

CLAIMS RESOLUTION TRIBUNAL

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

Certified Denial

to Claimant [REDACTED 1]
also acting on behalf of [REDACTED 2]
and [REDACTED 3]

in re Account of Sophie Scialom

Claim Number: 207204/MW

This Certified Denial is based upon the claim of [REDACTED 1] (the “Claimant”) to the published account of Sophie Scialom (“the Account Owner”) at the Lausanne branch of 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 identifying the Account Owner as her maternal grandmother, Sophie Scialom, née Ehrenreich, who was born on 12 October 1880 in Salonique, Turkey, and was married to [REDACTED] in approximately 1910, in Salonique.¹ The Claimant stated that her grandparents had one child: [REDACTED], née [REDACTED], the Claimant’s mother, who was born on 21 July 1911 in Salonique. The Claimant stated that her mother was married to [REDACTED], with whom she had three children: [REDACTED 2], [REDACTED 3] and the Claimant. The Claimant stated that her grandmother, who was Jewish, lived in Lausanne, Switzerland in the 1910s and 1920s, and that following her husband’s death in 1929, her grandmother moved to Paris, France, where she lived with the Claimant’s parents and their children at 12, rue des Eaux, Paris 16. The Claimant stated that after the Nazis invaded France, her father took the Claimant and her two sisters to the French free zone in 1942, and had planned to arrange for the Claimant’s mother and grandmother to escape as well. According to the Claimant, there was not enough time, and her mother and grandmother were arrested by the *Gestapo* in July 1942 and September 1942, respectively, and were both killed in Auschwitz.

In support of her claim, the Claimant submitted, *inter alia*, her grandmother’s safe deposit box contract, which indicates that her grandmother rented a safe deposit box, numbered 561, on 13

¹ The CRT notes that the city of Salonique (Thessaloniki) became a part of Greece in 1912.

August 1936, and that she lived in Paris; a probate order indicating that [REDACTED], the Claimant's grandfather, bequeathed his estate to his wife, Sophie Scialom, and to his daughter, [REDACTED]; her grandmother's death certificate, which indicates that she died on 5 October 1942 in Auschwitz; her mother's death certificate, which indicates that she died in Auschwitz and that her mother was Sophie Ehrenreich; and her parents' official family book, which indicates [REDACTED]'s and [REDACTED]'s children's names are [REDACTED 1], [REDACTED 2], and [REDACTED 3], and that [REDACTED]'s mother was Sophie Ehrenreich. The Claimant indicated that she was born on 30 June 1934 in Boulogne-Billancourt, France. The Claimant is representing her sisters, [REDACTED 2] and [REDACTED 3], who were born in Boulogne-Billancourt on 26 September 1937 and 4 February 1939, respectively.

Information Available in the Bank's Records

The Bank's records consist of a customer card and safe deposit box registry cards. According to these records, the Account Owner was *Mme* (Mrs.) Sophie Scialom, who resided in Paris, France. The Bank's records indicate that the Account Owner held a safe deposit box account, numbered 561, which she rented in August 1936. The Bank's records further indicate that the safe deposit box was closed on 9 September 1948, and was reopened on the same date under the name [REDACTED], who resided at *Hôtel Elite*, Geneva, Switzerland, and that [REDACTED 1], [REDACTED 2] and [REDACTED 3] were the Power of Attorney Holders. According to the Bank's records, this account existed as late as on 13 August 1974 when the last known deduction of fees was made.

The CRT's Analysis

Identification of the Account Owner

The Claimant has plausibly identified the Account Owner. Her grandmother's name and city of residence match the published name and city of residence of the Account Owner. In support of her claim, the Claimant submitted documents, including her grandmother's safe deposit box rental contract, which indicates that she held the same safe deposit box as that in the Bank's records. Additionally, the CRT notes that a database containing the names of victims of Nazi persecution includes a person named Sophie Scialom, and indicates that her date of birth was 12 October 1880 and place of birth was Salonique, which matches the 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. The CRT notes that there are no other claims to this account.

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 she perished in Auschwitz. As noted above, a person name Sophie Scialom was included in the CRT's database of victims.

The Claimant's Relationship to the Account Owner

The Claimant has plausibly demonstrated that she is related to the Account Owner by submitting specific information and documents, demonstrating that the Account Owner was the Claimant's maternal grandmother. These documents include a probate order indicating that [REDACTED], the Claimant's grandfather, bequeathed his estate to his wife, Sophie Scialom, and to his daughter, [REDACTED]; her grandmother's death certificate, which indicates that she was the widow of [REDACTED], her mother's death certificate, which indicates that her mother was Sophie Ehrenreich; and her parents' official family book, which indicates [REDACTED]'s and [REDACTED]'s children's names are [REDACTED 1], [REDACTED 2], and [REDACTED 3], and that [REDACTED]'s mother was Sophie Ehrenreich. There is no information to indicate that the Account Owner has other surviving heirs other than the parties which the Claimant is representing.

The Issue of Who Received the Proceeds

The Bank's records indicate that the Account Owner held a safe deposit account, numbered 561, which was opened in August 1936. Given that the Bank's records indicate that the account was closed on 9 September 1948, and reopened on the same date by [REDACTED], the Account Owner's son-in-law, and that the Claimant and her sisters were the Power of Attorney Holders, the CRT determines that the Account Owner's heirs had access to this account after 1945, and concludes that the Account Owner's heirs received the proceeds of the safe deposit account.

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 the Special Master, c/o Claims Resolution Tribunal, P.O. Box 9564, 8036 Zurich, Switzerland.

The Claimant should send appeals in writing to the above address and should include all reasons for 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, 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 Denial

The CRT certifies this Denial for approval by the Court.

Claims Resolution Tribunal
18 August 2004