

Badge of Distinction of the Military Order with Cypher of Alexander I, #3585 (also known as Saint George Cross for the Prussian Allies), 1839.

Awarded to Feldwebel (Sergeant) Karl Kramm, First Silesian Infantry Regiment.

In silver, measures 39.6 mm in height (incl. eyelet), 33.0 mm in width, 2.6-2.8 mm thick at the tips of the arms; weighs 13.1 grams without suspension. The design is similar to a regular St. George Cross (known at the time as Insignia of Distinction of the Military Order), but with added cipher of Emperor Alexander I on the reverse upper arm.

In outstanding, excellent condition. The details of both the obverse and reverse are exceptionally well preserved, virtually pristine. There is only very light wear to the edges of the cross. A protective layer of translucent lacquer has been applied to the reverse (the side with the serial number); it can be easily removed with solvent if desired. The cross comes with a loose German style suspension and period ribbon. The hook of the suspension for connecting the medal broke off but it can be replaced by a skilled jeweler with only minimal effort.

Awarded to the surviving Prussian veterans of the Napoleonic Wars during the period of 1813-1815.

The decoration was established in 1839 to commemorate the construction of the monument at the sight of the 1812 Battle of Borodino. Only 4264 were issued, and of that number no less than 1765 were returned to the Chancellery of Russian Orders after the death of their recipients. According to the established, well documented practice, all the returned pieces were melted down for scrap. Of course, out of some 2500 that remained in veteran's families only a few specimens have survived to our day.

The name of the recipient of this particular cross is mentioned in the list of the recipients published in the detailed research by Dmitry Peters titled ,Badge of Distinction of the Military Order with the Cypher of Emperor Alexander I for the Veterans of Prussian Army published in 2005 by IP Media, Moscow. /See also Dimitri Romanov, The Orders, Medals and History of Imperial Russia, pp. 154, 155/

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