

# CLAIMS RESOLUTION TRIBUNAL

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

## **Certified Award**

to Claimant [REDACTED]

## **in re Accounts of Manfred Ehrenreich**

Claim Number: 211374/EZ

Award Amount: 26,750.00 Swiss Francs

This Certified Award is based upon the claim of [REDACTED] (the “Claimant”) to the accounts of Manfred Ehrenreich (the “Account Owner”) at 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, Manfred Ehrenreich, who was born on 27 July 1889 in Erlach, Austria, to [REDACTED] and [REDACTED], née [REDACTED], and was married to [REDACTED], née [REDACTED]. The Claimant indicated that prior to his marriage, his uncle resided at Springengasse 29 in Vienna II, Austria. The Claimant further indicated that after their marriage, his uncle and aunt, who did not have children, resided at Messiparisangasse in Vienna VII, until the annexation of Austria (the “*Anschluss*”) in 1938. The Claimant stated that his uncle, who was Jewish, was a soldier in the Austrian army during the First World War; worked as a sales representative in the textile business; and frequently traveled on business to Switzerland, where he deposited money in Swiss banks because he believed his assets would be safer there than in Austria. The Claimant further stated that his uncle escaped from Nazi-controlled Austria to Nice, France, from where he was deported to a concentration camp, where he perished. In support of his claim, the Claimant provided photographs of his uncle and of the Claimant’s family, in which the Claimant is photographed with his uncle, as well as a postcard sent to the Ehrenreich family, which was signed by his uncle. The Claimant stated that he is the Account Owner’s only nephew, and that he was born on 14 September 1926 in Vienna.

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

The Bank’s record consists of an account opening card. According to this record, the Account Owner was Manfred Ehrenreich, and the cities Vienna, Nice, and Zurich were provided as his

addresses. The Bank's record indicates that the Account Owner held two demand deposit accounts, which were opened on 31 July 1930. One of the accounts was closed on 10 June 1940, the other on 28 February 1947. The Bank's record does not show to whom the accounts were paid, nor does it indicate the value of these accounts. There is no evidence in the Bank's record that the Account Owner or his heirs closed the accounts and received the proceeds themselves.

## **The CRT's Analysis**

### Identification of the Account Owner

The Claimant has plausibly identified the Account Owner. His uncle's name matches the published name of the Account Owner. The Claimant indicated that his uncle resided in Vienna, which matches unpublished information about one of the Account Owner's cities of residence contained in the Bank's record. The Claimant also stated that his uncle escaped from Nazi-controlled Austria to Nice, France, which also matches unpublished information about the Account Owner's cities of residence contained in the Bank's record. In support of his claim, the Claimant submitted family photographs and a postcard sent by his uncle to his family in Vienna.

Moreover, the CRT notes that a database containing the names of victims of Nazi persecution includes a person named Manfred Ehrenreich, who was born on 27 July 1899 in Erlach, Austria, and lived in Vienna, Austria, and Nice, France. This matches 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. Finally, the CRT notes that there are no other claims to these accounts.

### Status of the Account Owner as a Victim of Nazi Persecution

The Claimant has provided plausible evidence that the Account Owner was a Victim of Nazi Persecution. The Claimant stated that the Account Owner was Jewish, and that he was deported to a concentration camp where he perished. As noted above, a person named Manfred Ehrenreich was included in the CRT's database of victims.

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

The Claimant has plausibly demonstrated that he is related to the Account Owner by submitting a family tree, which shows that he is the Account Owner's nephew. The Claimant stated that the Account Owner had no children, and that he is the Account Owner's only nephew.

### The Issue of Who Received the Proceeds

With regard to the demand deposit account closed 28 February 1947, given that the Account Owner perished in a concentration camp during the Second World War; that there is no record of payment of the account to the Account Owner or his heirs; that the Account Owner or his heirs would not have been able to obtain information about the account after the Second World War from the Bank due to the Swiss Banks' practice of withholding or misstating account information

in their responses to inquiries by account owners because of the banks' concern regarding double liability; and given the application of Presumptions (a), (h) and (j), as provided in Article 28 of the Rules Governing the Claims Resolution Process, as amended (the "Rules") (see Appendix A), the CRT concludes that it is plausible that the account proceeds were not paid to the Account Owner or his heirs. Based on its precedent and the Rules, the CRT applies presumptions to assist in the determination of whether or not Account Owners or their heirs received the proceeds of their accounts.

With regard to the demand deposit account closed 10 June 1940, the CRT concludes that it is plausible that the Account Owner, who traveled frequently to Switzerland and who left Austria in 1938, received the proceeds of the account given that the Nazi invasion of France had just begun and the Vichy government was not in power in Nice at this time.

#### 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. Second, the Claimant has plausibly demonstrated that the Account Owner was his uncle, and that relationship justifies an Award. Finally, the CRT has determined that it is plausible that neither the Account Owner nor his heirs received the proceeds of the accounts.

#### Amount of the Award

For the purpose of this Award, the Account Owner held one demand deposit account. Pursuant to Article 29 of the Rules, 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 present value of the account being awarded. Based on the investigation carried out pursuant to the instructions of the Independent Committee of Eminent Persons ("ICEP" or the "ICEP Investigation"), in 1945 the average value of a demand deposit account was 2,140.00 Swiss Francs. The current value of this amount is calculated by multiplying it by a factor of 12.5, in accordance with Article 31(1) of the Rules, to produce a total award amount of 26,750.00 Swiss Francs.

#### **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 any 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  
8 April 2004