



**GREGORY POBEZHIMOV**

*(1897-1937)*

*Polar Aviation Flight Mechanic*

He was born in the village of Ousmanka in the Samara region, on the Volga River, but later spent several years in Krasnoyarsk, Siberia. A well-known Polar pilot Vasily Molokov remembered that he first met Pobezhimov when they were rookies in 1915 and were sent first to build an airfield and then were accepted as hydroplane (seaplane) flight engineer assistants. Later he took part in saving Nobile's expedition, then flew with Krasinsky's expedition to the Wrangel Island in 1927 and was awarded an Order of the Red Banner for that achievement plus a honorary polar bear skin from Yakut Autonomous Region. In the 1930s Pobezhimov and Molokov reunited at Sevmorput Polar Aviation. In 1936 Pobezhimov, Levanevsky and Chechin were sent to the USA to purchase flying boats, and after that he was included into N-209 crew. He knew the Arctic conditions best of all other N-209 crew members.

biography