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Lot 148

Military Medals: Second World War Battle of Britain D.F.C. Group of Four to Flight Lieutenant (Air

Henry Aldridge & Son



Military Medals: Second World War Battle of Britain D.F.C. Group of Four to Flight Lieutenant (Air Gunner) Marcus Kramer, 1939-1945 Star, Air Crew Europe Star, War Medal 1939-45 D.F.C. Recommendation - Fighter Command - May 1940 (1) Pilot Officer Marcus Kramer (77345) (2) Pilot Officer Richard Cummins Haine (43137) Pilot Officers Kramer and Haines were air gunner and pilot in one of six aircraft attacking Rotterdam aerodrome on 10th May, 1940. Immediately after attacking aircraft on the ground, they were themselves attacked by six enemy fighters. The rear gun turret operating mechanism had been put out of action and the gun itself jammed but, in a most calm manner, Pilot Officer Kramer directed his pilot how best to evade the attacks of the enemy fighters and at the same time dismantled and repaired his gun. As the last enemy aircraft attacked, this officer had his gun working and succeeded in driving the enemy off. By the great coolness of Pilot Officer Kramer and the accurate information he gave, Pilot Officer Haine with great skill succeeded in bringing his badly damaged aircraft to a position where he was able to make a forced landing in friendly territory. Pilot Officer 77345 Marcus Kramer of 600 City of London Squadron, Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve. A pharmacist from Thorpe Bay Essex, he was born in Bermondsey in 1911 and active in the local Jewish community, son of Mr and Mrs Emmanuel Kramer of 3, Marine Parade, Southend-on-Sea. He joined the RAFVR in March 1939, and was commissioned in Feb. 1940. On May 10th 1940 he flew as gunner with PO R C Haine with 6 Blenheims on an attack on Rotterdam (Waalhaven) Aerodrome, just captured by German Paratroops that morning captured by German paratroopers that morning, of the six Blenheims engaged on the attack only one returned to base with heavy damage. After the attack they were shot down by ME 110s but he evaded capture and was evacuated with his crew by the H.M.S Hereward, Royal Navy. He was awarded the DFC on 9th July 1940 [LG Issue 34892 published 9 July 1940. Page 13 of 78], but he was killed in action on 21st May 1941 with 29 Squadron, aged 29 years. Son of Emanuel and Rosie Kramer, of Thorpe Bay, Essex. M.P.S. His name is on the Runnymede memorial Panel 29. His AJEX card states that the Jewish Chaplains wrote to the father who replied that "his plane was seen to crash into the River Severn near Chepstow and his tunic was washed up almost immediately" and is therefore believed to be dead. Also that the "Times" reported his death on the 31st December 1941 first in a list of RAF casualties under "previously reported missing believed killed on active service, now presumed killed on active service". The Times - List of Casualties - Wednesday December 31 1941 FLIGHT LIEUTENANT MARCUS KRAMER, D.F.C., previously reported missing, believed killed, now presumed killed on active service, was born at Bermondsey in 1911. He enlisted as an untrained air observer in the R.A.F. Volunteer Reserve in 1939, and was gazetted to a Commission in 1940. On July 8, 1940, as a pilot officer, he was awarded the D.F.C. for gallantry and devotion to duty during air operations. A rare enamel and silver sweetheart brooch City of London Squadron, pin-back with safety chain, together with related paperwork (copies). With thanks to Martin Sugarman, Jewish Virtual Library. Kees Stoutjesdijk WO2 GO Foundation, Southend-on-Sea County Borough. 600 Squadron Association.com.

Auction sale details

Winter and Valentines Day Auction of Fine Art, Antiques and Collectables

Sale Date(s)

13 Feb 2016 10:00 GMT

Venue Address

Unit 1, Bath Road Business Centre, , , Devizes, Wiltshire, SN10 1XA, United Kingdom

Auctioneer details

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Lot closed: 13 Feb 2016 10:00 GMT

Estimate: 7,000 GBP - 10,000 GBP