

1. Ambassador of Japan visited Lower Silesia

(<https://wroclaw.tvp.pl/77578474/ambasador-japonii-odwiedzil-dolny-slask>)

The Ambassador of Japan to Poland visiting Lower Silesia laid flowers on the grave of Colonel Boleslaw Orłowski, the first ever pilot to open Japan to the world - flying more than 20,000 kilometers from Warsaw to Tokyo and back.

Colonel Boleslaw Orłowski fought for Poland's independence three times - during World War I, the Polish-Bolshevik War and World War II.

He was 10 years old when he had the pleasure of seeing for the first time the plane of Russian pilot Sergei Utochkin. When he saw him, he already knew he had to become a pilot. But unfortunately, he had to wait another 10 years. Finally, he managed to get into the so-called lower pilot school in Bydgoszcz, where he trained at the age of 20 - said Stanislaw Blasiak, a retired pilot for LOT Polish Airlines.

In 1926, he was the first ever to fly from Warsaw to Tokyo and back. Together with mechanic Leonard Kubiak, he made a multi-stage flight, covering a total distance of more than 20,000 kilometers. According to reserve Major Boguslaw Jędrych - there was no shortage of difficulties during the flight.

Because of a gust of wind, the plane capsized (that is, it turned over on its back through the front of the fuselage, with the landing gear up - ed. note) and the right lower wing panel was damaged. A 60 cm piece was broken. So in order to be able to continue the flight, Mr. Orłowski decided to cut 60 cm from the second flap. In addition, the propeller, which was nailed together, was still hardwired. In such a technical condition they still made the flight to Warsaw - more than 3,000 km. - said Maj. res. Boguslaw Jędrych, secretary of the Lower Silesia Branch of the Association of Seniors of Military Aviation.

- The plane was not covered, it did not have a full cabin only a fairing. Imagine that these two men spent a lot of time just like that, because they flew out of Warsaw on August 27, 1926, and returned on September 25, almost a month later," added Stanislaw Blasiak.

The flight opened Japan to Europe. The Japanese ambassador to Poland visited the colonel's grave during a visit to Lower Silesia.

Mr. Orłowski's flight was a huge milestone in our diplomatic relations and friendship. With his

deed he showed the great spirit of Polish pilots. The Japanese military was impressed by the courage of these two Polish pilots. No European before them had accomplished something similar - flying from Europe to Japan and back. Risking their lives, they performed a great deed - said Akio Miyajima, Japanese ambassador to Poland.

Colonel Orlinski died in 1992, and his grave is located in the Wrocław cemetery on Smętna Street.

2. Japanese ambassador at the grave of a Polish hero. Why?

(<https://wroclaw.gosc.pl/doc/8806511.Japonski-ambasador-przy-grobie-polskiego-bohatera-Dlaczego>)

There will not be such a visitor at the Holy Family Cemetery in Wrocław for a long time. Japanese Ambassador to Poland Akio Miyajima paid tribute to Col. Boleslaw Orlinski at his grave.

To understand this visit, it is necessary to know the story of Boleslaw Orlinski, the most famous aviator of the Second Republic of Poland. He gained world fame and recognition when he flew a biplane on the Warsaw-Tokyo-Warsaw route (20,000 km) in 1926. He arrived in the country with a clipped wing and a smoking engine, but he was the first to accomplish this. Among other things, he was the first man to fly a plane from Korea to Japan. He brought great glory to the recently revived Polish state with his feat.

In 1931, U.S. President Hubert Hoover invited Europe's top 5 pilots to a world-class competition in Cleveland. They were won by Colonel Orlinski, who was the first in the world at that time to demonstrate the interleaved corkscrew, later known as the Polish one. In 1934, he set a world record for speed on a fighter plane.

After the outbreak of World War II, Orlinski made his way to England, became commander of Squadron 305, and took part in 49 combat flights. After the war he was in exile in South Africa and Canada, where he died in 1992. Until the end of his life, the colonel was visited by the Japanese ambassador on his birthday, on the anniversary of his flight to Tokyo.

On May 16, the Japanese ambassador to Poland arrived at Orlinski's grave in Wrocław. - Japan is very grateful to him. This flight has become a milestone in our relations. I read in aviation magazines that my compatriots were very excited about the Pole's feat. In Japan, Orlinski was received in an audience with the Emperor and awarded the Order of the Rising Sun - Japan's third-highest decoration, says Ambassador Miyajima.

He stresses that B. Orlinski was a brave and talented pilot. The Japanese military was greatly impressed by Orlinski's courage, who accomplished something almost impossible. He risked his life in the process. - As Japan's ambassador, I am very grateful to Colonel Orlinski for what he did to promote the Polish-Japanese friendship and partnership that we enjoy today. I am honored to visit this grave, pay tribute to a great pilot and be here together with the Polish people," the Japanese diplomat noted.

He believes that our countries have a lot of elements in common. The Japanese now appreciate and admire Poland's great support for the struggling Ukraine.

- Poland is becoming an increasingly important country in Europe, but also for Japan. There is a long friendship between our countries. Let me remind you, for example, that after the outbreak of the Russo-Japanese War in 1904 Jozef Pilsudski went to Tokyo to offer help to the Japanese. So our good relations are more than 100 years old," the ambassador from the Land of the Cherry Blossom recalls.

At the same time, he expresses great hope that, in cooperation with the Polish ambassador in Tokyo, he will effectively spread the story of Orlinski's achievements among younger generations.

During the visit, the Japanese delegation laid flowers in the shape of the Japanese flag on the grave of the Polish hero. Along with it, Polish pilots from the "Loteczka" Aviators Club appeared at the cemetery. The meeting was organized by Rev. Cezary Chwilczynski, a parish priest from Zurawina.

3. Unusual visit by Japanese ambassador. He came especially to the grave of the hero (<https://gazetaolsztynska.pl/1051474,Co-zawdzieczaja-mu-Japonczycy-Przelecial-20-tys-km.html>)

It was a historic moment at the Holy Family cemetery in Wrocław. Japanese Ambassador to Poland Akio Miyajima visited the grave of the legendary pilot Boleslaw Orlinski. Why?

Colonel Boleslaw Orlinski is an undoubted hero, although few Poles know about him. Just as few Wrocław residents are aware that resting in their city's cemetery is a man to whom the Japanese owe much.

On May 16, the Japanese ambassador to Poland arrived at Orlinski's grave.

Thank you very much for this wonderful opportunity to meet. I admit that I did not know this story of Colonel Orlinski's great achievements until I became ambassador to Poland. Japan is very grateful to him. I read in aviation magazines that my compatriots were very excited about the Pole's feat. In Japan, Orlinski was received in an audience with the Emperor and awarded the Order of the Rising Sun - Japan's third-highest decoration," says Akio Miyajima.

Boleslaw Orlinski was a brave and talented pilot. He was the first to fly from Europe to Japan. In 1926, he and his mechanic Leonard Kubiak made a multi-stage flight from Warsaw to Tokyo and back, covering a total of 20,000 kilometers. Later, Orlinski became an overflight pilot. During World War II he fought in the Polish Armed Forces in the West, first as an instructor, then as a bomber wing commander.

He died on February 28, 1992 in Toronto. Until the end of his life, the Japanese ambassador visited him on the anniversary of the Tokyo landings.

Our soldiers were very impressed by Orlinski's courage, who accomplished something that no one had done before. He risked his life, but achieved something wonderful. As ambassador to Japan, I am very grateful to the colonel for what he did to promote Polish-Japanese friendship and partnership, which as ambassador I now enjoy. I am honored to visit this grave, pay tribute to a great pilot and be here together with the Polish people," states A. Miyajima.

In his opinion, today we have a lot of elements connecting Japan and Poland. He himself is moved by the open and warm hearts of the Poles, the kindness and great support for the struggling Ukraine.

Poland is becoming an increasingly important country in Europe, but also for Japan. I believe that the friendship between our countries continues. It is worth recalling that after the outbreak of the Russo-Japanese War in 1904. Jozef Pilsudski went to Tokyo to offer help to the Japanese. So our good relations are now more than 100 years old. Orlinski's flight became a milestone in our relations," says the Japanese ambassador over the grave of the Polish hero.

He admits that he has come across a description of the historic Warsaw-Tokyo flight in several Japanese books he has read.

As ambassador, I very much hope that in cooperation with the Polish ambassador in Tokyo we can effectively tell the younger generations about what Orlinski accomplished in 1926," the

Japanese diplomat concluded.

Finally, he placed flowers on the grave in the shape of the Japanese flag. Along with him, Polish aviators from the Aviators Club "Loteczka" arrived at the cemetery.

For years we have wanted someone from Japan to lean over this grave. And even more so an ambassador. This flight to Tokyo by Orlinski was a masterpiece. Up to an altitude of more than 5,000 meters. This is a big deal. I think the colonel should enter the mass memory of the Poles. He was a man on whom the great Polish military pilots modeled themselves: Skalski, Żurkowski, Urbanowicz and many others. His exploits and all-around flying is something to be proud of. We should speak about him to the young," believes Stanislaw Blasiak, a retired pilot for LOT Polish Airlines.

The meeting at the grave was organized by Rev. Cezary Chwilczynski, pastor of Zurawina.