

Pilots Medals Up For Auction

The Charterhouse two day **June** auction on the **22nd & 23rd** includes a the important group of medals awarded to Group Captain Clive Stanbury CBE DSO DFC which are expected to sell for up to £30,000* - *plus 24% Buyers Premium includes VAT.

“Rare do you come across such important RAF medal groups and this group is even more special as it is the first time it has appeared on the open market,” commented Richard Bromell. “During the war, he flew a huge variety of planes including Wellington, Lysander, Halifax, Hurricane, Mosquito, and Lancaster and of course, the legendary Spitfire along with a large number of American planes such as the Liberator. After the war he continued to serve in the RAF and his log books record flew for over 3,600 hours!”

Charterhouse has been instructed to sell the medals on behalf of the family. A difficult decision to make it is hoped the collection will be handled, looked at, researched and enjoyed rather than sitting in a safe.



Clive Stanley George Stanbury joined the RAF aged 24 years just before World War Two started in 1939. By 1942 he had been promoted to Flight Lieutenant flying with 70 Squadron and was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross (DFC) having flown 61 sorties. It was noted he set a very high standard of efficiency and was a most courageous captain, who, undeterred by the enemy's fire pressed home his attacks to the full.

Less than a month later, as Acting Squadron Leader and still at 70 Squadron, he was awarded the Distinguished Service Order (DSO) where it was also noted he had no regard for his personal safety and always first to volunteers for hazardous tasks.

In December 1943 he transferred to 624 SD Squadron as Commanding Officer. His experience and cool head took him on many operations including dropping SOE agents (or Joe's as they are recorded in his log books) deep into enemy territory. 624 Squadron was at first a special duties squadron the only RAF squadron to fly without plane markings such was the nature of their covert operations.

At the end of the war, in 1945, he was also awarded the French Croix de Guerre having made a conspicuous contribution to the liberation of France, as a pilot during many courageous actions and as commander of his group, his energy and his courage in action served as an example for his formation and everyone around him.



In 1953, he was awarded the Air Force Cross (AFC) for being the first British pilot to fly a Canberra jet engine aeroplane over the Pole. During the flight they tested the suitability of high latitude navigational techniques at the high speeds and altitudes flown by jet engines rather than piston engines.

In 1963 he was made a Commander of the Order of the British Empire (CBE).

Accompanying the medals at the Charterhouse auction, are his three Pilots Flying Log Books documenting his actions and photographs albums including images of Winston Churchill making a station visit. There are also letters of gratitude and acknowledgment from high ranking British and American commanders such as Air Marshall Sir John Slessor and Colonel Monro MacCloskey, Colonel, Air Corps, Commanding.

In addition to all this, there is a great selection of press cuttings, citations, further letters and other ephemera charting his career in the RAF.



Charterhouse is now accepting entries for their June auctions which include coins, stamps, medals & collectors' items along with nearly 5,000 bottles of wine, port & spirits. They are also accepting entries for their specialist auction of classic cars on Sunday 18th June.

For further information regarding these auctions, or to arrange a home visit, please contact or Richard Bromell at Charterhouse, The Long Street Salerooms, Sherborne 01935 812277 or email items for valuation at info@charterhouse-auction.com

*plus 24% Buyers Premium inc VAT