

Nakhimov Medal, Variation 3, #13017, circa 1970s-80s.

In brass; medallion measures 44.9 mm in height (incl. eyelet), 36.4 mm in width; weighs 19.8 g not including the suspension and connecting link. Featuring serial number stamped in small numerals, this is the last variation of the Nakhimov Medal. Note the serial number which is extremely high even for the Variation 3.

Excellent, near mint condition. The medallion is completely free of wear noticeable to the naked eye and has only a few microscopic contact marks that could be found under a 10x magnification. The raised details are perfect and exceptionally crisp on both sides. The "gilt" mint luster is practically pristine throughout. There is only very mild age toning, no significant tarnish, blemishes or oxidation spots.

The medal comes on original suspension device, a post-war single-layer model in brass. The old, likely original ribbon shows evidence of age and use but is very nicely preserved. To summarize, this medal is a truly superb example - condition wise, probably the best we've ever had and in our opinion, impossible to upgrade.

This extraordinary example is obviously one of the last few Nakhimov Medals ever issued. The serial number of this piece is not listed in the catalog *Cavaliers of Nakhimov Medal* by N. Efimov (C. 2012) which includes nearly all wartime issues and many catch-up awards for WW2 exploits that were delivered to their recipients much later. It may still be a belated award to a WW2 veteran, but there is a good chance that it was earned in the late Cold War years. Attempted research through the Russian military archives brought no results, which in fact points to the latter as the more likely possibility. Although the archives may be off limits at the present time, they have a tendency of eventually opening up, as recent experience shows. Not only this medal is in practically unprecedented, impossible to upgrade condition, but it also has a very significant research potential.

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\$2,600.00



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