

Veteran's Badge in Commemoration of the 30th Anniversary of the 290th Separate Long-Range Reconnaissance Aviation Regiment, 1971 issue.

In aluminum, paint and lacquer. The pentagon-shaped medallion measures 31.9 mm tall (incl. eyelet), 30.5 mm wide. Interesting design featuring the globe with red map of the USSR and Kremlin tower marking Moscow. There is a Tu-22 spy airplane above. Neither the name nor number of the unit are mentioned anywhere, due to the usual Soviet obsession with secrecy. The badge however has been positively attributed to the 290th Separate Long-Range Reconnaissance Aviation Regiment of the 46th Air Army of the Soviet Supreme Command.

The badge is in very fine to excellent condition. There are some minor scuffs and scratches to the paint, some of which may be manufacturing imperfections.

The 290th Separate Long-Range Reconnaissance Aviation Regiment (ODRAP) was formed in 1941 but since it was permanently stationed in the Soviet Far East, it did not take part in the war against Germany. In 1945, the unit distinguished itself in the Soviet "Blitz" against Japan when its TB-3 bombers repeatedly struck Harbin. In 1950, the regiment received "legacy" US-made B-25 bombers. It was soon converted to solely aerial reconnaissance role and reequipped first with Tu-4 and then, in the 60s, with Tu-22 airplanes (the latter was the first Soviet supersonic bomber / reconnaissance aircraft). Starting from 1952 and until its deactivation following the collapse of the USSR, the regiment was stationed on the airfield of Zyabrovka in Belorussia.

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