

CLAIMS RESOLUTION TRIBUNAL

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

Certified Denial

to Claimant [REDACTED]
also acting on behalf of [REDACTED]

in re Account of Fritz Blumenfeld

Claim Numbers: 224178/OW; 601038/OW^{1, 2}

This Certified Denial is based on the claims of [REDACTED], née [REDACTED], (the “Claimant”) to the published account of Fritz Blumenfeld at the [REDACTED] (the “Bank”).

All denials 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 and a claim to the Holocaust Claims Processing Office (“HCPO”) asserting that her father, Friedrich (Fritz) Blumenfeld, who was born on 7 December 1888 in Momberg (now Neustadt, Hessen), Germany, and was married to [REDACTED], née [REDACTED], on 26 October 1921 in Momberg, owned a Swiss bank account. The Claimant stated that her father, who was Jewish, was a businessman and that he resided in Momberg until 1939, when he fled Germany for the United States, where he died on 14 November 1977 in New York City. The Claimant indicated that she was born on 21 August 1922 in Momberg

The Claimant submitted documents in support of her claim, including: (1) a copy of her father’s German passport, issued on 1 September 1938, indicating that her father resided in Momberg, Germany; and (2) a copy of the Claimant’s birth certificate.

Information Available in the Bank’s Records

¹ The Claimant submitted a claim, numbered B-01854, on 14 June 1999, to the Holocaust Claims Processing Office (“HCPO”) of the New York State Banking Department. This claim was referred by the HCPO to the CRT and has been assigned Claim Number 601038.

² According to Article 37 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.

The CRT notes that the Claimant submitted a claim to an account belonging to her relative, Friedrich (Fritz) Blumenfeld. The auditors who carried out the investigation to identify accounts of Victims of Nazi Persecution pursuant to instructions of the Independent Committee of Eminent Persons (“ICEP” or the “ICEP Investigation”) reported one account whose owner’s name matches that provided by the Claimant. The account is identified below by its Account Identification Number, which is a number assigned to the account by the ICEP auditors for tracking purposes.

Account 5030290

The Bank’s records indicate that the Account Owner was Fritz Blumenfeld, who resided in Berlin, Germany. Furthermore, the Bank’s records indicate the date of opening of the account at issue.

The CRT’s Analysis

Admissibility of the Claim

The CRT has determined that the claims are admissible according to Article 18 of the Rules Governing the Claims Resolution Process, as amended (the “Rules”).

Identification of the Account Owner

The CRT concludes that the Claimant has not identified the Account Owner as her relative. Although the name of her father matches the published name of the Account Owner, the information provided by the Claimant differs materially from the published information about the Account Owner available in the Bank’s records. Specifically, the Claimant stated that her father resided and worked in Momberg until 1939 when he fled Germany for the United States. In contrast, the Bank’s records show that the Account Owner resided in Berlin, which is over 400 kilometers from Momberg, and to which the Claimant did not establish a connection. Consequently, the CRT is unable to conclude that the Account Owner and the Claimant’s father are the same person.

Right of Appeal

Pursuant to Article 30 of the Rules, the Claimant may appeal this Denial to the Court through the Special Masters within ninety (90) days of the date of the letter accompanying this decision. Appeals should be delivered to the following address: Office of Special Master Michael Bradfield, 51 Louisiana Ave., NW, Washington, DC 20001 USA.

The Claimant should send appeals in writing to the above address and should include all reasons for the appeal. If more than one account has been denied in this Certified Denial, the Claimant should identify the Account Identification Number, which forms the basis of the appeal. Appeals submitted without either a plausible suggestion of error or relevant new evidence may be summarily denied.

Scope of the Denial

The Claimant should be aware that the CRT will carry out further research on her claim to determine whether an award may be made based upon the information provided by the Claimant or upon information from other sources.

Certification of the Denial

The CRT certifies this Denial for approval by the Court.

Claims Resolution Tribunal
23 February 2006