

RUSSIAN AIRMEN'S TRIBUTE TO "PADDY" FINUCANE

The following telegram of condolence has been received from two fighter pilots of the Soviet Union in connection with the death of Wing Commander Brendan "Paddy" Finucane, D.S.O., D.F.C., Fighter Command's 22 years-old "Ace" who destroyed 32 German aircraft. The delay in receipt of the telegram was caused by the fact that the signatories are on Active Service:

"To aviators of the British Air Force

"It is with profound grief we learned of the death of the gallant British airman and our Comrade-in-arms Finucane. We share your affliction at this grave loss and request you to convey our sincere condolences to the family of the fallen Hero. By a joint supreme effort against the sinister forces of Hitlerism, we must ruthlessly avenge our fallen friends and all the unmentionable atrocities of bloodthirsty Hitlerism. - Signed, by pilots of the Red Army Air Force,

- + Hero of the Soviet Union Captain Ivan Kholodov,
- + Hero of the Soviet Union Captain Eugeny Gorbatyuk."

+ Highest combatant decoration of the U.S.S.R.

Biographical

Hero of the Soviet Union Captain Eugeny Gorbatyuk was born in 1914 in the Ukraine. He is a fighter pilot. Since the outbreak of war he has made over 200 sorties; fought 26 air combats and brought down four enemy aeroplanes. In attacks on enemy troops he has destroyed five tanks, forty motor vehicles, two armoured cars, two ammunition carts, and over a company of infantry.

Hero of the Soviet Union Captain Ivan Kholodov was born in 1915 and is a Russian. He is also a fighter pilot. Since the outbreak of war he has made over 225 sorties; fought 21 air combats and brought down six enemy aeroplanes. In attacks on enemy troops, he has destroyed three tanks, 19 ammunition lorries, eleven lorries carrying troops, 19 ammunition carts and about a company of infantry.