

Veteran's Badge in Commemoration of the 40th Anniversary of the 189th Guards / 946th Ground Attack Aviation Regiment, 1982 issue.

In aluminum and paint; the medallion measures approx. 39.5 mm in height (incl. eyelet), 31.5 mm in width. The obverse has inscription "40th Anniversary of the Order of Suvorov Brestskiy (Aviation Regiment)". Note that the name "aviation regiment" is not spelled-out, but it is clearly implied by the specific usage of the previous words. Also, the unit number is not mentioned anywhere, as typical of Soviet military aviation badges - probably due to the Soviet obsession with secrecy. The unit however is positively identified by the badge's suspension which shows the dates "1942-1982". Combined with a Guards badge, the Order of Suvorov award, and the title of Brestskiy or "of Brest fame", this is a unique combination for a Soviet aviation unit. The badge is in excellent condition.

This unit equipped with IL-2 Shturmoviks was originally formed in 1942 under the name 946th Ground Attack Aviation Regiment. As a part of the 4th Ground Attack Air Corps, it distinguished itself in 1944 during the liberation of Belorussia and especially the city of Brest, and was consequently given an honorific title of Brestskiy. Later that year, the unit was elevated to Guards and received new designation 189th Guards Ground Attack Aviation Regiment. Over the course of the war, this illustrious unit was decorated with an Order of Suvorov, 3rd cl. and in the last months of the war, also received as many as 16 honorary mentions in Stalin's decrees. In 1960, it was transformed into a Bomber and Ground Attack regiment with the same number.

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