

A man-feat, a man-legend

He died in November, 2014. Kazakhstan celebrated the 70th anniversary of the Victory without him. The national hero of Kazakhstan was modest in everyday life. Few of us, Kazakhstan's people asked question: "Should Talgat Begeldinov mean in someone's life, a man-feat, a man-legend, forever remaining in the sky..." Twice hero of the Soviet Union, Major General of aviation of the Republic of Kazakhstan Talgat Yakubekovich Begeldinov was born in the steppe village Mai-Balyk of Akmola region. He spent his childhood and youth in Frunze and from the age of 16 he became involved in the flying club. The flight biography of Talgat Yakubekovich began as hundreds of his age mates, responded to the call "Komsomols – to the plane!". For the first time he rose in the air in Frunze flying club. It was 1940. The breath of the approaching war was increasingly felt in the country. After 18-year old Talgat Begeldinov successfully passed state exams in the flying club and could not take any decision except to enter Saratov military aviation school of pilots. After Saratov he improved his flying skills in Chkalov (now Orenburg) in two flying schools in turn – 3 bomber and 1-destructive. But he had no chance to serve in destructive and bomber aviation. With the beginning of the Great Patriotic War Talgat went to the front. He was sent to Izhevsk and was taught to fight on the "flying tank" –a battle plane Il-2.

Talgat Yakubekovich remembered about one of the best aircrafts of the Great Patriotic War: -A wonderful plane, on flight-technical characteristics and armament: 600 kg bombs, 6 missiles, 2 anti-tank guns and 2 machine guns. No wonder that our plane was called "black death" by the Nazi. Sergeant Begeldinov made his first flight in the morning on February 17, 1943 and 2 times in the evening.

Stormtroopers have always suffered large losses. This is the nature of their work. On March 7, 1943 they attacked up to 30 battle-planes Me-109. The pilots went boldly into air attack with the planes of the enemy. Demonstrating courage,

Talgat Begeldinov masterfully defended his comrades from the attacks of the enemy fighters. He fired Me-109 of the enemy. All group shot down 3 battle-planes Me-109 in this complicated and unequal battle.

On May 6, 1943 during the bombing attack to the airfield of the enemy in the village Osnova under Kharkov in the battle with three battle planes of the enemy, Talgat's planes was hit. He had to jump with the parachute. After the landing with air shooter Grigory Yakovenko, he made his way to the front line for two weeks in the nights. They ran to the enemy twice. Yakovenko died on mine when they were close to the front line. Talgat was hungry and his leg was wounded. He managed to cross the Northern Donets and came to Soviet infantry. He came to the regiment where he was believed to be dead. The hero of the Soviet Union, commander of the 1st squadron of the guard captain Begeldinov in the army since January 1943.

Due to the wonderful qualities of the Soviet officer, he grew from an ordinary pilot to the best squadron commander. Acting on Kalinin, Voronezh, Stepnoy2nd and the 1st Ukrainian fronts he made 240 successful assault flights on the plane Il-2. He was awarded the order "Patriotic war" of the II degree for 10 flights and shot Me-109. He was awarded "The Red Banner" for 25 flights, order "Glory" of the III degree for two well-conducted two explorations in the area of Kirovograd, order "Patriotic war" of the I degree for 25 successful flights and order "Alexander Nevsky" for 25 successful flights and the command of the big groups in the air.

Finally, it was the 9th of May, a day- we were coming for four years. The victory. The war was over. The guard captain Talgat Begeldinov took participation in the Victory Parade on June 24, 1945. He became the listener of the Red Banner Air-force academy. Ivan Kozhedub, Sergey Lugansky and other pilots who decided to get a higher education studied together with him. They had a totally

different look to the missions they recently took participation in the walls of the institution. The officership of the academy referred to stay on the department, but he strived to the regiment and received an appointment of Deputy Regiment commander for fight training. The medical board suspended him from flying and the command directed him to the higher courses for improving the officers as a chief of the staff. After three years, his health changed for worse. In 1957 Begeldinov was demobilized from the Soviet Army. He graduated from Moscow engineering-construction institute, worked in senior positions in the system of State construction of the Kazakh SSR. He was elected Deputy of the Supreme Council of the USSR, deputy of Alma-Ata municipal council for three times. He was an honorary citizen of Alma-Aty, Astana and Arkalyk. He wrote four books: “Slimes are attacking”, “305 raids”, “Battle in the air”, “The peak in the immortality”. Military Institute of Air Defense Forces of Kazakhstan in Aktobe is called after the name of the legendary pilot. He founded a charity fund, that provided assistance to the disabled of the Great Patriotic War and orphans.

With the death of Talgat Begeldinov a whole page of not only Kazakhstan, but enormous empire is closed, whose appearance and development changed the fate of all mankind to the better life. The Great Victory, the 70th anniversary of which is celebrated this year in 2015 is one of the powerful symbols of that progress. We have no Talgat Begeldinov since November 10, 2014. He was a genuine hero and last survived of all the veterans of the Great Patriotic War – twice heroes of the Soviet Union, Talgat Begeldinov was simple and modest Soviet Kazakh of the first generation born in the USSR. His fate is the reflection of the way of his peers, who resisted a difficult, bloodiest fight of all times and people.

At the age of 22 – the Hero of the Soviet Union

At the age of 23- twice Hero of the Soviet Union

Mikhail Ivanovich Koptev – the Hero of the Soviet Union, comrade-in-arms of Talgat Begeldinov defined his character.

-After first flights I felt how seriously Talgat Yakubekovich treated the pilots and tried to define their characters and to identify their capacity. After each departure, sitting to the flying ground, he asked what I saw behind the enemy lines. When I was finishing the report, Talgat Yakubekovich began to clarify: “Remember, in this place... ? There were traces of the tanks. In this place you did not notice artillery positions, mortars...”. I had to analyze my actions all the time and to be more attentive. We must pay tribute; Talgat Yakubekovich had a talent of a son of the Kazakh people.

He covered the whole area with the falcon eye and quickly oriented in it, remembered and kept in his mind.

There was such episode in Mikhail Koptev’s life. According to him, Talgat Begeldinov taking care about training of the group and said to Mikhail that it was time to independently take the group to the missions. The pilot remembered that it was easier to be lead, especially under the command of Talgat Begeldinov. He decided to squirm. But he made a blunder in the sky, Talgat Begeldinov told him: “Have you no shame? You orientate well. I must fly instead of you? Every day I make two-three flights... I need to change over..” I felt bad. I thought that I let down my comrade. I can be the lead. I was ashamed and admitted my mistake. I received the high title of the Hero of the Soviet Union due to Talgat Yakubekovich Begeldinov.

From the memories of Yakov Kirillovich Shapochka.

-He was one of the best air-pathfinder in our air force.

He led the reconnaissance not only for our regiment, but also for division, corps, and all air army and even for superstructure. My profession was moderate. I prepared aircrafts for the flights. I am proud that prepared those planes for or first reconnaissance squadron, which was commanded by Talgat Yakubekovich. He

was everyone's favourite, because he was one of the bravest and always flew to the place where was a complicated situation. Actually he was sent to the most difficult missions. Our Kazakhstan's fighter Talgat Begeldinov along with Ivan Kozhedub walked in the first line of the First Ukrainian front on the Victory Parade on the Red Square.

Decades and centuries will pass, but the pavement of Moscow Red Square will keep a minted step of Talgat Begeldinov – the last great man of that great era. Her Majesty history has to raise the height of the name of Kazakhstan' warrior, which he achieved during his lifetime.

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