

## Naval Air Force School graduate badge, 1944 type, 1944-1954.

Brass, silver plating, enamels. Measures 30.4 mm in height, 81.6 mm in width; weighs 11.7 g without the screw plate.

In very fine to excellent condition, outstanding for this badge. The enamel is completely free of the usual chips or flaking, retains beautiful luster and appears perfect to the unaided eye. There are just a few microscopic contact marks plus a couple of tiny hairlines to the azure enamel in the 3 to 5 o'clock segment, all of them unnoticeable without a magnifying glass. The details of the wings, anchor and swords are beautifully preserved and crisp. The fragile silver plating on the obverse is washed out as is usually the case, but a good amount of it is still present on the reverse, especially around the screw post where it was protected by the screw plate. The screw post has been slightly reduced for convenience as was customary, but its remaining length of over 7.5 mm is enough for proper functionality. Includes a WW2 era screw plate of the NKPS Factory which is contemporary with the badge and fits it perfectly, although it is probably not original to it. Overall, an unusually well-preserved example of the scarce WW2 naval pilot's wings.

/See Borisov, Badges of the Soviet Armed Forces..., fig. 316; B. Airapetyan, Breast Badges of the Red Army, 1941- 1945 p. 77, fig. 3/.

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