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IV

Modernism in Uniform

Investment Activities of the Military Accommodation Fund (Fundusz Kwaterunku Wojskowego FWK) in the Eastern Borderlands of the Second Polish Republic

ABSTRACT

The subject of the article is the investment activity of the Military Accommodation Fund in relation to the so-called Kresy Wschodnie / Eastern Borderlands (eastern territories of interwar Poland). The aim of the research was presenting these investments, their functions and locations, focusing on issues related with the architectural stylistic forms, with quality of the implemented facilities and with the current state of preservation. The need to discuss these issues is justified by the importance of the MAF investment as an element of Polish cultural heritage abroad, as well as the threat related to the current political situation in Eastern Europe. In 1925, the Sejm adopted an act under which every officer and married non-commissioned officer was entitled to a service apartment. In July 1927, the MAF was established, the purpose of which was the construction of residential facilities for servicemen, their maintenance and conservation. The MAF construction stood out from the interwar investments not only in terms of quantity, but also in terms of quality. Reliability and professionalism of workmanship, large apartment sizes and high quality of finishing works meant that MAF housing construction a very good reputation, and the projects were treated as models for residential buildings designed at that time. The MAF did not formulate precise guidelines on the stylistic character of the designed facilities, so their buildings represent different architectural tendencies, functioning in parallel in the first years. It was only in the 1930s that modernist solutions came to the fore. To streamline the construction process, it was decided to develop repeatable designs, following the example of solutions used in the 1920s. Independently of this, individual solutions and architectural concepts were also designed, each time obtained through public competitions. The eastern voivodeships were the most neglected in terms of housing, so the construction of facilities in the borderland garrison towns was treated as a priority. Of the 219 objects completed in the years 1928–1937, 130 – i.e. 60% – were built in the Eastern Borderlands. They included 17 repeatable projects, 11 individual projects, as well as a large MAF housing estate in Trauguttowo near Brest. Some of these facilities were destroyed as a result of the war or in the post-war period. Most of them have been preserved to this day, but their current condition vary.

Keywords:

Military Accommodation Fund, Eastern Borderlands, officers' houses, non-commissioned officers' houses, housing estate in Trauguttowo

INTRODUCTION

On 10 December 1933, in the halls of the garrison casino on Aleja Szucha in Warsaw, the opening of the exhibition Military Construction took place. Among the many objects on display—historical buildings taken over by the Polish Army as well as new investments of various kinds—particular attention was drawn to the modern residential blocks for officers and non-commissioned officers, built by the Military Accommodation Fund (*Fundusz Kwaterunku Wojskowego*, FWK). They were described as: *generally following the line of modern simplicity, rejecting the burden of unnecessary ornamentation (...). In each designed building, there is a sound tendency to combine functionality with beauty, or perhaps, more precisely, to bring out beauty through a creative and artistic treatment of that functionality.*¹

The investment activity of the Military Accommodation Fund (FKW) has not yet been the subject of a monographic study and is rarely addressed in historical research—disproportionately so, given the institution's significance as the largest investor in Polish residential construction of the interwar period.² The issue has also received only scant and incidental treatment with regard to the so-called Eastern Borderlands (*Kresy Wschodnie*).³ The need to discuss this aspect of the FWK's work, even within the scope of a single article, is fully justified in light of its importance for Polish cultural heritage beyond the country's borders as well as the threats posed by the current political situation in Eastern Europe. This is also the primary aim of the present article.

The text focuses on issues related to the architectural quality of the completed buildings and their current state of preservation. For the purposes of developing the topic, printed source materials were used—above all, the richly illustrated reports of the Military Accommodation Fund (FKW) from successive stages of its activity.⁴ These are an exceptionally valuable resource from the perspective of architectural history, as they include design drawings, professionally taken photographs, and detailed information about the designers and construction timelines. However, it was necessary to confront this material with other sources due to errors and inaccuracies that tend to appear in such publications. The study also draws on relevant literature (including works

¹ Mańkowski, B. (1935). Recenzje i krytyki: 'Domy mieszkalne Funduszu Kwaterunku Wojskowego'. *Czasopismo Techniczne*, 9, p. 151.

² Among others: Łobocki, J. M. (1989). *Architektura militaris polona 1918–1978*. In W. Puget (Ed.), *Architektura i urbanistyka w Polsce 1918–1978* (pp. 93–107). Państwowe Wydawnictwo Naukowe.; *Klucz do kwatery: Historia mieszkalnictwa wojskowego w Polsce*. (2014). Wojskowa Agencja Mieszkaniowa.; Wagner, A. A. (2021). *Architektura mieszkaniowa Warszawy w okresie międzywojnia na przykładzie realizacji Spółdzielni Budowlano-Mieszkaniowych, Funduszu Kwaterunku Wojskowego i Warszawskiej Spółdzielni Mieszkaniowej, powstałych w rejonie Pola Mokotowskiego. Kwartalnik Architektury i Urbanistyki*, 2, pp. 70–74.; Szmelter, A. (2022). *Wielorodzinnny dom mieszkalny Funduszu Kwaterunku Wojskowego dla oficerów przy ulicy Koszykowej w Warszawie projektu Romualda Gutta i Józefa Jankowskiego, 1931–1933: Urbanistyka i architektura. Studia do Dziejów Architektury i Urbanistyki w Polsce*, 5, pp. 87–113.

³ Pszczółkowski, M. (2016). *Kresy nowoczesne: Architektura na ziemiach wschodnich II Rzeczypospolitej 1921–1939*. Księży Młyn Dom Wydawniczy.

⁴ *Domy mieszkalne Funduszu Kwaterunku Wojskowego: Sprawozdanie 1927–1930* [Hereafter: *Sprawozdanie 1927–1930*]. (1930). Fundusz Kwaterunku Wojskowego; *Domy mieszkalne Funduszu Kwaterunku Wojskowego: Sprawozdanie 1930–1933* [Hereafter: *Sprawozdanie 1930–1933*]. (1933). Fundusz Kwaterunku Wojskowego; *Sprawozdanie Funduszu Kwaterunku Wojskowego 1927–1937* [Hereafter: *Sprawozdanie 1927–1937*]. (1938). Fundusz Kwaterunku Wojskowego.

in Ukrainian and Russian).⁵ The issue of preservation was addressed on the basis of photographic documentation prepared during study visits in recent years.

THE MILITARY ACCOMMODATION FUND – HISTORICAL AND ARCHITECTURAL CONTEXT

In the first years of independence, the military construction service did not undertake housing projects, as investment priorities lay in meeting operational needs: military fortifications, barracks, warequarterss, and depots for materials and military equipment. It was only in 1925 that the Sejm passed a law granting every officer and married non-commissioned officer a service apartment.⁶ Due to the impossibility of fully meeting this obligation using existing resources, a decision was made to launch a state program for the construction of appropriate housing. In July 1927, the Military Accommodation Fund (FKW) was established within the Ministry of Military Affairs. The Fund’s purpose was to construct residential buildings for military personnel, continue projects already started with other Ministry funds, and maintain and preserve completed properties. The first projects were completed in 1928, with further buildings systematically put into service in the following years. In total, between 1928 and 1937, more than 2 million cubic meters of residential space were built (Fig. 1), of which over 460,000 m³ were completed in the peak year of 1929.⁷ Investments continued without interruption until the end of the interwar period; however, data for 1938–1939 is missing, as the last report was published in 1937.

The construction projects of the Military Accommodation Fund stood out among interwar investments not only in terms of quantity but also in terms of quality. Private construction companies, commissioned through a tendering process, strove for the highest standards, recognizing not only the representational significance of these projects from the perspective of the state, but also the prestige and financial reliability of the investor—factors that promised the prospect of further lucrative cooperation. The solidity and professionalism of the workmanship, the spacious layouts of the apartments, and the high quality of finishing works contributed to the excellent reputation of FKW housing projects. These developments were often regarded as models for contemporary civilian residential buildings. It is worth noting that the principles governing construction



Fig. 1. Investments of the Military Accommodation Fund in the years 1927–1937 (source: Sprawozdanie Funduszu Kwaterunku Wojskowego 1927–1937, Warszawa 1938, p. XXXVII).

⁵ Михайлишин, О. (2009). Розвиток типології житла на Волині у 1920–30-х роках на прикладі забудови кварталів для військовослужбовців. In М. Дьомін (Ed.), *Сучасні проблеми архітектури та містобудування* (pp. 380–390). [Publisher not identified]; Кивачук, С., & Березюк, А. (2021). Траугуттово в Бресте (1938–1939 гг.): Градостроительные и архитектурно-планировочные особенности. In *Архитектура во времени и пространстве: Материалы международной научно-практической конференции, 29 апреля 2021 г.* (pp. 64–67). [Publisher not identified]; Панченко, Т., & Кивачук, С. (2023). Жилые планировочные образования 1930-х гг. в западных регионах. In А. Сардаров et al. (Eds.), *Архитектура: Сборник научных трудов* (pp. 58–64). [Publisher not identified].

⁶ Ustawa z dnia 15 lipca 1925 r. o zakwaterowaniu wojska w czasie pokoju. (1925). *Dziennik Ustaw Rzeczypospolitej Polskiej*, 97, poz. 681.

⁷ Sprawozdanie Funduszu Kwaterunku Wojskowego 1927–1937. (1938). Fundusz Kwaterunku Wojskowego, pp. 20, 23.

management and the financial policies applied by the FKW were evaluated positively even in the postwar period.⁸

To streamline the construction process, it was decided to develop standardized designs—that is, specific types of residential buildings that would later be implemented in multiple locations. This decision was inspired by design models applied in the 1920s, including those used in school construction and in housing for civil servants (for example, in the official housing colonies in the Eastern Borderlands: Jerzy Beill’s design for a starost’s quarters was used in Nowogródek, Baranowicze, Nieśwież, Słonim, Drohiczyn, Stołpce, Wotożyn, and Lida, while Juliusz Kłos’s design for a semi-detached quarters was implemented in Duniłowicze, Braśław, Głębokie, Plissa, Zalesie, Hermanowicze, and Szarkowszczyzna). Alongside these standardized projects, individually designed solutions were also created, with architectural concepts obtained each time through public competitions.⁹ It should be emphasized that these were the first competitions in the country devoted to standardized residential construction. The buildings were usually designed as detached structures and, in terms of functional layout, represented the sectional type of housing—typically composed of two sections, each containing two to four apartments per floor, grouped around a central staircase. The distinction between officers’ and non-commissioned officers’ apartments lay primarily in their size (officers’ families were allocated apartments with three rooms, while NCOs’ apartments had two rooms, each type including a kitchen and a bathroom with a toilet), but also in the standard of finish: for officers’ apartments, parquet floors were planned and bathroom walls were clad with glazed tiles, whereas in NCOs’ apartments the floors were made of planed pine boards, the bathtubs were shorter, and the bathroom walls were painted with oil-based paint.¹⁰

The FKW did not formulate precise guidelines regarding the stylistic character of the buildings to be designed, operating on the assumption that creative thought cannot be forcibly confined within the framework of even the most carefully developed doctrine, and that any template can only be sustained for a very short time—nothing can halt the human mind in its forward striving toward the ideal.¹¹ They limited themselves to general recommendations for maximum cost-effectiveness and the greatest possible standardization of apartment types and building elements.¹² The design community was diverse, as Edgar Norwerth wrote: In the army, in all its branches, wide layers of the architectural profession are currently at work – from the oldest and most renowned to the youngest, imbued with a great supply of fresh creative energy and vigorous ideas – all, regardless of their stylistic creeds.¹³ Indeed, among the more than one hundred

⁸ Chęciński, J. (1966). *Budownictwo wojskowe w Polsce (1918–1939)*. Wojskowy Instytut Historyczny, pp. 142–173.

⁹ Działalność budowlana Funduszu Kwaterunku Wojskowego. (1929). *Architektura i Budownictwo*, 2–3, p. 65.

¹⁰ Chęciński, J. (1966). *Budownictwo wojskowe w Polsce (1918–1939)*. Wojskowy Instytut Historyczny, p. 157.

¹¹ *Domy mieszkalne Funduszu Kwaterunku Wojskowego: Sprawozdanie 1930–1933*. (1933). Fundusz Kwaterunku Wojskowego, p. 19.

¹² *Domy mieszkalne Funduszu Kwaterunku Wojskowego: Sprawozdanie 1927–1930*. (1930). Fundusz Kwaterunku Wojskowego, p. 26.

¹³ Norwerth, E. (1933). *Budownictwo wojskowe*. *Pion*, 10, p. 4.



Fig. 2. MAF investments in the Eastern Borderlands (prepared by Michał Pszczółkowski).

and sixty architects engaged in the collaboration were both representatives of the older generation, holding conservative views on the form of architecture, and members of the younger generation with modernist convictions.¹⁴ The diversity of this heterogeneous group of designers was reflected in the variety of architectural forms, which, in the Fund’s early years, coexisted side by side; it was only in the 1930s that modernist solutions came to the fore. In designs rooted in the traditionalist trend, elements such as rustication, simplified engaged porticoes, pediments, and gables were employed, while modernist designs featured varied combinations of materials and, in the most radical variant, extremely simplified, rectangular forms relying solely on diverse arrangements and shapes of window openings. A characteristic and frequently used material in modernist solutions was grey cement brick, which became something of a trademark of FKW projects. Gable–end façades were usually left without window openings, allowing the building’s volume to be increased by adding further modules. More complex solutions were applied less frequently.

OVERVIEW OF PROJECTS IN THE EASTERN BORDERLANDS

The most underdeveloped in terms of housing were the eastern voivodeships, as in the territories of the former Russian partition there were very few military residential buildings—mainly within fortresses and larger barracks complexes—and these were generally of low quality. The Russian officer corps most often lived in quarters rented in private civilian quarters. Consequently, the construction of facilities in the garrison towns of the Eastern Borderlands was treated as a priority.¹⁵ In the 1937 report, a list of localities and facilities completed up to that time was published.¹⁶ Among the 60 localities listed, 24 were located in the Eastern Borderlands, and by 1939 this number had risen to 29 (the list did not include projects undertaken in the last years in Chortkiv, Kolomyia, Kremenets, and Slonim). Thus, towns in the Eastern Borderlands accounted for roughly half of the entire list. When comparing the number of individual projects, out of 219 buildings, 130 – that is, 60% – were constructed in the Eastern Borderlands. The concepts of particular types of designs are discussed below in the order of their creation, for clarity assigned Roman numerals corresponding to those shown in Fig. 2.

Type I – Twelve–unit officers’ quarters, designed by Tadeusz Obmiński, 1928 (Fig. 2, I). It was designed in a traditional style, featuring corner rustication, windows framed with surrounds, entrances accentuated by portals with Baroque–inspired pediments, and a high, hipped roof with stepped gables aligned with the stairwell axes. The Military Accommodation Fund used this building type six times: in Baranovichi (present–day 16 Lenina Street), twice in Nowa Wilejka (no longer extant), and three times in Lviv, where it formed a small military housing estate (present–day 276–280 Horodotska Street). Two

¹⁴ *Sprawozdanie Funduszu Kwaterunku Wojskowego 1927–1937*. (1938). Fundusz Kwaterunku Wojskowego, pp. XXVI–XXVII.
¹⁵ *Domy mieszkalne Funduszu Kwaterunku Wojskowego: Sprawozdanie 1930–1933*. (1933). Fundusz Kwaterunku Wojskowego, p. 30.
¹⁶ *Sprawozdanie Funduszu Kwaterunku Wojskowego 1927–1937*. (1938). Fundusz Kwaterunku Wojskowego, pp. 1–14.

buildings from this estate (nos. 276 and 280) were extended with an additional, third section, thus creating eighteen–unit blocks.¹⁷

Type II – Eighteen–unit non–commissioned officers’ quarters, designed by Bruno Zborowski and Aleksander Sygietyński, 1928 (Fig. 2, II). It was given a simplified Neoclassical appearance, with a gable roof and stairwell axes emphasized by wall–adjoining, giant–order porticoes topped with triangular pediments. This design was implemented nine times: once in Baranovichi (present–day 1 Fedko Street), once in Krasne (present location without address) in a twelve–unit version reduced by one storey, twice in Vilnius (present–day 15 and 19 Kazliškių Street), where the buildings were enlarged to thirty–six apartments; twice in Nowa Wilejka (present–day Vilnius, 1 and 3 Parko Street), and three times in Molodechno in the twelve–unit version (present–day 9 and 17 Chkalava Street, the third no longer extant).¹⁸

Type III – Twelve–unit officers’ quarters, designed by Bruno Zborowski and Aleksander Sygietyński, 1928 (Fig. 2, III). In formal terms, it follows a layout similar to Type II, featuring paired pilaster strips in the wall–adjoining porticoes and a horizontally rusticated ground floor zone. It was built ten times: in Vilnius (present–day 33 Rinktinės Street, in a sixteen–unit version raised by one storey), Pruzhany (present location without address), Kobryn (most likely no longer extant), Brest–on–the–Bug (present–day 15 Bresckih Dyvizij Street), Rivne (present–day 7 Dubenska Street), Berezhany (present–day Lepkyh Street, number not identified), Dubno (present–day 79 Grushevskogo Street) and Zolochiv (present–day 1 Shuhevycha Street, both in sixteen–unit versions), as well as twice in Volodymyr Volynskyi (present–day Ustyluzka Street, number not identified; the second building no longer extant).¹⁹

Type IV – Eighteen–unit non–commissioned officers’ quarters, designed by Władysław Polkowski, 1929 (Fig. 2, IV). The building, featuring a horizontally rusticated high ground floor, is also similar to Type II. It was implemented seven times: in Ternopil (present–day 29 Khmelnytskoho Street) and Zolochiv (present–day 26 Sichovykh Striltsiv Street, both in twenty–four–unit versions raised by one storey), in Dubno (present–day 3 Semydubska Street), twice in Rivne (present–day 4 and 5 Dubenska Street), and twice in Hrodna (present–day 34 and 36 Zaharova Street).²⁰

Type V – Eight–unit non–commissioned officers’ quarters, designed by Wacław Borowiecki, 1929 (Fig. 2, V). This was a small, modestly designed building, with stylistic features limited to a hipped roof and a gable emphasizing the vertical line of the staircase. In this case, a different functional layout was adopted, placing the entrance to

¹⁷ *Sprawozdanie Funduszu Kwaterunku Wojskowego 1927–1937*. (1938). Fundusz Kwaterunku Wojskowego, pp. 1, 6; *Działalność budowlana Funduszu Kwaterunku Wojskowego. (1929)*. Architektura i Budownictwo, 2–3, pp. 50–52; contemporary address locations based on the author’s own research, also hereafter.
¹⁸ *Sprawozdanie 1927–1937*, op. cit., pp. 1, 6, 7, 8, 13.
¹⁹ *Sprawozdanie Funduszu Kwaterunku Wojskowego 1927–1937*. (1938). Fundusz Kwaterunku Wojskowego, pp. 1, 6, 7, 8, 13.
²⁰ *Sprawozdanie Funduszu Kwaterunku Wojskowego 1927–1937*. (1938). Fundusz Kwaterunku Wojskowego, pp. 3, 4, 10, 11, 13.

the staircase in the gable façade. The design was implemented four times: twice in Pinsk and twice in Sambor (all most likely no longer extant).²¹

Type VI – Four-unit officers’ quarters, designed by Wacław Borowiecki, 1929 (Fig. 2, VI). Architecturally, it was similar to Type V and was also implemented in the same towns. Together with Type V, it formed small housing estates in Pinsk and Sambor (all most likely no longer extant).²²

Type VII – Twelve-unit non-commissioned officers’ quarters, designed by Bohdan Lachert, Józef Szanajca, and Włodzimierz Winkler, 1928 (Fig. 2, VII). The building was designed in the modernist spirit, featuring, among other elements, a flat roof and balconies with metal railings. It was constructed in Kovel (no longer extant).²³

Type VIII – Eighteen-unit non-commissioned officers’ quarters, designed by Bohdan Lachert, Józef Szanajca, and Włodzimierz Winkler, 1929 (Fig. 2, VIII). This modernist building consists of interpenetrating cubic volumes with flat roofs, enlivened by balconies with metal railings. The design was executed twice: in Kovel (no longer extant) and in Stanisławów (now Ivano-Frankivsk, 1 Natsionalnoi Hvardiï Street).²⁴

Type IX – Twelve-unit non-commissioned officers’ quarters, designed by Włodzimierz Padlewski, 1929 (Fig. 2, IX). A modernist building with stairwells illuminated by ‘thermometer’ windows, it was enhanced with Art Deco elements. It was built in Stanisławów (now Ivano-Frankivsk, 117 Chornovola Street).²⁵

Type X – Sixteen-unit non-commissioned officers’ quarters, designed by Kazimierz Tołłoczko, 1929 (Fig. 2, X). This modernist building, with its ground floor and stairwell bays accentuated by brick cladding—arranged in a striated pattern at the ground floor level—was constructed three times: once in Lida (most likely no longer extant) and twice in Brześć nad Bugiem (now Brest, 6 Krasnogvardeyskaya Street; the second building has not survived).²⁶ Due to an error in the source material,²⁷ this design has also been incorrectly identified in the literature as being located in Vilnius.²⁸

Type XI – 21-family non-commissioned officers’ quarters, designed by Jan Henryk Kukulski, 1933 (Fig. 2, XI). The design was executed in a modernist spirit, featuring a flat roof and stairwell shafts accentuated with striated clinker cladding. It was built five times: in Postavy (present-day 4 Stankevicha Street), Baranovichi (most likely not preserved),

²¹ *Sprawozdanie Funduszu Kwaterunku Wojskowego 1927–1937* (1938). Fundusz Kwaterunku Wojskowego, pp. 3, 4, 10, 11, 13.

²² *Sprawozdanie Funduszu Kwaterunku Wojskowego 1927–1937* (1938). Fundusz Kwaterunku Wojskowego, pp. 3, 4, 10, 11, 13.

²³ *Sprawozdanie Funduszu Kwaterunku Wojskowego 1927–1937* (1938). Fundusz Kwaterunku Wojskowego, p. 5.

²⁴ *Sprawozdanie Funduszu Kwaterunku Wojskowego 1927–1937* (1938). Fundusz Kwaterunku Wojskowego, pp. 5, 11.

²⁵ *Sprawozdanie Funduszu Kwaterunku Wojskowego 1927–1937* (1938). Fundusz Kwaterunku Wojskowego, p. 11.

²⁶ *Sprawozdanie Funduszu Kwaterunku Wojskowego 1927–1937* (1938). Fundusz Kwaterunku Wojskowego, pp. 2, 6.

²⁷ Król, A. (Ed.). (1935). *Budownictwo wojskowe 1918–1935* (Vol. 2). Departament Budownictwa Ministerstwa Spraw Wojskowych, p. 470.

²⁸ Małachowicz, E. (1989). Architektura dwudziestolecia międzywojennego w Wilnie. In W. Puget (Ed.), *Architektura i urbanistyka w Polsce 1918–1978* (p. 135). Państwowe Wydawnictwo Naukowe.

Brest-on-the-Bug (not preserved), and twice in Maladzyechna (present-day 2 and 17 Masherava Street).²⁹

Type XII – 21-family officers’ quarters, designed by Leopold Toruń, 1935 (Fig. 2, XII). This was a modernist building with a flat roof, clinker cladding on the ground floor, and a striated crowning cornice. This design was implemented five times: in Lutsk (present-day 12 8-ho Bereznia 12 Street) and Horodok (most likely not preserved), as well as three times in Brest-on-the-Bug (present-day Zhukava Street, exact numbers unidentified).³⁰

Type XIII – 36-family non-commissioned officers’ quarters, designed by Bronisław Handelsman-Targowski, 1935 (Fig. 2, XIII). This layout type represents a modernist concept composed of interpenetrating volumes, with stairwell shafts accentuated by clinker cladding. It was implemented in Vilnius (no longer extant).³¹

Type XIV – 10-family non-commissioned officers’ quarters, designed by Jan Lucjusz Szperling, 1936 (Fig. 2, XIV). Characteristic elements of this modernist design include interwindow spaces faced with clinker brick and rounded balconies with metal railings wrapping around the corners. It was implemented in Pastavy (present-day 3 Stankevicha St).³²

Type XV – 36-family non-commissioned officers’ quarters, designed by Jerzy Makowiecki, 1936 (Fig. 2, XV). This modernist concept, composed of interpenetrating volumes with rounded balconies at the corners, was built in Lida (no longer extant).³³

Type XVI – 24-family non-commissioned officers’ quarters, designed by Tadeusz Baum, 1937 (Fig. 2, XVI). This modernist building, with stairwell bays accentuated by clinker cladding, was implemented four times: once in Kobryn (most likely no longer extant) and three times in Brest-on-the-Bug (present-day ul. Zhukava, without identified numbers).³⁴

Type XVII – 27-family non-commissioned officers’ quarters, designed by Kazimierz Tołłoczko, 1937 (Fig. 2, XVII). In this case, the stairwell bays were accentuated with cladding in a different bond. This modernist concept was implemented four times: once in Lutsk (present-day ul. 8-ho Bereznia 24) and three times in Brest-on-the-Bug (present-day ul. Zhukava, without identified numbers).³⁵

It should be noted here that the aforementioned repeatable designs were also used in other parts of the country. Tadeusz Obmiński’s 1928 design (Type I) was applied in Biała Podlaska, Chełm, and Radom. The design by Bruno Zborowski and Aleksander Sygietyński (Type II) was used in Biała Podlaska, Radom, Piotrków, and Częstochowa.

²⁹ *Sprawozdanie Funduszu Kwaterunku Wojskowego 1927–1937* (1938). Fundusz Kwaterunku Wojskowego, pp. 1, 2, 7, 9.

³⁰ *Sprawozdanie Funduszu Kwaterunku Wojskowego 1927–1937* (1938). Fundusz Kwaterunku Wojskowego, pp. 2, 4.

³¹ *Sprawozdanie Funduszu Kwaterunku Wojskowego 1927–1937* (1938). Fundusz Kwaterunku Wojskowego, p. 13.

³² *Sprawozdanie Funduszu Kwaterunku Wojskowego 1927–1937* (1938). Fundusz Kwaterunku Wojskowego, p. 9.

³³ *Sprawozdanie Funduszu Kwaterunku Wojskowego 1927–1937* (1938). Fundusz Kwaterunku Wojskowego, p. 6.

³⁴ *Sprawozdanie Funduszu Kwaterunku Wojskowego 1927–1937* (1938). Fundusz Kwaterunku Wojskowego, pp. 2–6.

³⁵ *Sprawozdanie Funduszu Kwaterunku Wojskowego 1927–1937* (1938). Fundusz Kwaterunku Wojskowego, p. 2.

The most frequently used was the 12-family officers' quarters design by Bruno Zborowski and Aleksander Sygietyński (Type III), which was implemented in Biała Podlaska, Włodawa, Puławy, Sandomierz, Jarosław, Kutno, Brodnica, and Inowrocław. Also popular was Kazimierz Tołłeczko's design (Type X), applied in Suwałki, Grajewo, Lublin, Jarosław, Warsaw, Skierniewice, Toruń, and Bydgoszcz. The remaining solutions were less in demand: Type IV is found in Kutno and Puławy; Types V and VI were used in Kielce; Types VII and VIII in Płock; Type IX in Przemyśl; Types XIII and XV in Modlin; Type XIV in Kielce; and Type XVI in Legionowo.³⁶

In addition to the repeatable standard designs, the Eastern Borderlands also saw the construction of individual designs intended for one-time use in specific locations. Here, too, a variety of stylistic solutions appeared. The 40-family officers' quarters in Lviv at present-day 42 Horodotska Street (Fig. 2, XVIII), designed in 1928 by Rudolf Indruch,³⁷ was executed in a traditional spirit, with entrances accentuated by giant-order pilasters with stylized capitals and strong features in the form of corner projections topped with attics. In a similar stylistic vein was the 18-family officers' quarters in Ternopil³⁸ at 6 Gogolya Street (Fig. 2, XIX), designed in 1928 by Leopold Karasiński, with a rusticated ground floor and three entrances emphasized by portals and dormers aligned with their axes. The most monumental of the conservative-style buildings was the 33-family officers' quarters in Vilnius at present-day 9 Vilniaus Street (Fig. 2, XXII), designed in 1934 by Władysław Polkowski³⁹ – neoclassical, only slightly modernized, with a flatly rusticated ground floor and wall-adjacent Ionic porticos on the façades.

The spirit of moderate Modernism was more clearly expressed in two projects in Lviv. The 40-unit officers' quarters at present-day 30 Rustaveli Street (Fig. 2, XX), built as part of a frontage development, was designed by Marian Nikodemowicz and Wilhelm Sawczyk in 1930.⁴⁰ It features a rather austere, symmetrical façade without decorative details, articulated by two outer avant-corps and entrances framed by portals. A similar character can be seen in the 56-unit non-commissioned officers' quarters at present-day 34 Bortnyanskogo Street (Fig. 2, XXI), designed in 1930 by Stefan Bryła – laid out on an L-shaped plan, with a recessed corner forming a setback and stairwell bays framed by profiled surrounds.

Most individually designed buildings, however, represent fully Modernist solutions. Examples include the 24-unit non-commissioned officers' quarters in Pruzhany, present-day Dachnaya Street, no established number (Fig. 2, XXIII), designed by Stanisław Wojciechowski in 1935,⁴¹ with vertical circulation cores and the ground floor accentuated by brick surrounds; the 16-unit non-commissioned officers' quarters in

³⁶ *Sprawozdanie Funduszu Kwaterunku Wojskowego 1927–1937*. (1938). Fundusz Kwaterunku Wojskowego, pp. 1–14; address data there as well, pre-war.

³⁷ *Sprawozdanie Funduszu Kwaterunku Wojskowego 1927–1937*. (1938). Fundusz Kwaterunku Wojskowego, p. 6.

³⁸ *Sprawozdanie Funduszu Kwaterunku Wojskowego 1927–1937*. (1938). Fundusz Kwaterunku Wojskowego, p. 11.

³⁹ *Sprawozdanie Funduszu Kwaterunku Wojskowego 1927–1937*. (1938). Fundusz Kwaterunku Wojskowego, p. 13.

⁴⁰ *Sprawozdanie Funduszu Kwaterunku Wojskowego 1927–1937*. (1938). Fundusz Kwaterunku Wojskowego, p. 7.

⁴¹ *Sprawozdanie Funduszu Kwaterunku Wojskowego 1927–1937*. (1938). Fundusz Kwaterunku Wojskowego, p. 9.



Fig. 3. Trauguttowo, MAF housing estate, designed by Kazimierz Tołłeczko, 1936–1938 (source: Central Military Archives, Department of Construction of the Ministry of Military Affairs 1918–1939, sign. I.300.63.176).

Pastavy, present-day 3 Stankevicha Street (designed by Jan Lucjusz Szperling, 1935)⁴² (Fig. 2, XXIV), Modernist in style, with stairwells and ground floor faced with clinker cladding; and the 52-unit non-commissioned officers' quarters in Lviv, present-day 24 Kleparivska Street (designed by Kazimierz Tołłoczko, 1936)⁴³ (Fig. 2, XXV), composed of two interpenetrating volumes with façades contrasted through the use of different materials (grey brick and rusticated clinker).

Two strictly Modernist buildings were erected in 1937 in Chortkiv, both designed by Adam Knauff.⁴⁴ Built of white silicate brick, with ground floor areas clad in clinker, they differ in detail: the 12-unit non-commissioned officers' quarters at present-day 2 Lesi Ukrayinky Street (Fig. 2, XXVI) consists of interpenetrating volumes with a rounded corner, whereas the 30-unit non-commissioned officers' quarters at present-day 4 Lepkogo Street (Fig. 2, XXVII) achieves visual effects through varied brick bonding patterns.

The review of Modernist FKW housing is concluded by the 24-unit non-commissioned officers' quarters in Kolomyia, present-day Mozart Street, no established number (Fig.2, XXVIII), built in 1937 and designed by Jan Bagieński⁴⁵ – featuring corner avant-corps, horizontally articulated façades, and a ground floor faced with clinker cladding.

The construction of multi-family buildings was the primary domain of the Fund's activities; however, barracks, military hospitals, warehouses, and the like were also built, as well as single-family quarters intended for garrison commanders. In the Eastern Borderlands, at least two such quarters were erected – in Maladzyechna and Pastavy – both designed in 1935 in the spirit of avant-garde Modernism: abstract, interpenetrating volumes with asymmetrically composed façades, partly faced with clinker cladding. The quarters in Maladzyechna, at present-day 1 Buylo Street, was designed by Aleksander Kafarski,⁴⁶ while the one in Pastavy (most likely no longer extant) was designed by Czesław Wolff.⁴⁷

Residential buildings were usually constructed near military units, though most often they were integrated into the existing urban fabric. Large-scale residential urban complexes were not planned, with one exception—the housing estate in Trauguttowo near Brest—on—the—Bug, where, at present-day Zhukava Street (Brest), the Anti-Aircraft and Anti-Gas Defence Training Centre was established. Between 1936 and 1938, a school complex and residential buildings for the staff were built there⁴⁸ (Fig. 4) – this was the only development of its kind in the entire country. The completed residential complex, designed in the style of a modernist housing estate, consisted of two clearly distinct sections: apartment blocks for officers and blocks for non-commissioned officers. In

⁴² *Sprawozdanie Funduszu Kwaterunku Wojskowego 1927–1937*. (1938). Fundusz Kwaterunku Wojskowego, p. 9.

⁴³ *Sprawozdanie Funduszu Kwaterunku Wojskowego 1927–1937*. (1938). Fundusz Kwaterunku Wojskowego, p. 7.

⁴⁴ *Sprawozdanie Funduszu Kwaterunku Wojskowego 1927–1937*. (1938). Fundusz Kwaterunku Wojskowego, p. 3.

⁴⁵ *Sprawozdanie Funduszu Kwaterunku Wojskowego 1927–1937*. (1938). Fundusz Kwaterunku Wojskowego, p. 5.

⁴⁶ *Sprawozdanie Funduszu Kwaterunku Wojskowego 1927–1937*. (1938). Fundusz Kwaterunku Wojskowego, p. 7.

⁴⁷ *Sprawozdanie Funduszu Kwaterunku Wojskowego 1927–1937*. (1938). Fundusz Kwaterunku Wojskowego, p. 9.

⁴⁸ Кивачук, С., & Березюк, А. (2021). Траугуттово в Бресте (1938–1939 гг.): Градостроительные и архитектурно-планировочные особенности. In *Архитектура во времени и пространстве: Материалы международной научно-практической конференции, 29 апреля 2021 г.* (p. 203). [Publisher not identified].



Fig. 4. MAF investments – current condition: a) Pastavy, non-commissioned officers' house, 3 Stankevicha St., designed by Jan Lucjusz Szperling, 1936 (photo Uładzimir Sadouski, 2013); b) Brest, non-commissioned officers' house, 6 Krasnogvardeyskaya St., designed by Kazimierz Tołłoczko, 1929 (photo Michał Pszczółkowski, 2018); c) Ternopil, non-commissioned officers' house, ul. 29 Hmelnyckogo St., designed by Władysław Polkowski, 1929 (photo Michał Pszczółkowski, 2019).

addition to housing for military personnel, the plan also included an officers' and an NCO hotel, residential buildings for the school's civilian staff, a shop, and sports facilities. The individual buildings were arranged along streets with a free, undulating layout. The simple, cubic volumes were designed in the modernist spirit, employing a variety of building materials, with particular emphasis on grey brick and clinker cladding. The estate has survived in relatively good condition – the vast majority of the residential buildings still exist today, although post-war construction on the site has blurred the original urban design concept to a considerable extent.

STATE OF PRESERVATION

Some of the FKW buildings in the Eastern Borderlands were destroyed as a result of wartime events or in the postwar period. These include, among others, quarters in Nowa Wilejka (Type I), Włodzimierz Wołyński (Type III), Kobryń (Types III and XVI), Pińsk and Sambor (Types V and VI), Kowel (Types VII and VIII), Lida and Brześć (Type X), Baranowicze and Brześć (Type XI), Vilnius (Type XIII), and Lida (Type XV). Most, however, have survived to the present day, although their current condition and state of preservation vary. Some buildings are well-maintained and in good condition and retain their original form. Examples include the quarters in Vilnius at present-day Vilniaus Street 9 (Type XXII) and in Pastavy at present-day Stankevicha Street 3 (Type XIV, Fig. 4a). Others have survived intact in terms of form, but decades without regular



Fig. 5. MAF investments – current condition: a) Lutsk, officers' house, 12 8-go Bereznya St., designed by Leopold Toruń, 1935 (photo Michał Pszczółkowski, 2018); b) Lviv, non-commissioned officers' house, 34 Bortnyanskogo St., designed by Stefan Bryła, 1930 (photo Michał Pszczółkowski, 2018); c) Molodechno, commander's house, 1 Buylo St., designed by Aleksander Kafarski, 1935 (photo Michał Pszczółkowski, 2019).



Fig. 6. MAF investments – current condition: a) Ivano-Frankivsk, non-commissioned officers' house, 1 Nacjonalnoi Gvardiyi St., designed by Bohdan Lachert, Józef Szanajca and Włodzimierz Winkler, 1929 (photo Michał Pszczółkowski, 2021); b) Lviv, non-commissioned officers' house, 24 Kleparivska St., designed by Kazimierz Tołoczek, 1936 (photo Michał Pszczółkowski, 2021); c) Chortkiv, non-commissioned officers' house, 2 Lesi Ukrayinky St., designed by Adam Knauff, 1937 (photo Michał Pszczółkowski, 2021).

upkeep (aside from occasional, makeshift repairs) mean that their technical condition leaves much to be desired. Examples of this group include the buildings in Brest at present-day Krasnogvardeyskaya Street 6 (Type X, Fig. 4b) and in Ternopil at present-day Hmelnyckogo Street 29 (Types IV and XIX, Fig. 4c).

The technical state of most remaining buildings can be described as fairly good, but their architectural quality has been negatively affected by phenomena typical of countries of the former Soviet Union, such as the widespread addition of modern plastic canopies over entrances, external air conditioners and satellite dishes, exterior staircases, and especially enclosed balconies converted into winter gardens—often using random building materials (Figs. 5a–c). Such alterations are undertaken individually by residents without coordination at the building scale. This issue affects nearly every FKW structure; the modernist, minimalist forms, lacking decorative detail, are generally not perceived as having heritage value, rarely appear in registers of historic buildings, and therefore are not subject to local heritage protection laws (which in any case have limited effectiveness). Their architectural worth is also not recognized by the occupants, with the result that such modifications are carried out very frequently.

FKW buildings still usually serve as multi-family residential quarters, and therefore display conservation issues typical of this type of development. Among these are, for example, varied types of window joinery, resulting from individual replacements carried out by different occupants—a phenomenon present in perhaps the majority of cases (Figs. 6a–c). As with the enclosure of balconies, these interventions are undertaken without coordination with neighboring apartments. The only windows that are rarely replaced are usually those in stairwells—considered communal property, they are effectively treated as ‘belonging to no one.’ Consequently, if they were not replaced in the postwar period, they remain original elements from the time of construction.

Comprehensive thermal modernizations of external façades, commonly practiced in Poland, are not frequent in Belarus and Ukraine due to the relatively high cost of such investments. They are, however, undertaken in Lithuania—in recent years, two blocks in Naujoji Vilnia, at present-day Parko Street 1 and 3 (Type II, Fig. 7a), have undergone such treatment. In the remaining territories of the former Eastern Borderlands, thermal modernization is sometimes carried out on individual apartments, as in the case of the housing estate in Lviv at present-day Horodotska Street 276–280 (Type I), the block in



Fig. 7. MAF investments – current condition: a) Naujoji Vilnia, non-commissioned officers' house, 1/3 Parko St., designed by Bruno Zborowski and Aleksander Sygietyński, 1928 (photo Michał Pszczółkowski, 2020); b) Ivano-Frankivsk, non-commissioned officers' house, 117 Chornovola St., designed by Włodzimierz Padlewski, 1929 (photo Michał Pszczółkowski, 2021); c) Lutsk, non-commissioned officers' house, 24 8-go Bereznya St., designed by Kazimierz Tołoczek, 1937 (photo Michał Pszczółkowski, 2018).



Fig. 8. MAF investments – current condition: a) Molodechno, non-commissioned officers' house, 17 Masherava St., designed by Jan Henryk Kukulski, 1933 (photo Michał Pszczółkowski, 2019); b) Baranavichy, officers' house, 16 Lenina St., designed by Tadeusz Obmiński, 1928 (photo Michał Pszczółkowski, 2018); c) Brest, officers' house, 15 Brestskih dyvizij St., designed by Bruno Zborowski and Aleksander Sygietyński, 1929 (photo Michał Pszczółkowski, 2018).

Volodymyr at present-day Ustyluzka Street (Type III), in Ivano-Frankivsk at present-day Chornovola Street 117 (Type IX, Fig. 7b), or in Lutsk at present-day 8-go Bereznya Street 24 (Type XVII, Fig. 7c).

Painting façades is also practiced as a cheaper alternative to cleaning. In the case of originally brick façades, this process erases the original quality of the form, despite attempts to refer to the original effect by covering gray brick with gray or white paint, or cladding with red or pink to imitate clinker—resulting at best in a superficial imitation. An example is the block in Maladzechna at present-day Masherava Street 17 (Type XI, Fig. 8a). In some cases—such as the buildings in Baranavichy at present-day Lenina Street 16 (Type I, Fig. 8b) or in Maladzechna at present-day Chkalava Street 9 (Type II)—façades are painted in colors unrelated to their original palette, with the aim of ‘postmodernizing’ the architectural form, much as is done in Poland with postwar large-panel housing blocks.

Complete reconstructions or extensions are rare, though not entirely absent. An example is the building in Brest at present-day Bresckikh dyvizij Street 15 (Type III, Fig. 8c), which was extended by two stories and supplemented with avant-corps in a contemporary style. While the addition shows an intention to refer to the original form, the achieved effect falls far short of satisfactory.

SUMMARY

A certain summation of the FKW's activity, and at the same time an emphasis on the architectural value of the buildings constructed by the Fund, can be found in the words of Edgar Norwerth: With the utmost economy, while always remaining within the framework of strict and limited utility, [this architecture] managed to break free from the gloomy pre-war templates onto the broad road of light and lively, varied and flexible architecture, adapted to its time and place — truly functional architecture. In the complete absence of any preconceived doctrine, dead dogmas, or rigidly established types, one can feel a living stream of constant exploration, the careful introduction of new and fresh forms, which are never and can never be finally and definitively found.⁴⁹

⁴⁹ Norwerth, E. (1933). Budownictwo wojskowe. *Pion*, 10, p. 4.

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