

CLAIMS RESOLUTION TRIBUNAL

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

Certified Award

to Claimant Irena Uris

in re Account of Felicjan Dembowski

Claim Number: 211587/SJ

Award Amount: 47,400.00 Swiss Francs

This Certified Award is based upon the claim of Irena Uris, née Dubicka, (the “Claimant”) to the account of Felicjan Dembowski (the “Account Owner”) at the [REDACTED] (the “Bank”).

All awards are published. Where a claimant has not requested confidentiality, as in this case, only the name of the bank has been redacted.

Information Provided by the Claimant

The Claimant submitted a Claim Form identifying the Account Owner as her paternal great-grandfather’s nephew, Felicjan Dembowski, who was a Jehovah’s Witness, who was born in 1901 in Lwow, Poland, and was married to Maria Dembowski. The Claimant also stated that Felicjan Dembowski was a jeweler and had a daughter, Nicola Dembowski. The Claimant further stated that Felicjan Dembowski went into hiding in France during the Second World War. In support of her claim the Claimant submitted a family tree, a copy of her birth certificate and her parents’ marriage certificate. The Claimant stated that she was born on 3 September 1955 in Lwow, Poland.

Information Available in the Bank Records

The bank records consist of copies of the Bank’s ledgers and printouts from the Bank’s database. According to these records, the Account Owner was Felicjan Dembowski who resided in Lwow, Poland. The bank records indicate that the Account Owner held an account of unknown type. The records also indicate that the account was opened 18 April 1935, and was closed by fees on 15 November 1963. The amount in the account on the date of its closure was 66.00 Swiss Francs. According to the records, the account was considered for an internal survey of dormant accounts, but was never reported in the final survey.

The CRT's Analysis

Identification of the Account Owner

The Claimant has plausibly identified the Account Owner. Her great-grandfather's nephew's name matches the published name of the Account Owner. Furthermore, the Claimant identified her great-grandfather's nephew's place of residence in Poland, which matches published information about the Account Owner contained in the bank records. Finally, the Claimant identified the Account Owner as a jeweler who traveled throughout Europe as part of his trade, making it plausible that he would have opened a Swiss bank account. The CRT notes that there are no other claims to this account. In support of her claim, the Claimant submitted a family tree, copies of her birth certificate and her parents' marriage certificate.

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 a Jehovah's Witness and that he went into hiding in France during the Second World War.

The Claimant's Relationship to the Account Owner

The Claimant has plausibly demonstrated that she is related to the Account Owner by submitting documents demonstrating that the Account Owner was her great-grandfather's nephew. There is no information to indicate that the Account Owner has other surviving heirs.

The Issue of Who Received the Proceeds

The account was closed to bank fees on 15 November 1963.

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 great-grandfather's nephew, and that relationship justifies an Award. Finally, the CRT has determined that neither the Account Owner nor his heirs received the proceeds of the claimed account.

Amount of the Award

In this case, the Account Owner held one account of an unknown type. The bank records indicate that the value of the account of unknown type, as of 15 November 1963 was 66.00 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, the presumed value for that type of account, 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
March 5, 2003