED], became an American citizen in 1943. The Claimant indicated that he was born on 21 September 1919 in Budapest, Hungary.

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 Paul Strasser. The Bank’s record does not contain information about the Account Owner’s domicile. The Bank’s record indicates that the Account Owner held an

¹ The CRT will treat the claim to this account in a separate decision.

account, numbered 30443, the type of which is not indicated. The Bank's records indicate that the Bank's last contact with the Account Owner was on 27 April 1939. The Bank's record further indicates that the account was transferred to the Bank's suspense account for dormant assets on 28 February 1977. The amount in the account on the date of its transfer was 1.30 Swiss Francs ("SF"). The account remains in the Bank's suspense account.

The CRT's Analysis

Identification of the Account Owner

The Claimant's uncle's name matches the unpublished 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 his name. The CRT further 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 that he resided in Nazi-allied Hungary throughout the Second World War.

The Claimant's Relationship to the Account Owner

The Claimant has plausibly demonstrated that he is related to the Account Owner by submitting specific information, demonstrating that the Account Owner was the Claimant's uncle. The CRT notes that the Claimant submitted his birth certificate indicating that his mother's maiden name was Margaret Strasser, which provides independent verification that the Claimant's maternal relatives bore the same family name as the Account Owner, which supports the plausibility that the Claimant is related to the Account Owner, as he has asserted in his Claim Form. 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 remains in the Bank's suspense account.

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 maternal uncle, 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 28 February 1977 was SF 1.30. In accordance with Article 31(1) of the Rules, this amount is increased by an adjustment of SF 495.00, which reflects standardized bank fees charged to this account between 1945 and 1977. Consequently, the adjusted balance of the account at issue is SF 496.30. 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 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
13 May 2005