

SA577544

Napoleonic Prize East India Company Silver Salver for the Capture of French Warship La Medee

Price

Sold**Item Reference: SA577544****Date of manufacture: 1800**

Dimensions

Height = 3 cm (1.2")

Width = 15.5 cm (6.1")

Depth = 21.5 cm (8.5")

Description

For sale a prize silver salver hallmarked to 1792 by the famous Georgian silversmiths, John Crouch & Thomas Hannam presented in recognition for Valentine Munden's part in the capture of the French warship 'La Medee' in 1803 off the coast of Brazil. The engraving to the base of the salver reads: "18th June 1803, Valentine Munden's Prize Money when on board the Exeter East Indiaman for the capture of the French frigate La Medee" The naval action in which La Medee was taken, took place on the 4th of August 1800. On that morning, the Royal Navy escort, The Belliqueux sighted a squadron of French Frigates and immediately gave chase and captured the largest ship, La Concorde whilst the East Indiamen, Exeter and Bombay Castle pursued and received surrender from La Medee. The Coutts and The Neptune were unsuccessful in capturing the last frigate La Franchise owing to her speed but the action stands out as the only occasion during the Napoleonic Wars where a merchant vessel captured a French ship of war. A contemporary account which was widely published during the period, explains the action in more detail: "Extract of a letter from Captain Rowley Bulteel, Commander of his M...

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