



NIKOLAI GALKOVSKY
(1905-1937)

Radio Operator and Polar Pilot

Born in May 1905 in Ivanovo-Voznesensk into a workers family, Nikolai and his brother became flying aficionados, becoming members of the Society of Air Force Friends, later renamed Osoaviakhim. He attended Ivanovo Industrial Technical School and later the Military Radio School. After graduation he served in naval aviation at the Sevastopol base, then in 1928 was transferred to a Moscow Air Force Research Institute. Soon he became one of the best Soviet radio operators, flew as a flag communication officer on air parades, and in 1934 participated as a crewmember of the flight from Moscow – Kiyev – Wien – Paris – Lyon – Strasburg – Praha – Moscow on a four-engine TB-3. When radio operator L. Kerber had to excuse himself at the last moment from the N-209 flight crew, Galkovsky stepped in as the best qualified operator to replace him. Everything we know about the doomed flight was transmitted by him, including the last radiogram. He was survived by his wife Lydia and daughter Galina.

biography