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GERMAN CLAIMS OF AIRCRAFT LOSSES ON EASTERN FRONT

A most interesting and significant change is noticeable in the German claims as to the losses of Russian and German aircraft on the Eastern Front.

Analysis of the German High Command communiques shows that:-

From August 1 to September 4 the Germans claimed 3,567 Russian aircraft for a loss of 189 -- a proportion of 18 to 1 in their favour.

From September 5 to November 10 the Germans claimed 3,387 Russian aircraft for a loss of 268 -- a proportion of 12 and a half to 1 in their favour.

From November 11 to December 5 the Germans claimed 750 Russian aircraft for a loss of 182 -- a proportion of only 4 to 1 in their favour.

Comparison of these periods reflects serious deterioration in the German air situation in the East during recent months.

The fact that German claims of Russian losses have fallen from 3,567 to 750 and the ratio of losses claimed from 18 to 1 to 4 to 1, for almost identical periods, is at least an open admission that the situation of the Russian air force has much improved.

Indeed it is altogether beyond the bounds of belief that an air force which had suffered so terribly in the past as the Germans have claimed should be able so radically to alter the balance. It may be recalled in this connection that the Germans have declared that the Russian air force lost nearly 17,000 aircraft up to December 1941.

The study of German High Command communiques is always interesting, since they often provide this kind of proof -- if any is required -- of the falsity of German figures.

MINISTRY OF INFORMATION