

Badge in Commemoration of the 50th Anniversary of the Breaking of the Blockade of Leningrad, 1993.

In aluminum and paint. The medallion measures about 40.5 mm in height (incl. eyelet), 25 mm in width. The artwork features fireworks over the Leningrad skyline. The suspension is in the shape of a ribbon bar for the Defense of Leningrad Medal. In excellent condition.

The badge was issued in commemoration of the Operation Iskra ("Spark"), the Soviet offensive in January 1943 was the final one among many Soviet attempts to relieve Leningrad by smashing the so-called "Mga Bottleneck". The offensive did not succeed in all of its goals, as the railway juncture of Mga and the dominant Sinyavino Heights to the south remained under German control. It nevertheless opened an overland route to the city - something that had not been achieved up to that point in the siege despite numerous costly efforts. Hugging the edge of Lake Ladoga north of the town of Sinyavino, the corridor was admittedly narrow, only six miles in width and constantly under German artillery fire. Nevertheless, it provided an important extra lifeline to the long-suffering Leningrad and weakened the Nazi death grip on the city. It was also an important propaganda victory for the Soviet Union. The siege would be completely lifted a year later, during the Operation Neva.

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