



Excellent Reconnaissance Scout Badge, NKPS version, mid-1940s.

Brass, enamels; 46.4 x 36.1 mm; weighs 16.4 g without the screw plate. Early variation featuring a characteristically "square" overall shape, simplified wreath and tall ornament at the top. This early version of the Scout Badge has a rarity rating of 4 (rare) by B. Airapetyan. Uncommon bright silver finish on the edge of the shield and scrolls of the top ornament.

In excellent condition, extraordinary for a "combat proficiency" badge of the WW2 era. Both the red and white enamels on the shield are essentially perfect and show a beautiful luster; there are only a few microscopic contact marks invisible without magnification. There are some tiny surface flakes on the red scrolls on the wreath - the most vulnerable spot of this badge - but the scrolls are overall intact and the wear is almost unnoticeable to the naked eye. Details of the wreath, Dyagterev rifle and sword are perfect and exceptionally crisp; the original gilt finish on the wreath and bright silver finish on the edge are exceptionally well-preserved. The silver finish on the reverse is pristine. The screw post is full length, approx. 10.5 mm, and includes a WW2 NKPS screw plate in brass- and nickel-plated steel which is a period original, correct for this version of the badge, and fits perfectly.

Overall, a magnificent example of the WW2 Recon Scout Badge - definitely one of the best, if not the best we've had in recent years. \

/B. Airapetyan, Breast Badges of the Red Army, 1941-1945 p. 107, fig.3/

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