





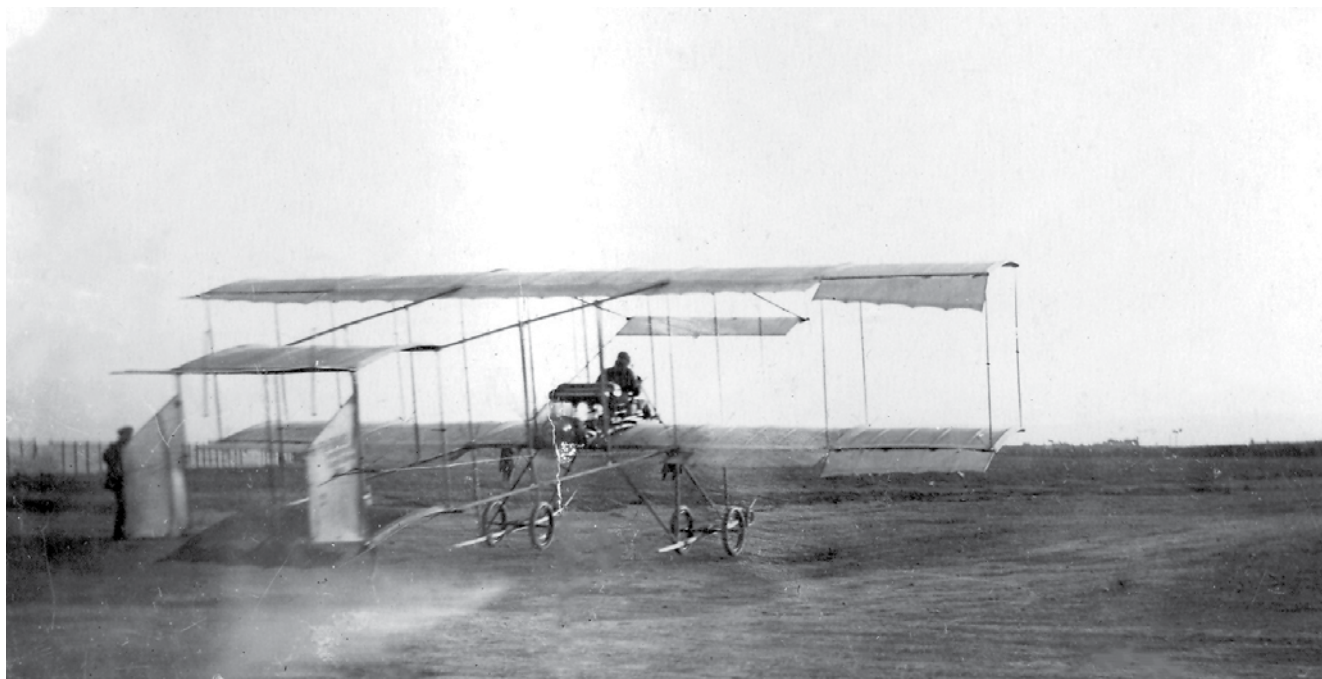
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Baku Media Center

FALCONS OF THE MOTHERLAND

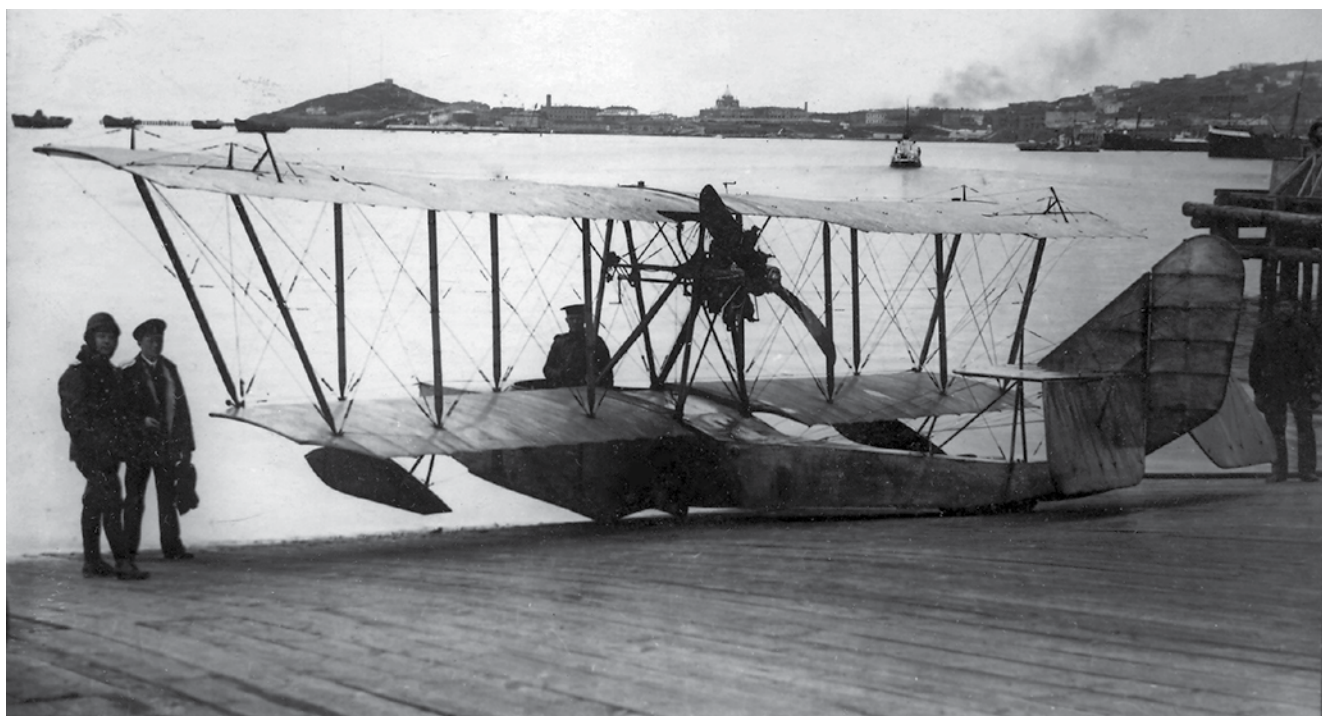


First airplane flight in Baku, 1910



Airplanes were first introduced to Azerbaijan in 1910 – aviator and test pilot Sergey Utochkin performed four demonstration flights over the Balakhani highway on a Farman-type plane. The experience proved so fascinating that airfields were built and commissioned in Baku and Yevlakh in the same year. Aviation as a promising military branch was recognized during World War I and the names of first Azerbaijani aviators are attributed to the

same period. Pilot Ali Bey Verdiyev graduated from an aviation school in Paris at the very height of the war in 1916 and then taught cadets of this school. Lieutenant Farrukh Agha Gaibov, shooter of the Ilya Muromets bomber, took part in heavy battles and died in the skies of Belarus on 12 September 1916. In his last battle, he shot down four enemy planes and was posthumously awarded the Order of St. George of Fourth Degree.



First Azerbaijani pilot Leyla Mammadbayova



Fighter pilot of sea aviation Huseynbala Aliyev. He died a heroic death in the battles for Leningrad in 1941



*One of Azerbaijan's first pilots
Isa Manafov. 1935*



In 1915, the Baku Officer School of Naval Aviation (BOSNA), one of two such schools in the Russian Empire, began was launched. BOSNA not only trained pilots of naval aviation, but also tested new models of aircraft. The school was abolished by the Bolshevik-Dashnak Baku Council in March 1918, but part of its fleet remained.

On 14 September 1919, by an order of the Minister of War of the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic, an air squad was created on the basis of this fleet under the command of Lieutenant Teymur Khan Afshar. Negotiations to train military pilots were held with Georgia and to purchase new equipment with Italy. Firudin Mirza Gajar, Alihuseyn Dadashev, Teytmur Mustafayev, Ganjinskiy, Hasanazade, Garasharov and others (nine people in total) were commissioned to Georgia.

However, Soviet power was established in Baku in 1920 and Azerbaijani aviation embarked on a Soviet phase in its history. In June 1922, a reconnaissance air squad was set up within the Azerbaijan Rifle Division. It was a pilot of this squad, Teymur Mustafayev (later repressed), who was the first to discover oil fields in the Caspian Sea. A graduate of Kharkov Aviation School, Isa



Manafov, not only served but also established a club of gliders in Baku, which repeatedly won all-Union exhibitions (he also fell victim to Stalinist repressions). Among the victims of the Stalinist repressions of the 1930s there are names of Mahmud Mahmudzade, Asad Aliyev, Abulfaz Guliyev, etc.

In the early 1930s, the Baku flying club trained dozens of aviators. Its students subsequently entered military aviation schools. Among them was the first female pilot of Azerbaijan, Leyla Mammadbayova, who later







trained pilots and paratroopers herself. Sona Nurieva, who graduated from the Bataysk Aviation School, served in military transport aviation.

During the war years, the whole country learned the names of the heroes – Azerbaijani pilots. Fighter pilot Huseynbala Aliyev died in the skies of Leningrad and was awarded the Order of Lenin posthumously. Vladimir Bagirov, the son of the head of the republic, Mirjafar Bagirov, made an air ram and destroyed the enemy aircraft. During the war, fighter pilot Adil Guliyev shot down 20 enemy aircraft, becoming the most successful Azerbaijani pilot. He was awarded the title of Hero of the Soviet Union.

Zuleykha Seyidmammadova was the first Azerbaijani female fighter pilot and first Azerbaijani graduate of the Air Force Academy named after Zhukovsky. In the years of war, she served in the famous women's fighter regiment and performed more than 500 sorties.

The history of military aviation of the independent Azerbaijan dates back to 8 April 1992, when a Su-25 attack aircraft appeared in the skies above Karabakh. It

was hijacked from the Soviet military unit by pilot Vagif Gurbanov. For more than two months, he attacked Armenian troops of that had occupied the territory of Azerbaijan and died on 14 June 1992.

Civilian pilot Yavar Aliyev and aviators Zakir Aliyev, Khanlar Sattarov, Edison Hasanov and Mirmammad Agayev were retrained and eventually set up a combat helicopter squadron. It was with this squadron that the history of helicopter aviation of the Armed Forces of Azerbaijan began.

The names of the National Heroes of Azerbaijan, pilots Yavar Aliyev, Fazail Bayramov, Sergey Senyushkin, Bayram Mukhtarov, Asad Asadov, Zakir Majidov and others are inscribed in the history of Azerbaijan in gold letters.

Today, military aviation is one of the most dynamically developing branches of the armed forces of independent Azerbaijan. The photographs by Vugar Ibadov show the level of training, the professional level and technical equipment of the country's military aviation. 🌟

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Discovering Azerbaijan

