



L/Bdr Myer Kramer 329491 V

Served in the Artillery Division of the 6th South African Armoured Division

(4th/22nd Field Regiment) from August 1942 to December 1945

Myer Kramer was born on 11 June 1921 in Cape Town, South Africa. He was the oldest child and only son of Rachel (nee Firer) and Rubin Kramer, who were married in Cape Town, South Africa in 1920.

He had five sisters, born during the period 1924 to 1941.

Myer left Cape Town for Port Elizabeth, where he worked as a Customs Officer for the South African government in the Customs and Excise department. He later qualified as a chartered accountant.

In June 1942, a few days after his 21st birthday, he wrote a beautiful letter to his parents explaining his desire to enrol for active service and his need to join the forces in North Africa, and asked for their blessing. He quoted from one of his lesson supplements: *“The only failure a man need fear is failure to cleave to the purpose he sees best.”*

By August 1942, he was in uniform and training in various camps in South Africa. In April 1943 the troops set sail, and by May 1943 they were in Egypt. In a letter he wrote to his parents at that time, he said, *“While I was on board, I thought it strange that while you at home were celebrating Passover, the exodus of our forbears from Egypt, I should be on my way back there.”*



Myer with his parents (1922)



Myer trained and served as a surveyor from August 1942 to December 1945. He served in Egypt and Italy, and was awarded five medals.

For the duration of his service, he diligently wrote letters to his parents and sisters and other family members, and eagerly looked forward to their return letters and parcels.

After the war, he returned to his parents' home in Maitland. He married Ida Blumberg on 15 June 1947.

Myer took ill in 1948, and died on 15 October 1948. He and Ida didn't have children.

Written by Philip Stodel
January 2024

About 150 of the letters that Myer wrote home were preserved, and have been transcribed into a booklet called Letters Home. This booklet forms the core of the museum material for Myer Kramer's file. These letters were personal in nature, as censorship of outgoing letters left little else to write about. In fact, on the outside of many of these air letters he certified that the contents referred to nothing but private and family matters. Despite this, if the reader ignores the personal content, there is still much historical richness in most of his letters. Myer had a wonderful command of the English language, as will be seen throughout the booklet, especially the accounts of his various travels, which he described in vivid verbal pictures.

Gallery



at the office.



Myself,
Jaw.
Walter,
John B.
John G.
at a cafe
in Leguano

The best-fish (also worst and
sauerkraut - by those same names) outside
the Munich railway-station.



Dot's me!



*15 June 1947
Myer on his wedding day, his parents on his right*



*Myer is buried in Pinelands No. 1 Cemetery,
Cape Town, South Africa*