

CLAIMS RESOLUTION TRIBUNAL

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

Certified Award

to Claimant [REDACTED]
represented by [REDACTED]

in re Account of Ruth Keller

Claim Number: 213756/EZ

Award Amount: 47,400.00 Swiss Francs

This Certified Award is based upon the claim of [REDACTED], née [REDACTED] (the “Claimant”) to the account of Ruth Keller (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 her mother, Frieda Ruth Keller, née [REDACTED] or [REDACTED], who was born in 1900 in Schlesien, Germany, and was married to [REDACTED] in Germany. The Claimant stated that her mother, who was Jewish, was also known by the name Ruth Keller. The Claimant also stated that her mother lived in different cities in Germany and met the Claimant’s father in Berlin. They married and lived in Berlin, where the Claimant’s father was a storeowner and her mother was a secretary. The Claimant further stated that in approximately 1934, the Claimant’s father, who was also Jewish, was captured by the Gestapo and was incarcerated. The Claimant indicated that in 1935, the Claimant’s parents escaped from Germany and went to Palestine, via Basel, Switzerland, where her mother had a relative and where they lived for a few months. The Claimant’s mother died on 27 January 1950, in Israel, and the Claimant’s father died on 29 May 1950, in Israel. In support of her claim, the Claimant submitted documents, including her birth certificate, indicating her mother’s name.

The Claimant indicated that she was born on 12 August 1936 in Haifa, Israel.

Information Available in the Bank Record

The bank records consist of printouts from the Bank's database. According to these records, the Account Owner was Ruth Keller. The bank records indicate that the Account Owner held an account of unknown type, numbered 30531. On 28 February 1977 it was transferred to a suspense account and remains dormant and open. The amount in the account on the date of its transfer was 8.45 Swiss Francs.

The CRT's Analysis

Identification of the Account Owner

The CRT notes that the bank records do not contain any specific information about the Account Owner other than her name. Nevertheless, the Claimant's mother's name matches the published name of the Account Owner, and her residence in Basel, Switzerland, for a few months before moving to Israel, provided the Claimant's mother with the opportunity to open an account at the Bank. Moreover, in support of her claim, the Claimant submitted documents, including her birth certificate, indicating that her mother was Ruth Keller, a person with the same name as the Account Owner. In view of the foregoing identification of the Account Owner, and the fact that there are no other claimants to this 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 fled Germany after her husband was captured by the Gestapo.

The Claimant's Relationship to the Account Owner

The Claimant has plausibly demonstrated that she is related to the Account Owner by submitting documents, including a copy of her birth certificate demonstrating that the Claimant is the Account Owner's daughter. There is no information to indicate that the Account Owner has other surviving heirs.

The Issue of Who Received the Proceeds

The bank records indicate the account remains open and dormant.

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 her mother, and that relationship justifies an Award.

Finally, 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 account of unknown type. The bank records indicate that the value of the account as of 28 February 1977 was 8.45 Swiss Francs. According to Article 29 of the Rules, if the amount in an account of unknown type was less than 3,950.00 Swiss Francs, and in the absence of plausible evidence to the contrary, the amount in the account shall be determined to be 3,950.00 Swiss Francs. The present value of the amount of the award is determined by multiplying the balance as determined by Article 29 by a factor of 12, in accordance with Article 31(1) of the Rules, to produce a total award amount of 47,400.00 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 her claim 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
May 15, 2003