

# CLAIMS RESOLUTION TRIBUNAL

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

## **Certified Award**

to Claimant [REDACTED 1],

to the Estate of Claimant [REDACTED 2],<sup>1</sup>

and to Claimant [REDACTED 3]

## **in re Account of Georges Wolff**

Claim Numbers: 216708/RS; 216709/RS; 217445/RS;  
217446/RS; 218456/RS; 218457/RS

Award Amount: 49,375.00 Swiss Francs

This Certified Award is based upon the claims of [REDACTED 1], née [REDACTED], (“Claimant [REDACTED 1]”); [REDACTED 2], née [REDACTED], (“Claimant [REDACTED 2]”); and [REDACTED 3], née [REDACTED], (“Claimant [REDACTED 3]”) (together the “Claimants”) to the accounts of Moïse Maurice Wolff and Anne Wolff.<sup>2</sup> This certified award is to the published account of Georges Wolff (the “Account Owner”) at the Geneva branch of the [REDACTED] (the “Bank”).<sup>3</sup>

All awards are published, but where a claimant has requested confidentiality, as in this case, the names of the claimants, any relatives of the claimants other than the account owner, and the bank have been redacted.

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<sup>1</sup> [REDACTED] informed the CRT in 2003 that his mother, [REDACTED 2], née [REDACTED], passed away on 15 January 2003, as indicated in a death certificate submitted to the CRT.

<sup>2</sup> In a separate decision, the CRT treated the claims of Claimants [REDACTED 1], [REDACTED 2], and [REDACTED 3] to the accounts of Moïse Wolff and Anne Wolff. See *in re Accounts of Moïse Maurice Wolff and Anne Wolff* (approved on 13 October 2004).

<sup>3</sup> The CRT notes that on the February 2001 published list of accounts determined by the Independent Committee of Eminent Persons (“ICEP”) to be probably or possibly those of Victims of Nazi Persecution (the “ICEP List”), the account owner of the account treated in this decision is listed as Georges Wolf. Upon careful review, the CRT has concluded that the Bank’s records indicate that the surname of the account owner of this account was spelled Wolff. The CRT further notes that on the ICEP List, the name Georges Wolff [Altenberg, Germany] also appears. Upon careful review, the CRT has determined that that account owner is not the same person addressed in the current decision and, consequently, the Claimants did not identify this other account owner as their relative.

## Information Provided by the Claimants

The Claimants submitted substantially similar Claim Forms identifying the Account Owner as Claimant [REDACTED 2]'s father, and Claimants [REDACTED 3] and [REDACTED 1]'s uncle, Isaac Georges Wolff or Georges Wolff. Claimant [REDACTED 3] indicated that Georges Wolff was her mother [REDACTED]'s brother, and Claimant [REDACTED 1] indicated that Georges Wolff was her mother [REDACTED]'s brother. Claimant [REDACTED 2]' son indicated that Georges Wolff generally used Georges as his first name, and used Isaac, his Jewish name, mainly for religious purposes.

The Claimants indicated that Isaac Georges Wolff was born on 2 July 1889 in Paris, France to [REDACTED] and [REDACTED], and that he had two sisters: [REDACTED], née [REDACTED], who was born on 1 April 1894, and [REDACTED], née [REDACTED], who was born on 27 December 1898. The Claimants indicated that the Account Owner, who was Jewish, was married to [REDACTED], and resided in Paris, France. The Claimants further indicated that Isaac Georges Wolff had one daughter named [REDACTED 2], namely Claimant [REDACTED 2]. The Claimants indicated that Isaac Georges Wolff was an industrialist, and indicated that he had a niece who resided in Basel, Switzerland.

The Claimants stated that Isaac Georges Wolff's assets were looted by the Nazis in 1944, and that he was forced to wear a "yellow star" during the Second World War.

The Claimants indicated that Isaac Georges Wolff died on 16 March 1970 in Paris.

In support of her claims, Claimant [REDACTED 1] submitted documents, including her marriage certificate, indicating that [REDACTED 1] was the daughter of [REDACTED].

In support of her claims, Claimant [REDACTED 3] submitted documents, including her marriage certificate, indicating that [REDACTED 3] was the daughter of [REDACTED].

In support of her claims, Claimant [REDACTED 2] submitted: (1) Isaac Georges Wolff's birth certificate, indicating that he was born in July 1889 (exact date illegible); (2) her own birth certificate, indicating that [REDACTED 2] was born on 2 March 1920, and that her father was Isaac Georges Wolff; and (3) her own marriage certificate, indicating that [REDACTED 2] married [REDACTED] on 6 September 1941, and that her father was Isaac Georges Wolff.

On 30 June 2003, Claimant [REDACTED 2]' son [REDACTED] informed the CRT that Claimant [REDACTED 2] had passed away, and submitted Claimant [REDACTED 2]' death certificate, indicating that [REDACTED 2] died on 15 January 2003, that she was born on 2 March 1920 in Paris, and that she was the daughter of Isaac Georges Wolff.

Claimant [REDACTED 1] indicated that she was born on 19 August 1925 in Paris. Claimant [REDACTED 3] indicated that she was born on 10 April 1920 in Paris, and Claimant [REDACTED 2] indicated that she was born on 2 March 1920 in Paris.

## **Information Available in the Bank's Records**

The Bank's record consists of a printout from the Bank's database. Pursuant to Article 6 of the Rules, the CRT requested the voluntary Assistance of the Bank to obtain additional information about this account ("Voluntary Assistance"). The Bank provided the CRT with additional documents. These documents consist of lists of suspended accounts.

According to these records, the Account Owner was Georges Wolff. The Bank's records do not indicate the Account Owner's domicile. The Bank's records indicate that the Account Owner held an account of unknown type, which had been inactive since 1937, and which was transferred to the Bank's suspense account on 25 February 1947. The Bank's records indicate that the balance of the account on that date was 27.95 Swiss Francs ("SF"). The account remains suspended.

## **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 six claims of the Claimants in one proceeding.

### Identification of the Account Owner

Claimant [REDACTED 2]'s father's name, and Claimant [REDACTED 3] and Claimant [REDACTED 1]'s maternal uncle's name matches the published name of the Account Owner. The CRT notes that the Bank's records do not contain any specific information about the Account Owner other than his name.

In support of her claims, Claimant [REDACTED 2] submitted documents, including her birth and marriage certificates, and Isaac Georges Wolff's birth certificate, providing independent verification that the person who is claimed to be the Account Owner had the same name as the person recorded in the Bank's records as the name of the Account Owner.

The CRT notes that there are no other claims to this account. Taking all of these factors into account, the CRT concludes that the Claimants have plausibly identified the Account Owner.

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

The Claimants have made a plausible showing that the Account Owner was a Victim of Nazi Persecution. The Claimants stated that the Account Owner was Jewish, that he resided in Nazi-occupied France, that his home and assets were looted by the Nazis in 1944, and that he was required to wear a "yellow star".

### The Claimants' Relationships to the Account Owner

The Claimants have plausibly demonstrated that they are related to the Account Owner by submitting specific information and documents, demonstrating that the Account Owner was Claimant [REDACTED 2]'s father and Claimant [REDACTED 1] and Claimant [REDACTED 3]'s uncle. These documents include Claimant [REDACTED 2]'s birth, marriage, and death certificates, indicating that her father was Isaac Georges Wolff.

The CRT notes that the Claimants indicated that they have other surviving relatives, but that because they are not represented in the Claimants' claims, the CRT will not treat their potential entitlement to the Account Owner's account in this decision.

### The Issue of Who Received the Proceeds

The Bank's records indicate that the account remains suspended.

### Basis for the Award

The CRT has determined that an Award may be made in favor of the Estate of Claimant [REDACTED 2]. First, the claims are admissible in accordance with the criteria contained in Article 18 of the Rules. Second, Claimant [REDACTED 2] has plausibly demonstrated that the Account Owner was her father, 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.

Further, the CRT notes that Claimant [REDACTED 2], as the Account Owner's daughter, has a better entitlement to the account than Claimant [REDACTED 3] and Claimant [REDACTED 1], the Account Owner's nieces.

### Amount of the Award

In this case, the Account Owner held one account of unknown type. The Bank's records indicate that the value of the account as of 25 February 1947 was SF 27.95. In accordance with Article 31(1) of the Rules, this amount is increased by an adjustment of SF 45.00, which reflects standardized bank fees charged to the account between 1945 and 1947. Consequently, the adjusted balance of the account at issue is SF 72.95. 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 this amount is calculated by multiplying the adjusted balance 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.

### Division of the Award

According to Article 23(1)(c) of the Rules, if the Account Owner's spouse has not submitted a claim, the award shall be in favor of any descendants of the Account Owner who have submitted

a claim, in equal shares by representation. In this case, Claimant [REDACTED 2] was the daughter of the Account Owner, whereas Claimants [REDACTED 1] and [REDACTED 3] are the Account Owner's nieces. Accordingly, the Estate of Claimant [REDACTED 2] is entitled to the entire award amount. As noted above, Claimant [REDACTED 1] and Claimant [REDACTED 3] are not entitled to share in the award.

### **Scope of the Award**

The Claimants should be aware that, pursuant to Article 20 of the Rules, the CRT will carry out further research on their claims to determine whether there are additional Swiss bank accounts to which they 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  
24 October 2008