

Badge in Commemoration of the 30th Anniversary of the 523rd Fighter Air Regiment, 1971 issue.

Aluminum, paint. The pendant measures 30 mm in height (incl. eyelet), 25 mm in width. The suspension device shows the ribbons of four orders that unit has been awarded with: Red Banner, Suvorov 2nd cl., Kutuzov 2nd cl., and Alexander Nevsky. Excellent condition.

This badge was awarded to a veteran of one of the most distinguished Soviet air force units. Initially equipped with LaGG-3 fighters when it was formed in 1941, the unit scored some of its early victories in the defense of Leningrad at Tikhvin. Later, it suffered heavy losses at Rzhev and fought with outstanding valor at Smolensk. Even though it had been converted to solely reconnaissance role by mid-1944, the regiment over the course of the war shot down 112 enemy airplanes, destroyed 300 motor vehicles and 450 horse-drawn wagons, and eliminated over 2 battalions of infantry.

For its outstanding performance, the unit was decorated with as many as four orders, added an honorific title of "Orshinskiy" to its name (for the town of Orsha), and received some 15 Stalin's citations. In the early 50s it took part in the Korean War and over the course of that conflict, claimed 102 US and South Korean aircraft shot down. Following the Korean War, the regiment remained in the Russian Far East until it was disbanded in 1994.

Item# 34489

\$30.00

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