

## Badge of a Veteran of the 11th Guards Army, circa 1970s.

Aluminum, paint; medallion is 47 mm wide; overall height of the entire badge with suspension is approx. 73 mm. The pendant has inscription "Veteran of the 11th Guards Army" and a depiction of the Kremlin in the background. The suspension features black and orange stripes signifying a Guards unit (and also the Victory over Germany medal ribbon.) The reverse of the suspension has early style hexagon logo of the Moscow Pobeda Factory, which indicates that the badge is of relatively early manufacture, probably no later than from the mid-70s. An attractive piece in Excellent condition.

The 11th Guards Army was formed in 1940 in the Transbaikal Military District, initially as the 16th Army. When the Germans invaded the Soviet Union in June 1941, the division was hastily moved west and took part in the battle near Smolensk as part of the Western Front. It was almost completely destroyed but showed so much heroism in combat that when its second formation was raised in 1943, it was re-designated 11th Guards Army. In July 1943, it notably took part in the Battle of Kursk. During the battle, it played an important role in the Soviet Operation Kutuzov, the counteroffensive toward Orel that completely derailed the German Operation Zitadel. During 1944, the army took part in the Bagration offensive in Belorussia and advanced into East Prussia. In April 1945, as part of the 3rd Belorussian Front, it stormed Königsberg in one of the last and most important operations of the East Prussian Offensive. Four days of brutal warfare culminated in the Soviets taking the fortress city of Königsberg and the Germans surrendering; the East Prussian Offensive ended up a decisive Soviet success as they came out with relatively few casualties.

/See [Soviet Second World War Veteran Badges](#) p. 20/.

Item# 29402

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