

## Air Force Pilot badge, Non-Rated, 1950 - 1958 issue.

Brass, enamels; 66.9 mm wide. This particular example was manufactured in 1958 in East Germany (manufacture of various goods for the Soviet army began in the Soviet-occupied part of Germany almost immediately after the end of the war; in some cases it continued long after the establishment of DDR.) Although made to Soviet specifications, there are minute differences that distinguish this badge from similar contemporary wings by Soviet manufacturers. The most obvious one is the screw plate maker marked "OT7" and "58" (the latter presumably a year of manufacture.) The width and thread of the screw post is slightly different from Soviet- made badges.

In very fine to excellent condition. The enamel is free of chips or noticeable contact marks, and retains beautiful luster. There are some hairlines that resulted in dark lines, but they are not detractive and do not threaten the integrity of enamel. The gold finish is nicely preserved on both sides. The screw post is full length, approx. 11.5 mm. The screw plate is original to the badge.

/Borisov "Badges of the Soviet Armed Forces" fig. 371; see also "Uniforms of the Russian Air Force, Volume 2 Part 1(1935 - 1955)" by A. Kibovsky et al, p. 424/.

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