



NICHOLAS GODOVIKOV

(1893-1937)

DB-A Factory Technician

He was a senior aircraft mechanic at the experimental plane factory. Veterans remember well his love for various mechanisms – be it a plane engine, telegraph or a typewriter. Correcting a faulty mechanism delighted him. He served on the prototype aircraft carrier “Orlitsa”, where he became a mechanic for seaplanes under Lt. Yan Nagursky, who was the first pilot to fly in the Arctic. During the October Revolution Nikolai was elected into a soldier committee. Later for a decade he worked as an engine mechanic at Khodynka Central Airfield in Moscow, and in 1931 came to the aircraft factory. He was known to carry a special metal stethoscope, which helped him to ‘diagnose engines by ear. He was the one who approved the DB-A plane as flight-worthy, but he was also aware more than anyone else that the Levanevsky crew didn’t have enough flight hours together to be fully at ease flying N-209.

Godovikov had seven children. His eldest son Leonid perished during the WWII having rammed a German plane over Cherepovets. The youngest son, Yuri, now retired and in his 80’s, worked at the same plane factory as his father. Nikolai Godovikov’s documents and other memorabilia are kept now by his grandson, Leonid who also an engineer.

biography