

## Airborne Steel Helmet, dated 1955.

Features standard M-40 shell and liner with special three-point leather chin strap for paratroopers. The olive drab paint is typical for 1950s Soviet helmets. Shows a clearly legible maker ink stamp with a "55" year of manufacture. The stamp also shows size P1 (i.e. "R1") which is a medium size; its liner is meant to properly fit a 58/59 cm (US 7  $\frac{1}{4}$  - 7  $\frac{3}{8}$ ) or smaller head. The shell itself however is large enough however to easily accommodate a 61/62cm head (about a US 7  $\frac{3}{4}$ ). There are two other factory quality control / inventory stamps inside the shell. One of the liner pads is in black ersatz leather while the other two are in brown, a mismatch that probably occurred at the factory: there is no evidence that any of the pads have been replaced and they all match in quality and apparent age.

The helmet is in very good condition. There is minimal amount oxidation on the surface, not penetrating deep into the steel. The original coat of paint is very nicely preserved having only some minor scuffs and scratches. There are no dents or cracks. The padding is sound and immaculately clean. The leather chin strap is sound and supple; its metal hardware is completely intact and shows no rust. A very uncommon and presentable piece from the height of the Cold War!

/An excellent description of this type of helmet is provided in [Russian Helmets: from Kaska to Stalshlyem, 1916 - 2001](#), by Robert Clawson, pp. 69-75/.

Item# 39404

**\$275.00**

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