

## Veteran Badge in Commemoration of the 30th Anniversary of the 4th Guards Tank Corps / Kantemirovskaya Guards Tank Division, 1972 issue.

Aluminum, paint, lacquer; measures 45.0 mm in height, 31.0 mm in width. The oak leaves at the bottom are a separate part attached by rivets. The medallion shows inscriptions "30 Years of the Kantemirovskaya." The reverse has raised Moscow Mint logo ММД.

In excellent condition. There are a few minor contact marks and scuffs to the paint and very minor wear to the high points of the tank, but the finish and paint are overall very nicely preserved. The rivets are tight. The reverse has a scribbled date of 11 May 1972 as well as several names - likely a date of the veterans reunion and names of comrades-in-arms of the recipient of the badge.

This highly distinguished armored unit was originally the 17th Tank Corps when it was activated in the summer of 1942 to take part in heavy fighting near Voronezh. In late 1942, it took part in the Malyi Saturn offensive during the Battle of Stalingrad and for successfully smashing the northern flank of the Axis troops was promoted to 4th Guards Tank Corps in January of the next year. It also added an honorific title of Kantemirovskaya to its name for exceptional performance in battle near the village of Kantemirovka, south of Voronezh. The corps later greatly distinguished itself in the Battle of Kursk, offensive at Shepetovka in the Ukraine in April 1944 (for which it was awarded with an Order of the Red Banner), and the lightning advance in Poland in January 1945 which culminated in the capture of Krakow (for which the unit received an Order of Lenin). At the conclusion of the war in Europe in Spring 1945, the corps was among the Soviet units that reached the Elbe River and then made a fighting march to Prague. As part of the post-war reduction of the Soviet armed forces, the corps was transformed into the 4th Guards Kantemirovskaya Tanks Division, which retained all the traditions and awards of the original unit.

Item# 34737

**\$20.00**

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