## MAZOVIA MILITARY LOCATION GUIDE





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## MAZOVIA MILITARY FILM LOCATION GUIDE







Mazovia is the largest region and Warsaw the largest city and the capital of Poland. Over centuries, the history of Mazovia has been as turbulent as that of the entire country. The most recent history, however, had the greatest impact on the region and the city, leaving the most significant tracks and seriously changing the city's spatial layout.







Most of domestic entities dealing in broadly understood film production are based in Warsaw. To begin with, the public Documentary and Feature Film Production Company, with its comprehensive technical facilities and experienced professionals, and an abundant film archive based on vast materials of the Polish Film Chronicle which has been recording life in our country for several decades.





In our city, there are also a few dozens of production and post-production film studios of various profiles, editing studios of all sorts, large and small stages, and specialised laboratories.

As a result, it is in Warsaw that the absolute majority of Polish cinema and TV feature films, TV series, commercials, documentaries, promotional, training, and educational, and other films are made. It is estimated that on average around 15 large film crews are operating in the city every day, apart from the regular and continuous TV operations.





We believe that it is one of very few places in Europe where a relatively small area meets all conditions for any film production, in particular historical, military, war, and documentary films focusing on the 18th, 19th, and 20th century and contemporary times. We will try to prove it further in our military guide to Warsaw and Mazovia.





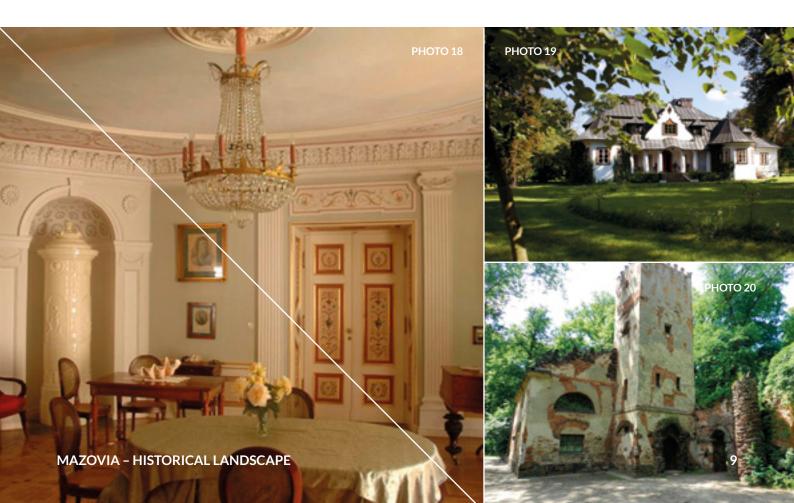






#### MAZOVIA – HISTORICAL LANDSCAPE

Apart from the contemporary, modern regular architecture, the historical and cultural landscape of Warsaw and Mazovia is dominated by manors, rural housing outdoor museums, town architecture monuments, royal and aristocratic residences and palaces, surrounded by picturesque parks, as well as a large number of old and new churches, sanctuaries, priories, small chapels, which have to fight for domination with architecture adjusted for the needs of the communist political system.







#### **POLISH MILITARY TRADITIONS**

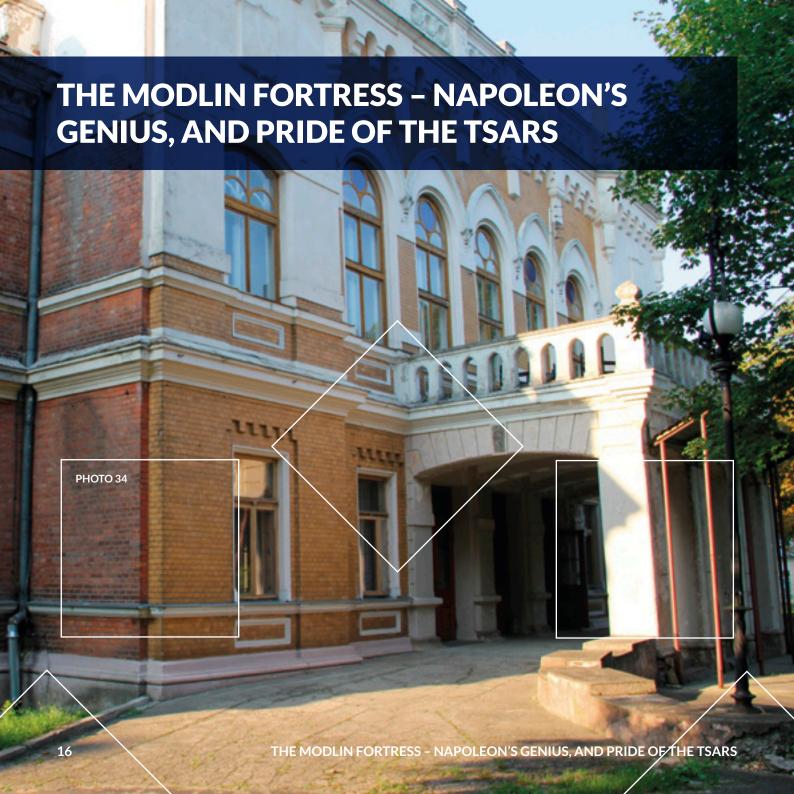
The dramatic history of Mazovia situated on the borderline of interests of imperial and Nazi Germany, Russia, France, Austria has left multiple traces in the form of military structures and other relics of numerous wars.











The best example of Mazovia's importance for military strategy is the Modlin Fortress, currently within the town limits of Nowy Dwór Mazowiecki. The defensive values of this place were appreciated as early as in 17th century by the Swedish king Charles X Gustay, but it was only in 1806 that the French emperor - Napoleon Bonaparte ordered the construction of a fortress here. Then, the construction works were continued by the Duchy of Warsaw, and completed with immense financial expenditure by the Russian tsars who renamed the fortress to Novogeorgiyevsk. Tsar Nicholas I has particular merits there - he visited the fortress as many as 17 times and personally supervised its great expansion. This gigantic, well preserved fortress situated on a hill at the joining of two rivers, comprising among others the longest building in Europe - defensive army barracks 2.25km long, makes a great impression on everyone. Its monumental facilities even attracted the interest of Hollywood filmmakers, not to mention numerous domestic large film productions - of which over 50 were filmed there.

The Modlin Fortress is a model example of polygonal fortifications but first and foremost it is one of the greatest monuments of European defensive architecture. It is a complex of fortifications that has been extended several times and that contains elements of French, Russian and Polish fortification.



The fortress itself has the area of 2 sq km, and its external defensive system is made up of 11 large forts and numerous smaller fortifications. The oldest facility in the premises is the so-called Napoleon's redoubt, a defensive 2-storey internal artillery rampart allegedly designed by the French Emperor himself.

One of the best known filming locations in the Modlin fortress is the former officer's casino with a beautiful ball room and auditorium. The defensive Mikhailovska Tower, situated on the opposite bank of the river, is also a part of the Fortress and is currently being adapted for tourist use.

Within the fortress' perimeter there is also a large garrison cemetery with graves of Polish soldiers from 1921 and 1939, and of German soldiers from both World Wars.

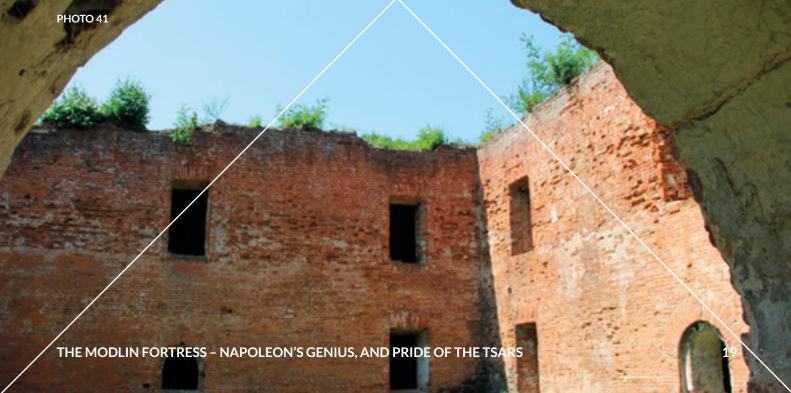
The fortress' area is vast. Within its walls, there are also military utility buildings, storage yards, engineering and sappers equipment warehouses.

РНОТО 3



Large part of the premises is occupied by housing estates, both new ones, and Polish ones from 1930s, and estates located in adapted Russian 19th-century barracks. There is also a large hotel, a restaurant, and shops, as well as the September 1939 Campaign and Modlin Fortress Museum with an information desk.

In spite of close distance to the centre of Warsaw (30km north by a motorway) a new airport with flight services mainly by Ryanair has been built in the place of the former Warsaw military airport. There is also a railway station near the fortress from where new trains will take you to the capital in less than 30 minutes. You can also get to Warsaw by regular bus services in less than an hour.

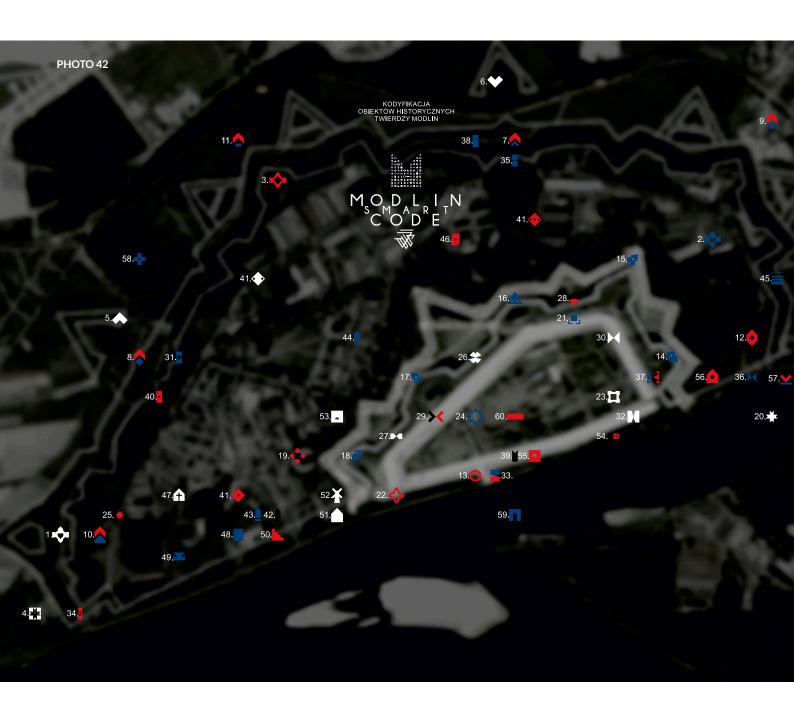


# TWIERDZA MODLIN / FORTRESS MODLIN / FESTUNG MODLIN

- 1. KORONA UTRACKA
- 2. KORONA MODLIŃSKA
- 3. KORONA ŚRODKOWA
- 4. FORT SCHILDERA
- 5. LUNETA PŁK. PIĘTKI
- 6. LUNETA GEN. SOWIŃSKIEGO
- 7. FRONT ŚW. JERZEGO
- 8. FRONT KSIĘCIA WARSZAWSKIEGO
- 9. FRONT POŁTAWA
- 10. FRONT PARYSKI
- 11. FRONT BORODINO
- 12. FRONT OSTROŁĘKA
- 13. KAPONIERA MECISZEWSKIEGO
- 14. BASTION 1
- 15. BASTION 2
- 16. BASTION 3
- 17. BASTION 4
- 18. BASTION 5
- 19. DZIAŁOBITNIA DEHNA
- 20. WIEŻA MICHAŁOWSKA
- 21. WIEŻA BŁĘKITNA
- 22. WIEŻA TATARSKA
- 23. WIEŻA BIAŁA
- 24. WIEŻA WODNA
- 25. REDUTA NAPOLEONA
- 26. BRAMA PÓŁNOCNA
- 27. BRAMA PONIATOWSKIEGO
- 28. BRAMA DABROWSKIEGO
- 29. BRAMA KADETÓW
- 30. BRAMA DREWNIANA

### OBJECTS MARKED ON THE MAP

- 31. BRAMA LEDÓCHOWSKIEGO
- 32. BRAMA CIEMNA
- 33, BRAMA NAPOLEONA
- 34. BRAMA SAPERSKA
- 35. BRAMA SZULCA
- 36. BRAMA OSTROŁĘCKA
- 37. BRAMA CHASSELOUPA
- 37. BRAMA PÓŁNOCNA
- 39. KORDEGARDA
- 40. BRAMA ZAKROCZYMSKA
- 41. PROCHOWNIA
- 42. BIAŁE BLOKI
- 43. BLOKI PODOFICERSKIE
- 44. BLOKI OFICERSKIE
- 45. CHŁODNIA
- **46.** KASYNO OFICERSKIE
- 47. KAPLICA KATOLICKA
- 48. PRALNIA/ŁAŹNIA GARNIZONOWA
- 49. PRALNIA/ŁAŹNIA SZPITALNA
- 50. SCHODY NA SKARPIE
- 51. ELEWATOR
- 52. MŁYN
- 53. PIEKARNIA
- **54.** ELEKTROWNIA
- 55. ARESZT
- 56. GOŁĘBNIK
- 57. PRZYSTAŃ
- 58. CMENTARZ WOJENNY
- 59. SPICHLERZ JANA JAKUBA GAYA
- 60. PLAC REWII



THE FRENCH IN MODLIN – STATIONING OF FRENCH TROOPS

The Modlin Fortress housed alternately armies of four countries: France, Russia, Germany and Poland.

The stationing of French troops was associated with Napoleon's campaigns. In the 19th century, the engineering troops came there to fulfil the Napoleon's order of 1 December 1806 to start building the fortress. After the defeat in Russia, the Great Army evacuated westwards, also via Modlin. Small troops participated in the defence and along with the Polish troops surrendered to the Russians in December 1813.







Russian army stayed here from 1 December 1813 after capturing the fortress until August 1915 when they surrendered to the Prussians, thus ruining the myth of an undefeated army and an impregnable fortress, and the story of a multimillion treasure of tsar's golden roubles, which has not been moved from Modlin or ever found, became legendary. Mostly fortress troops, artillery regiments, in-

fantry division, numerous staffs and headquarters stationed there. Bolshevik troops came near the fortress during the 1921 war, and even managed to conquer a few forts. Soviet Red Army was here briefly during their victorious offensive in January 1945.





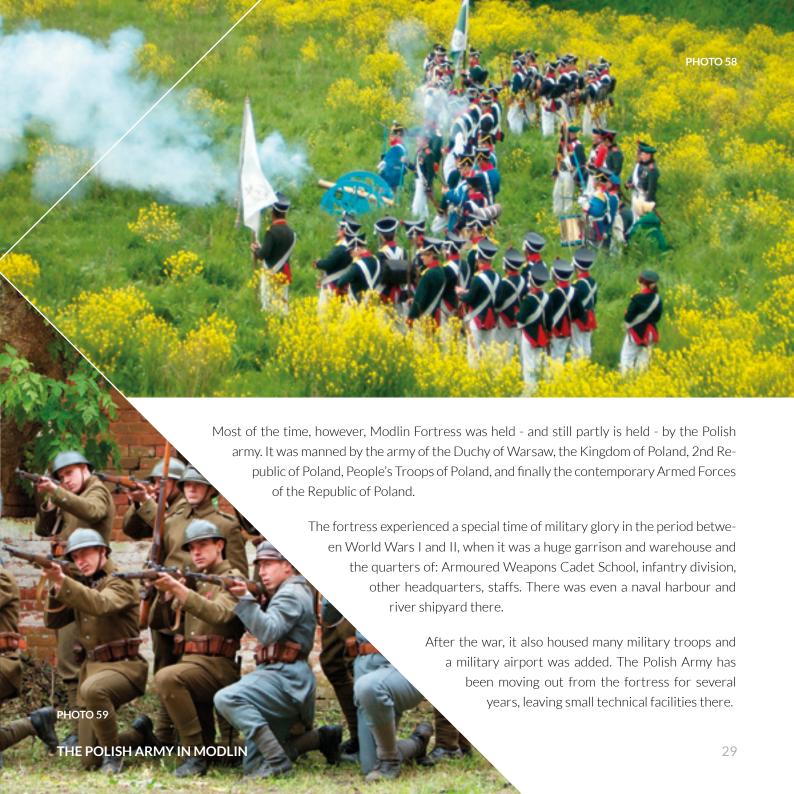
The army of Germany under the Kaiser's rule spectacularly and rapidly conquered the fortress in August 1915 and retreated equally rapidly - in 1918. Wehrmacht also stationed here between 1939 and 1945 after conquering Modlin in a bloody siege during the September 1939 Campaign.

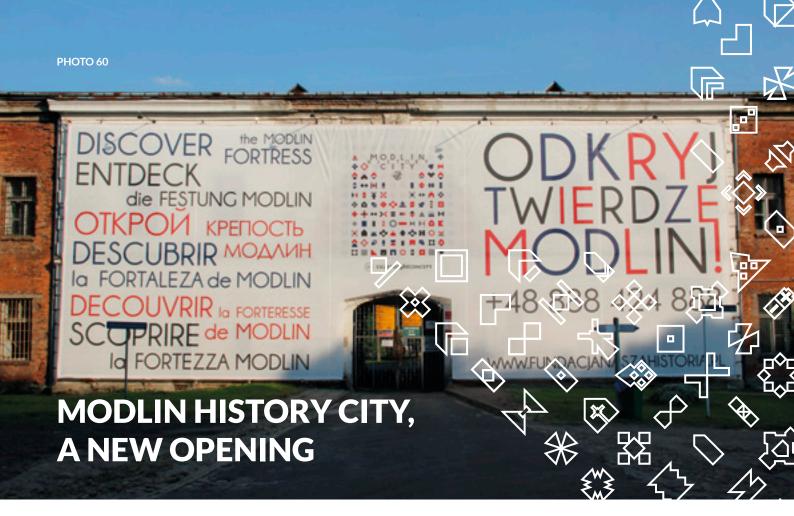
Saxon and Wirttemberg troops from Germany were also part of Napoleon's army stationing here.

KAISER'S AND HITLER'S ARMIES IN MODLIN









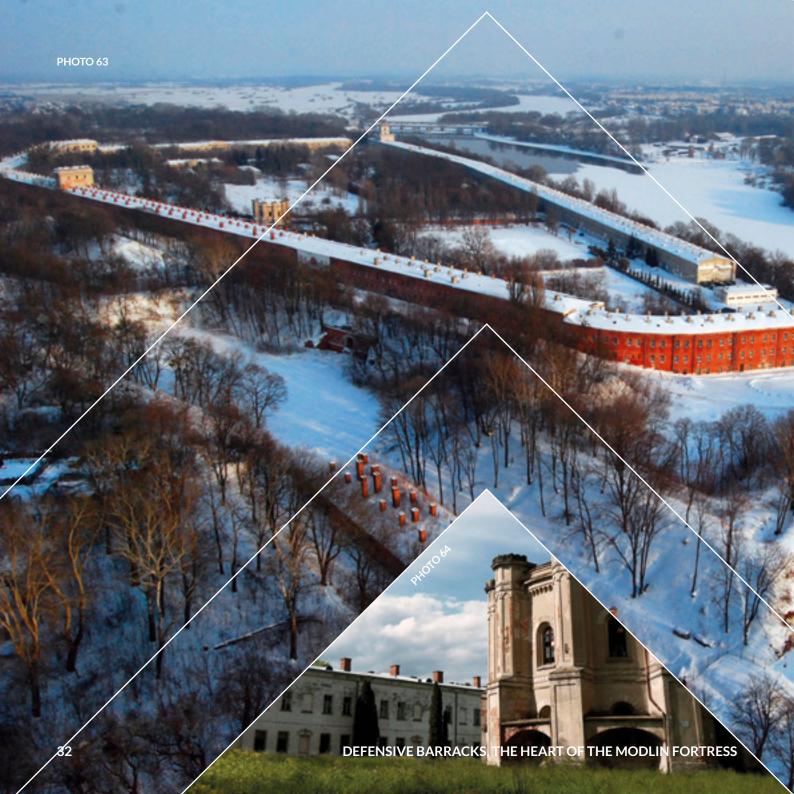
The Modlin Fortress is not only a captivating area on the joining of the Narew and Vistula or one of the most splendid examples of military engineering. It is primarily a unique place for active family leisure, in out-of-ordinary surroundings with a long and astounding history. It is also a facility with a unique potential in terms of the location, architecture and military engineering. In order to explore and release this potential, Konkret SA (company who is the owner of the barracks) is conducting conceptual and

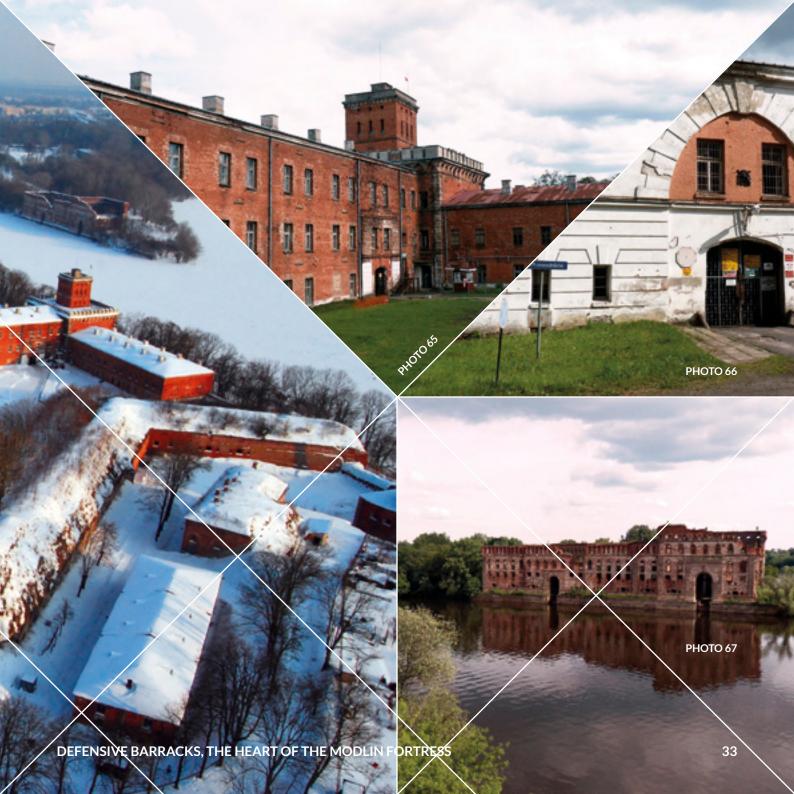
design works while also striving to activate and animate this place for the community purposes related to history and culture, promoting the modern community idea, and shaping patriotic attitude. The location's potential and idea offers the possibility of holding cultural events, concerts, mass events, film and TV productions, and other cultural and historical ventures.

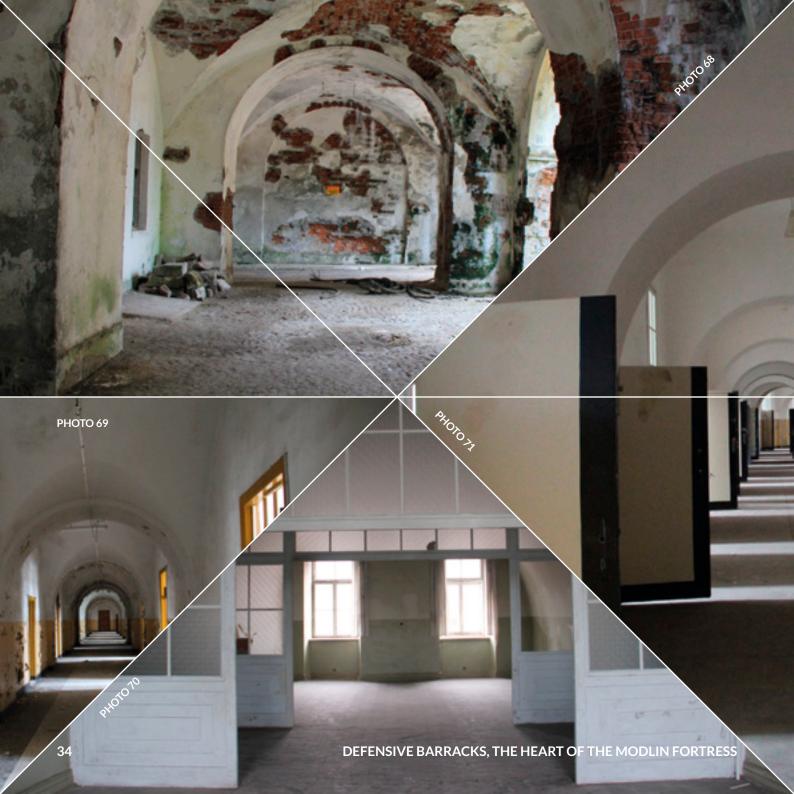
### DEFENSIVE BARRACKS, THE HEART OF THE MODLIN FORTRESS

A complex of defensive barracks approximately 2250m long, with a courtyard, is an integral element of the historical tissue of Modlin Fortress, with a supraregional historical value. Some elements of original furnishings, such as: cast iron stairs, metal balustrades, hooks for hoisting cannon barrels, are preserved in the building. The barracks complex, according to the architect's concept, was planned as a mighty stronghold, designed to allow uninhibited bombardment, as evidenced by clear traces of blast holes, both after bombardment and handguns fire. The barracks were the site of sieges and combat during World Wars I and II. The barracks complex was built inside the defensive containment walls of the older Napoleonic fortress. Construction works began in spring 1832. Since then, the original citadel of the fortress - made of a closed internal main fortification - has undergone major conversions. Inside this fortification, a closed polygon of defensive barracks was built, with the fragment on the Narew river along with the four-storey pen (later named after Colonel Filip Nereusz Meciszewski) finished in 1838. The entire barracks complex was completed in 1842. In 2013, these defensive barracks, a unique example of military architecture, were purchased by Konkret SA, a company based in Poznań.











Location of defensive barracks is good for shooting films because of their orientation on the south-west to south-east axis, ensuring long hours of sunshine and light exposure in all seasons of the year. This applies in particular to the huge internal courtyard and rooms of the barracks which have windows looking out mostly to the south-east.

In spring and summer months, good light exposure lasts from 9 to 14 hours, and in winter and autumn – up to 8 hours.

Modlin and all of Mazovia are situated in the lowest precipitation zone in Poland, nevertheless there are around annually around 160 days, i.e. 44% of days, with precipitation a year.

The lowest precipitation is in April and September, the largest number of sunny days in June and September. Multiannual research has found that Warsaw and its direct vicinity are the most sunny places in Poland, with 2205 hours of sunshine a year.

Location of defensive barracks in the GPS and on maps: 52°26'18"N 20°40'55"E.







Barracks are situated on a nearly 60-hectare plot of land which originally belonged to the Napoleon's fortress. Part of the building has a basement, and on its entire length there are 2, 3 or 4 floors, depending on the zone. There are 5 gates leading to the courtyard, of which the largest one is the Napoleon's Gate built in 1836. The volume of the barracks is over 554,400 cc, with 1500 rooms. Dimensions of a typical soldiers' room are  $6.5 \, \text{m} \times 6.5 \, \text{m}$ , height of  $4.1 \, \text{m}$ . To walk all the corridors in the barracks building, one must be prepared for covering a distance of nearly  $5 \, \text{km}$ . On top of the building there are three towers. Two of them were used for observation and communication purposes. The third one is still used as a water tower.





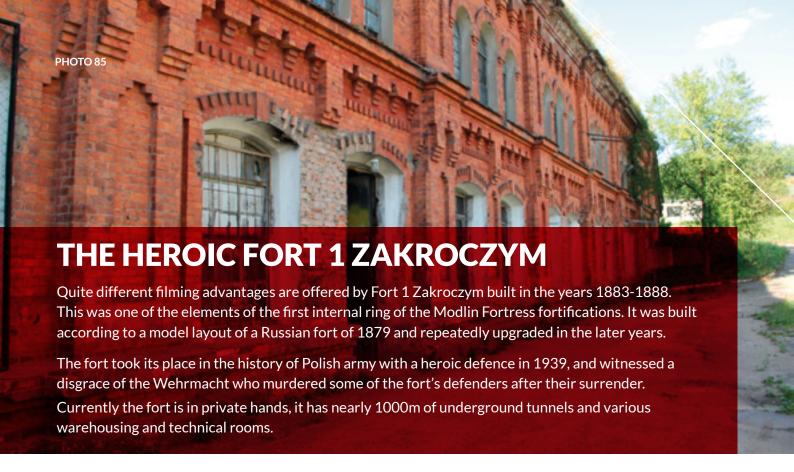


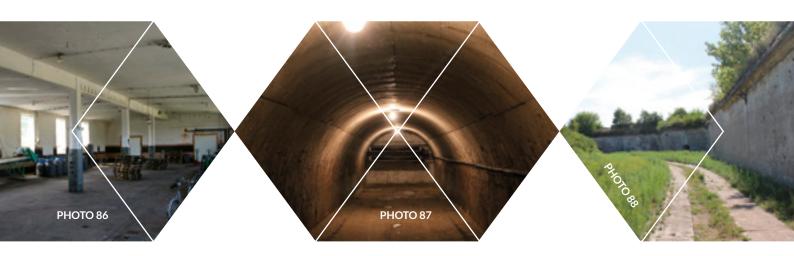
Near Modlin Fortress there are many other military structures being part of its system and a very extensive defensive complex. They were the arena of many military struggles and shooting locations for many film productions.

The best known and best preserved facility is the Kazuń bastion situated opposite the Modlin Fortress, on the other bank of the Vistula.

Between 1832 and 1841 works were performed to build a complex of 2-storey defensive barracks forming a crescent, very well preserved until this day. This complex of buildings is an example of the pure bastion school and the only such relic in Poland.

For nearly 100 years Kazuń has been held by the Polish Army and its engineering formations. Currently it is the home of the 2nd Mazovian Engineering Regiment, a very distinguished unit with excellent technical equipment which gained an international acclaim for, among others, its operations in Iraq and Afghanistan.







The largest of Modlin forts, Fort 3 in Pomiechówek is an internal fort of the Modlin Fortress. Like the other ones was built in the years 1883-1888 as one of eight forts surrounding the fortress with a 24.51km long ring.

For many years it was used by the Polish Army. During Nazi occupation, it served as a concentration camp where according to many sources around 65,000 people were exceptionally cruelly tortured to death.

Currently, the fort is being taken over by the local government of Pomiechówek commune and is planned to be made available for commercial activities.

The fort has an exceptionally vast network of underground corridors and rooms.



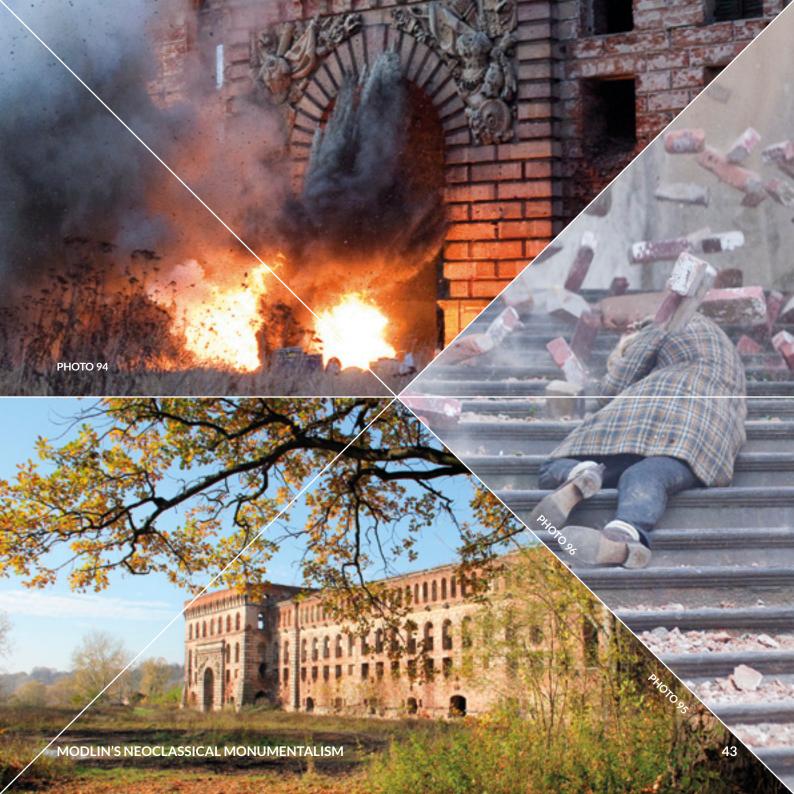


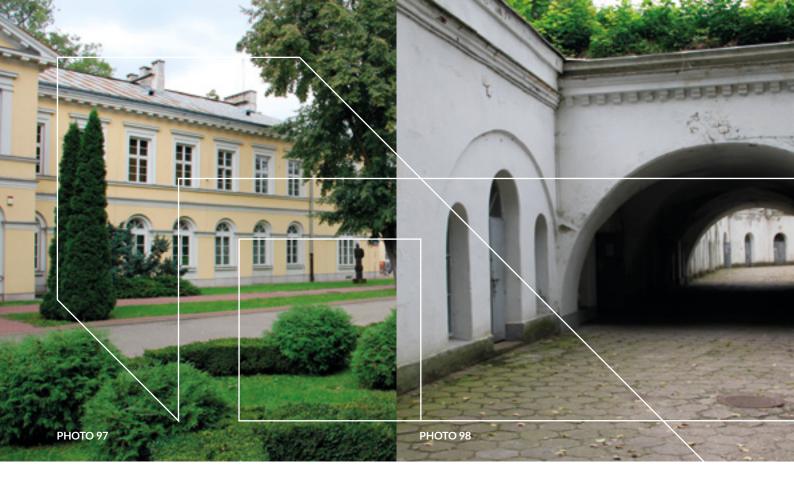
The monumental neoclassical granary situated directly opposite the Modlin Fortress, on a promontory on the joining of the Narew and Vistula, was not a military structure but a huge grain store for the tsar's army. It used to be not only one of the largest structures in Poland but also in the Russian empire. Even its ruins being just a small part of this splendid building arouse admiration for the architect and the scale of this undertaking.

Granary ruins have fascinated filmmakers from around the world for many years. Scenes for Holywood film productions and the most important Polish films were shot there, for instance film adaptation of the national epic "Pan Tadeusz" directed by Andrzej Wajda.

The granary is currently a private property.

**PHOTO 93** 





# THE WARSAW CITADEL - THE MILITARY SECTION

There are also several interesting examples of military structures in Warsaw. The largest one is the Warsaw Citadel built in the 19th century by the Russian Empire as a part of the defensive system along with the Modlin Fortress. Primarily, however, it was to serve as a symbol and reinforcement of the tsar rule over Warsaw.

Nowadays, the citadel's area is divided into 2 sections. One is managed by military administration. It houses Land Troops Headquarters and other units, which makes it resemble a historical garrison town.

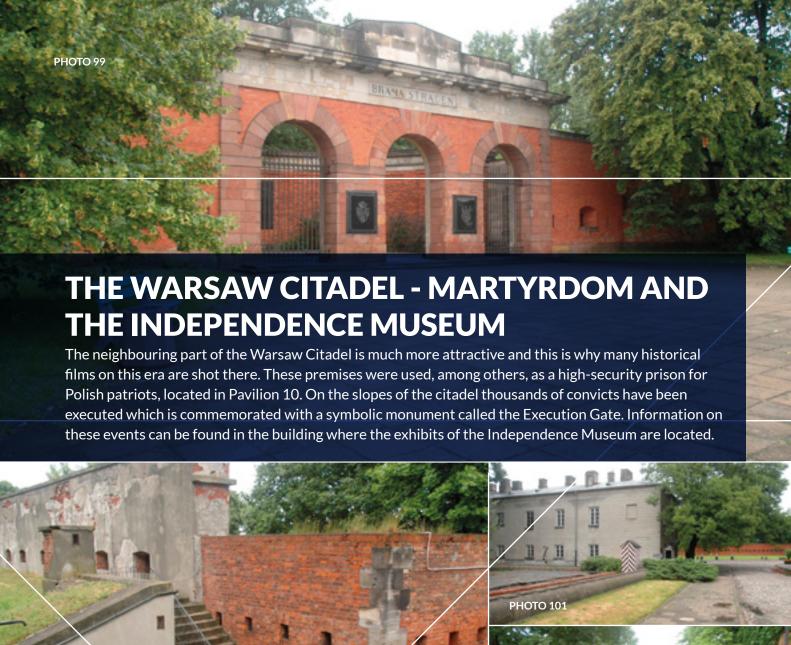


PHOTO 101

PHOTO 102

THE WARSAW CITADEL- MARTYRDOM AND THE INDEPENDENCE MUSEUM

45

# FORT BEMOWO – A FILMMAKERS' ENCLAVE

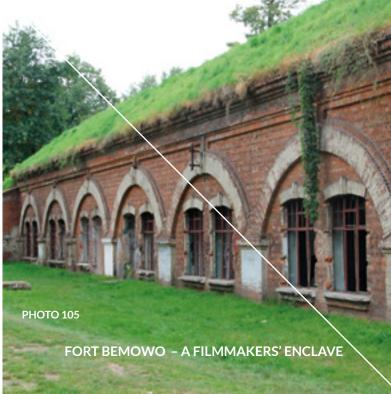
Not far from the Warsaw city centre lies Fort Bemowo, an authentically unique, true filmmakers' enclave being a very interesting proposal for filming location for historical and other films.

On a few square kilometres of park premises we can find fragments of old forts and earthworks, moats with water, wooden bridges, old brick and dirt roads with no modern infrastructure, old-style lanterns etc. In its direct vicinity, there are premises occupied for many years by the headquarters of Soviet army and later by a sports club. It somewhat resembles an old garrison with strange, often gloomy residential buildings, stores, warehouses etc.

Many productions, also Holywood ones, which required burning or exploding a building, stage combat, car accident, shooting, riot, gang wars and similar scenes requiring closed roads or separation from the surroundings were filmed there.

The area is owned partly by the Military Property Agency and the City District Office of Bemowo, Warsaw.







### MILITARY WARSAW - OTHER FILMING LOCATIONS

In Warsaw there are several more contemporary and historical military facilities and locations where sometimes film productions focusing on wars are shot. They include: Fort Szczęśliwice, Fort Golędzinów, and the area of the Military Institute of Armament Technology. Also a closed section of Młynarska street, with original cob stones and high cemetery brick wall, old houses and backyards, all with virtually no features of contemporary development, is very frequently used for filming and staging purposes.





**PHOTO 113** 



War in films is also logistics and communication, marching and relocation of troops. We have many kilometres of contemporary roads out of use, which are available and can be closed for filming, brick roads and dirt roads, old bridges, forest trails, rundowns of any size, fields and fallow land on which troops of various countries and eras can march and fight.

In Mazovia, it is easy to arrange shooting films with authentic old steam engines pulling passenger, freight and military trains, riding on railway tracks without overhead power lines, on old bridges, and stopping on railway stations from the times of World Wars I and II.

# INSTITUTIONS AND OFFICES ALWAYS READY TO HELP

Producers and directors wishing to film large military or war films in Mazovia should consult their plans with the Polish Army Museum. The Museum employs experienced specialists in all fields of the military and historians having full knowledge as well as factographic documentation concerning military events in the territory of Poland. The branch of the Museum in Fort Sadyba presents a few hundred of heavy military equipment used by the Polish and other armies.

There are many different types of tanks, armoured transporters, rocket launchers, planes and helicopters, mobile means of communication and radiolocation antennae, artillery of all kinds, and trucks.







The Museum can lease some of its exhibits for film production, and this applies to uniforms, personal arms, as well as heavy military equipment.

A very helpful, or in fact absolutely necessary institution in making military films and any other films is Mazovia Warsaw Film Commission.

Mazovia Warsaw Film Commission is a regional, non-profit service assisting domestic and foreign film crews interested in filming in Warsaw, Płock, Radom, Ciechanów, Ostrołęka, Żyrardów, Pułtusk and anywhere in the Mazowieckie province. MWFC's task is to create optimum conditions for film crews working in our region.

MWFC has a special role to play. As the capital city and the region have the largest film production facilities and best infrastructure in Poland, MWFC acts as a guide, advisor, and intermediary. It promotes advantages of Warsaw and Mazovia for filming purposes, as places attractive and friendly for even the most advanced film and TV productions and other audiovisual initiatives.

The main job of MWFC is to assist film crews in production activities, in particular:

- help them find shooting locations in Warsaw and in the Mazovia province;
- provide access to a vast, regularly updated database of a few hundred attractive shooting locations in Warsaw and Mazovia:
- provide information on specialists in film and TV productions, and experienced businesses from this industry, as well as entities and institutions supporting the audiovisual sector in the region;
- provide information on available resources in Warsaw and Mazovia;
- help them obtain any required permits.

Mazovia Warsaw Film Commission operates as a part of the Mazovian Institute of Culture. It is a member of EUFCN, and co-operates with Film Commission Poland.



For war and military film productions, the Military Property Agency may have an interesting offer.

The Military Property Agency is a state agency reporting to the Minister for National Defence. It was established in 1996. Its main tasks include:

- sale or other management of real properties expendable for the Ministry of National Defence (MON) or the Ministry of Internal Affairs (MSW);
- management of movable property expendable for MON and MSW, by sale or disposal.

The Agency holds post-military areas both in the Warsaw city centre and in smaller towns and villages in Mazovia. It also has an extensive, very cost-attractive offer of sale and lease of post-military movable property, such as: furniture, cars and trucks, uniforms, out-of-use speciali-

sed military and other equipment.

**PHOTO 124** 

For some types of military films focusing on contemporary Polish Army and its traditions and crews wanting to film on locations currently used by military units /such as Kazuń and Warsaw Citadel discussed above/, contact with the Education and Promotion of Defence Department of the Ministry of National Defence may be required.

Film crews planning scenes or themes concerning the Nazi occupation of Warsaw or the time of the Warsaw Uprising should contact the Warsaw Uprising Museum. Even seeing the innovative and very suggestive exhibition at the Museum is sufficient for the visitors to realise the scale of tragedy and heroism of Warsaw people, unprecedented in history.





In Mazovia, there are many public, local government, and private institutions which can basically equip any military or historical film about the 19th and 20th century with most of the necessary props, starting from uniforms, handguns, horses and riding equipment, to artillery, cars, armoured equipment, planes.

Apart from the above-mentioned Polish Army Museum

these are: the Railway Museum, Panzer-Farm, Museum of Motorization in Otrębusy, North Mazovian Flying Club, and many businesses and private collectors. Manor owners, for instance, are very willing to share their residences for historical films, lending also their collections of old coaches, gigs, horse-riding equipment, as well as old firearms and white arms, garments, paintings, house furnishings etc.



#### **MODLIN IN FILMS**



The Modlin Fortress has been a popular filming site, offering vast possibilities to filmmakers, since the dawn of Polish cinematography. The monumental walls, gloomy, austere fort rooms, stylish and elegant club rooms have been the background of many important film productions, both military and historical and several contemporary ones.

For many years, Modlin's walls have seen the re-enactment of various war and military events, mostly from World War II, such as: conquest of Berlin 1945, Battle of the Ardennes 1944, defence of Modlin during September 1939 Campaign, Rhine Crossing 1945, as well as Napoleonic wars.

56 MODLIN IN FILMS









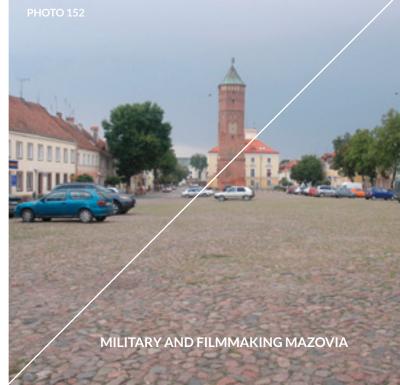


# MILITARY AND FILMMAKING MAZOVIA

Apart from strictly military facilities, Mazovia has a wide selection of locations for shooting scenes accompanying military operations. They include the streets and squares of such towns as Pułtusk, Płock, Radom, Ciechanów, Zakroczym, Przasnysz, Góra Kalwaria, Mława, Nowy Dwór Mazowiecki. Warsaw is mainly known for film productions concerning national uprisings and fight for independence, primarily pictures focusing on Nazi occupation and the Warsaw Uprising.

Pułtusk is known for films and stagings from the Napoleonic era. Przasnysz, on the other hand, is a staging arena of World War I. Zakroczym is a location for films and stagings of the Defensive War 1939. Nowy Dwór Mazowiecki, apart from the Modlin Fortress, is a town of patriotic and military traditions and military festivities. Local authorities of these towns usually are very welcoming towards any filming activities, consenting to closing of the streets, taking down contemporary elements of urban infrastructure etc.







Mazovia's most attractive offer, sometimes unique in the European scale, are its rural facilities, outdoor rural museums, gentry manors, palaces, wooden churches, which may be the background of a military film.

Areas of high natural appeal, e.g. forest complexes with roads and clearings, such as Kampinos Forest, Bolimów Forest, and other, are no inferior. Large Mazovian rivers and their natural banks - the Vistula, the Narew, the Pilica, the Wkra - were the arena of military struggle: crossings, landings, passages, fordings.











Mazovia is a real treasure chest in terms of the quantity and types of military equipment available for film productions. The collection of equipment of virtually all armies of the former Warsaw Pact is really impressive. Tanks, transporters, cars, artillery, aircrafts, telecommunications and radiolocation equipment, and others can be used at film sets.

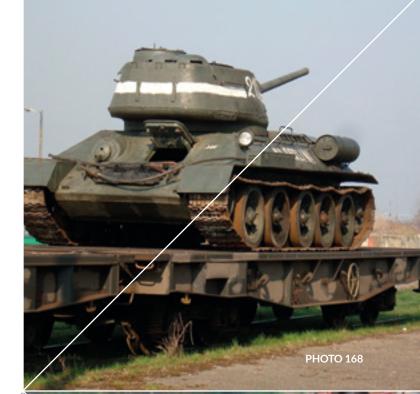
Still functional military equipment from World War II, owned by organisations, businesses, and private collectors, is equally abundant. It is dominated by exhibits of German, Soviet, US and Polish manufacture. There is also quite a lot of functional military equipment from World War I, imperial Russia and Germany, and the Polish-Bolshevik war. Arms from the Napoleonic wars (mainly carefully made artillery replicas) are also popular.



If necessary, provided that relevant procedures are completed, even the equipment currently in use by the modern Polish Army may be used for filming.

If necessary, engineering equipment made available by military units for filming purposes might be particularly useful in earthworks, building pontoon bridges and passages, obtaining engineering support etc.

Thus, Mazovia offers virtually any kind of military technical equipment from over two centuries for filming purposes. Naval vessels are an obvious exception, although between 1918 and 1923 Modlin Fortress was the headquarters of the Polish Navy and Modlin shipyard built the first Polish warships.















### FROM THE HUSSARS UNTIL TODAY - CAVALRY TRADITIONS

Cavalry - horsemen and armoured vehicles - have a special place in the hall of fame of the Polish Army and offer further possibilities for filming.

There are many professional groups in Mazovia which can stage any battle scene on horseback. Military traditions of Polish cavalry are continued primarily by the ceremonial Cavalry Squadron of the Polish Army. Other, equally known traditions of hussars, mounted rifles, chevau-légers, and the most popular Uhlan formations are continued by many other associations and private individuals.

There are also groups which may reconstruct other famous mounted formations from other countries, such as reiters, dragoons, cuirassiers, lancers, and primarily the Cossacks.

It is also possible to arrange a battle of medieval mounted knights equipped with armours and long lances, or even a ride of a Tartar horsemen.

Technical equipment associated with these mounted formations is also available, for instance service carts, transportation cars, platform trailers, coaches, Cossack wheel-barrows etc.











THE MARVELS OF POLAND AND MAZOVIA

Activities of various historical reconstruction groups are a sort of a marvel in Poland, and Mazovia in particular. In Mazovia there are around a dozen of organisations specialised in staging various military formations from different countries and historical eras. Members of these groups have full historical knowledge on uniforms, personal equipment, other armaments, combat and drilling rules of a given military formation. There are also groups which can reconstruct the appearance and behaviour of civilian population in the area of warfare.

History of wars in Mazovia, as well as spectacular events of World Wars and Mazovian warfare theatre, such as the Battle of Pułtusk, Battle of Przasnysz, Battle of Radzymin, Battle of Łomianki, Battle of Mokra, Battles of Mława and of the Bzura (1939), the Landing in Normandy (1944), the Warsaw Uprising (1944), or the Battle of the Ardennes (1945) are reconstructed with utmost care given to historical facts and on a large scale. In summer season, no weekend in Mazovia goes without some staging being held somewhere.

For makers of military, historical and other films, historical reconstruction groups are invaluable, qualified extras and episode actors with whom virtually any military action can be filmed.









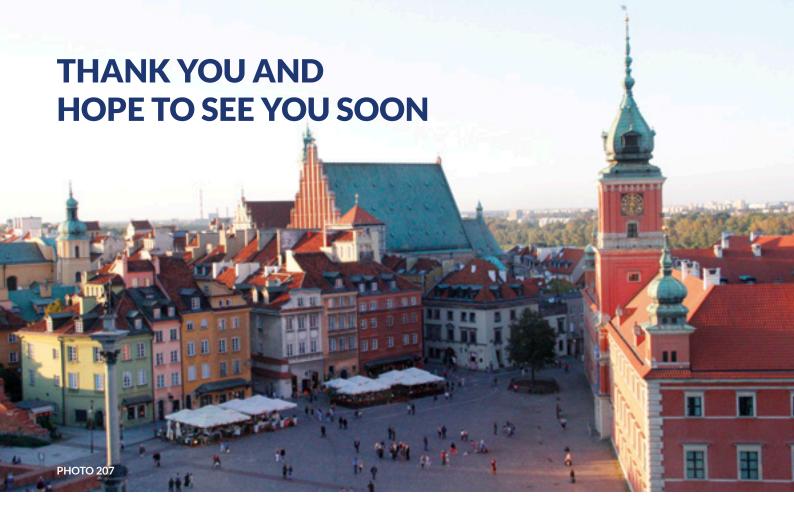
For local governments, young people, and enthusiasts interested in history, they are patriots who regardless of the weather are ready to present as accurately as possible the tragic and glorious moments in the history of Poland and Mazovia.

The best known historical military reconstruction groups in Mazovia include:

- "Kampinos" Historical Reconstruction Group,
- "Arsenał" Old-Time Artillery Association,
- Museum Historical Reconstruction Group of the 2nd Batallion, 18th Infantry Regiment, Sochaczew,
- Historical Reconstruction Association of the 79th Infantry Regiment, Słonim,
- Przasnysz Association of Living History,
- Mława Civil Population Historical Reconstruction Group,
  - Group Reconstructing 36th Infantry Regiment of the Academic Legion, Warsaw.



**PHOTO 206** 



Mazovia, with Warsaw, is a part of Europe that is very attractive for many film productions, in particular military and historical ones, as we have hopefully shown with the enclosed photos, description and information. Many well-preserved authentic military facilities and places from interesting time periods are basically ready-to-use film decorations, which combined with an impressive equipment facilities and a mass of people - professionals, amateurs, and military objects collectors of all sorts - gives Mazovia a strong position in this area. Add to it relatively low prices

for lease of military facilities and props, actors and extras, military staging groups, film professionals and high-class film technology, low fees and reasonable formalities, plus a well-organised and low-cost logistics and you will get an exceptionally advantageous and film-friendly location in Europe.

Come and shoot your next film scenes in Mazovia and Warsaw.



## ADMINISTRATIVE AND STATISTICAL INFORMATION FOR MAZOVIA AND WARSAW. FILMMAKERS' PRACTICAL INFORMATION SHEET.

### MAZOVIA, administration and structure:

Government administration: Mazowieckie province is divided into 37 districts and 314 communes.

The province is managed by the Province Governor (Wojewoda) via the Province Governor's Office (Urząd Wojewódzki), address: pl. Bankowy 3/5 tel. 22 695 69 95, e-mail: info @mazowieckie.pl

The office issues passports, working permits, and runs foreigner affairs.

**PHOTO 209** 

District is managed by: District Governor (Starosta) and the District Governor's Office (Starostwo Powiatowe).

They supervise the town guards (local police), fire department, building permits. In film production, actual contacts with this administration level are occasional.

The basic local government unit is the **commune** (gmina). If it is a rural commune, it is run by the Wójt and the Commune Office.(Urząd Gminy). If it is a municipal commune, it is run by the Burmistrz (Mayor) and Town Office (Urząd Miasta) or Prezydent (President) and City Office (Urząd Miasta).

These may be the key institutions for film production in the province because they issue permits for shooting scenes in public areas, for granting access to various sites, and other permissions.

**Province area:** 35,558 sq km, that is 11.4% of the area of Poland

**Population:** approx. 5,290,000, that is 13.7% of the population of Poland

### WARSAW, administration and structure:

Presently Warsaw is a municipal commune with rights of a district, comprising 18 city districts. The city is managed by the Mayor of the City of Warsaw via the Capital City of Warsaw Office, tel. (helpdesk): 800 707 047, tel. (registrar's office): 22 595 31 22, www.um.warszawa.pl

City districts are managed by their respective Mayors via City District Offices (Urząd Dzielnicy).

Several offices within the structure of the Warsaw City Office is of key importance for shooting films in Warsaw's public areas. These are:

- Public Spaces Administration (Zarząd Terenów Publicznych), tel. 22 277 05 00, Podwale 23,
- City Roads Administration (Zarząd Dróg Miejskich), tel.
   22 620 9171, zdm@zdm.waw.pl, ul. Chmielna 120
- Road Engineering and Transportation Authority Warsaw Traffic Engineer (Biuro Drogownictwa i Komunikacji Inżynier Ruchu m.st. Warszawy), ul. Marszałkowska 77/79, tel. 22 443 06 54, 22 443 06 55, drogownictwo@um.warszawa.pl,

If scenes are to be filmed in special locations e.g. parks, green areas, permits are issued by the City District Offices and the City Waste Disposal Agency (Zakład Oczyszczania Miasta) managing the most beautiful parks: zom@zom.waw.pl, tel. 22 277 04 00, Al. Jerozolimskie 11/19.

**City forests are owned by:** Lasy Miejskie Warszawy (Warsaw City Forests), ul. Grochowska 178/184

**Warszawa, registrar's office:** tel. 22 612 25 60, e-mail: sekretariat@lasymiejskie.waw.pl.

Warsaw's area: 5,117 sq km

**Warsaw's population:** 1,724,000, i.e. 3,220 per sq km

In practice, it will be best for foreign film crews to get in touch with Mazovia Warsaw Film Commission who will contact them with an experienced producer, production manager, location manager familiar with the competence and procedures of individual offices in terms of filming permissions, location and availability of sites, current prices, and other circumstances.





An experienced location manager may present tens of proposals of military and other facilities adjusted to the film's budget, and contact the crew with reconstruction groups, owners of military and accompanying equipment.

### **Modlin History City**

ul. Generała Józefa Bema 200C 05-160 Nowy Dwór Mazowiecki, tel. +48 888 424 888

### **Modlin History City Owner:**

Konkret SA ul. Ułańska 5, 60-748 Poznań



### **Sponsor of publishing:**

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Mazovia Institute of Culture

12 Elektoralna Street, 00-139 Warsaw, Poland,
tel. +48 225864258, fax: +48 226247001
e-mail: info@mwfc.pl, www.mwfc.pl

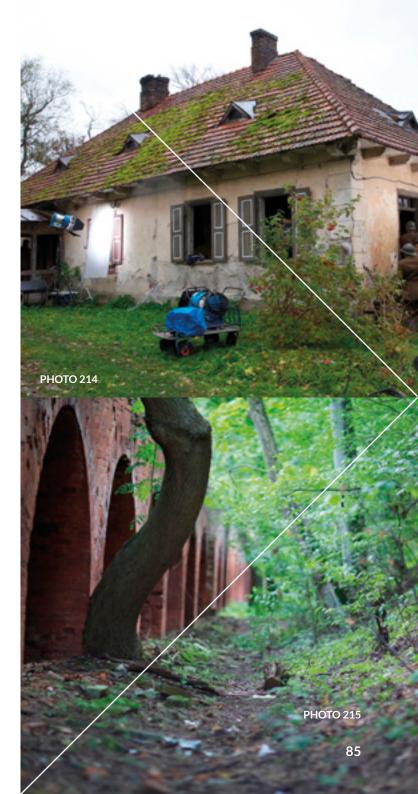
### Film production manager, location manager, author of this guide:

Krzysztof Wiech, tel. +48 604210350, e-mail: wiech.film@gmail.com, www.filmlocations24.pl



### Addresses and phone numbers of other institutions mentioned in this guide:

- Military Property Agency, Mazovia Branch: Agencja Mienia Wojskowego, Oddział Mazowiecki, Warszawa, ul. Nowowiejska 26A, tel. 223261923, e-mail: mienie.warszawa@amw.com.pl
- Department of Education and Defence Promotion of the Ministry of National Defence: Departament Wychowania i Promocji Obronności Ministerstwa Obrony Narodowej, Warszawa, al. Niepodległości 218, tel. 226840117, e-mail: dwipo@mon.gov.pl
- The Warsaw Uprising Museum: Muzeum Powstania Warszawskiego, ul. Grzybowska 79, Warszawa tel.: 22 539 79 05, e-mail: kontakt@1944.pl
- The Railway Museum: Muzeum Kolejnictwa w Warszawie, ul.Towarowa 1, tel.: 22 620 04 80, e-mail: sekretariat@muzkol, www.muzeumkolejnictwa.waw.pl
- Panzer-Farm Chrcynno 141, Nasielsk, tel. 22 6146747, www.panzer-farm.pl
- "Kampinos" Historical Reconstruction Group, tel. 48 508222109
- "Arsenał" Old-Time Artillery Association, tel. +48 512469735



### OTHER USEFUL INFORMATION

**Currency:** Polish zloty PLN; current exchange rate, mostly stable for a longer period, with small variations: 1 USD = 3.2 PLN, 1 EUR = 4.2 PLN, 1 GBP = 5.3 PLN,

Currency can be exchanged in banks and numerous exchange offices, some ATMs give cash in EUR. Electronic cards of all issuers can be used to pay for virtually all goods.

### Average summer prices of fuel:

Pb 98 - PLN 5.6, Pb 95 - PLN 5.3, Oil -PLN 5.2

### **EMERGENCY PHONE NUMBERS**

From landlines:

- 999: ambulance service,
- 998: fire department,
- 997: police department,
- 981: road assistance,

When dialling the above numbers on a mobile phone, you must additionally dial the area code, e.g.: 22-997 to call a police station in Warsaw. In public phones, no fees for calls to emergency phone numbers are charged. There is also a general emergency number 112 which can be dialled without an area code. The call will be redirected by the operator to the relevant emergency service. Nevertheless, in extremely serious situations it is best to dial the number of the relevant emergency service (999, 998, 997) directly, because the general number (112) may not function properly in some areas of Mazovia.





### Phone numbers of non-chain hotels, reliable, unique, with attractive location:

- Hotel Belwederski, ul. Sulkiewicza 11, +48.228404011,
- Hotel Łazienkowski, ul. 29 Listopada 3B, +48.228510232.
- Hotel Castle Inn, ul. Świętojańska 2, +48.224250100,
- Hotel w Modlinie Twierdzy, hotel Royal ul. Szpitalna 93, +48.22188418.

### Other useful phone numbers:

- LOT flight information up-to-date information on international departures
- LOT flight information up-to-date information on international departures, www.lot.com
- Travel information: railway and coach services www.intercity.pl/en

### Phone numbers of several popular and reliable Warsaw taxi cab companies:

- Bayer Taxi 22 96 67
- Damel Taxi 22 9626
- Ele Taxi 22 811 11 11
- Halo Taxi 22 9623
- MPT Taxi 22 9191

### **LIST OF AUTHORS OF PHOTOS**

Photo number	Author, location PL
Cover	Marek Jakuczek
2	Krzysztof Wiech
3	Krzysztof Wiech
4	Krzysztof Wiech
5	Krzysztof Wiech
6	Krzysztof Wiech
7	Krzysztof Wiech
8	Krzysztof Wiech
9	Krzysztof Wiech
10	Krzysztof Wiech
11	Marcin Kozłowski
12	Krzysztof Wiech
13	Krzysztof Wiech
14	Krzysztof Wiech
15	Krzysztof Wiech
16	Krzysztof Wiech, pałac Chrcynno
17	Krzysztof Wiech, dwór Tułowice
18	Mira Wyrzykowska, pałac Pass
19	Wojciech Jędruszek, dwór Kuznocin
20	Krzysztof Wiech, park Arkadia
21	Krzysztof Wiech, skansen Sierpc
22	Krzysztof Wiech, pl. Konstyutucji, W-wa
23	Mira Wyrzykowska, pałac Pass
24	Krzysztof Wiech
25	Krzysztof Wiech

Photo number	Author, location PL				
26	Krzysztof Wiech				
27	Krzysztof Wiech				
28	Krzysztof Wiech				
29	Krzysztof Wiech				
30	Krzysztof Wiech				
31	Krzysztof Wiech, Józef Piłsudski				
32	Krzysztof Wiech				
33	Krzysztof Wiech				
34	Krzysztof Wiech, klub garnizonowy				
35	Autor kompilacji Maciej Fajst, cesarz Napoleon Bonaparte				
36	Krzysztof Wiech				
37	Autor kompilacji Maciej Fajst, car Mikołaj I				
38	Krzysztof Wiech, klub garnizonowy				
39	Krzyztof Wiech				
40	Krzysztof Wiech, bloki z czasów carskich				
41	Krzysztof Wiech, reduta Napoleona				
42	Mateusz Wróblewski, Arne Design				
43	Z archiwum GRH Kampinos				
44	Krzysztof Radzikowski				
45	Piotr Skonieczny				
46	Grzegorz Sokołowski				
47	Z archiwum UM Przasnysz				
48	Dariusz Krawczyk SRH 79 p.p.				
49	Z archiwum GRH Kampinos				

Photo number	Author, location PL			
50	Z archiwum UM Przasnysz			
51	Witold Flak, serial TVP "1920 Wojna i miłość"			
52	Krzysztof Wiech			
53	Krzysztof Wiech			
54	Krzysztof Radzikowski			
55	Witold Flak, serial TVP "1920 Wojna i miłość"			
56	Z archiwum GRH Kampinos			
57	Witold Flak, serial TVP "1920 Wojna i miłość"			
58	Piotr Skonieczny			
59	Witold Flak, serial TVP "1920 Wojna i miłość"			
60	Krzysztof Wiech			
61	Sebastian Sosiński			
62	Marek Jakuczek			
63	Marek Jakuczek			
64	Sebastian Sosiński			
65	Sebastian Sosiński, wieża Tatarska			
66	Sebastian Sosiński			
67	Sebastian Sosiński			
68	Krzysztof Wiech			
69	Krzysztof Wiech			
70	Krzysztof Wiech			
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72	Krzysztof Wiech			
73	Krzysztof Wiech			
74	Krzysztof Wiech			

Photo number	Author, location PL
75	Krzysztof Wiech
76	Krzysztof Wiech
77	Krzysztof Wiech
78	Krzysztof Wiech
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92	Krzysztof Wiech
93	Krzysztof Wiech
94	Monika Zielska
95	Krzysztof Wiech
96	Monika Zielska
97	Krzysztof Wiech
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99	Krzysztof Wiech
100	Krzysztof Wiech
101	Krzysztof Wiech
102	Krzysztof Wiech

100				
103	Krzysztof Wiech			
104	Krzysztof Wiech			
105	Krzysztof Wiech			
106	Krzyztof Wiech, fort Jasińskiego			
107	Krzyztof Wiech, fort Jasińskiego			
108	Krzyztof Wiech, ul. Młynarska			
109	Krzysztof Wiech			
110	Krzysztof Wiech			
111	Krzysztof Wiech, Grochalskie Piachy			
112	Krzysztof Wiech, Mława			
113	Krzysztof Wiech			
114	Krzysztof Wiech			
115	Krzysztof Wiech, fort Zegrze			
116	Krzysztof Wiech			
117	Krzysztof Wiech, fort Szczęśliwice			
118	Krzysztof Wiech, Muzeum Powstania Warszawskiego			
119	Krzysztof Wiech, Muzeum Powstania Warszawskiego			
120	Krzysztof Wiech, Muzeum Powstania Warszawskiego			
121	Krzysztof Wiech, Muzeum Powstania Warszawskiego			
122	Krzysztof Wiech			
123	Krzysztof Wiech			
124	Krzysztof Wiech, Góra Kalwaria			
125	Krzysztof Wiech			
126	Krzysztof Wiech			
127	Stanisław Kęszycki			

Photo number	Author, location PL			
128	Krzysztof Wiech, Muzeum Kolejnictwa			
129	${\sf KrzysztofWiech,MuzeumKolejnictwa}$			
130	Krzysztof Wiech, Muzeum Kolejnictwa			
131	Muzeum Techniki i Motoryzacji w Otrębusach			
132	Stanisław Kęszycki			
133	Aeroklub Północnego Mazowsza Przasnysz			
134	Krzysztof Wiech, dwór Tułowice			
135	Krzysztof Wiech, dwór Tułowice			
136	Krzysztof Wiech, dwór Tułowice			
137	Krzysztof Wiech			
138	Krzysztof Wiech			
139	Krzyztof Wiech			
140	Grzegorz Sokołowski			
141	Krzysztof Wiech			
142	Krzysztof Wiech			
143	Grzegorz Sokołowski			
144	Krzysztof Wiech			
145	Krzysztof Wiech			
146	Krzysztof Wiech			
147	Monika Zielska			
148	Grzegorz Sokołowski			
149	Michał Janson			
150	Michał Janson			
151	Muzeum Techniki i Motoryzacji w Otrębusach			
152	Krzysztof Wiech, Pułtusk			
153	Krzysztof Wiech, skansen Sierpc			

Photo number	Author, location PL
154	Archiwum UM Zakroczym
155	Krzysztof Wiech, rzeka Wkra
156	Krzysztof Wiech, Nowy Dwór Mazowiecki
157	Archiwum UM Zakroczym
158	Archiwum UM Zakroczym
159	Archiwum UM Przasnysz
160	Krzysztof Wiech
161	Krzysztof Wiech
162	Krzysztof Radzikowski, Warszawa
163	Krzysztof Radzikowski
164	Krzysztof Wiech
165	Stanisław Kęszycki
166	Stanisław Kęszycki
167	Krzysztof Wiech
168	Stanisław Kęszycki
169	Krzysztof Wiech
170	Stanisław Kęszycki
171	Krzysztof Wiech
172	Krzysztof Wiech
173	Aeroklub Północnego Mazowsza, Przasnysz
174	Krzysztof Wiech
175	Krzysztof Wiech
176	Krzysztof Wiech
177	Krzysztof Wiech
178	Krzysztof Wiech
179	Krzysztof Wiech
180	Krzysztof Wiech

Photo number	Author, location PL			
181	Krzysztof Wiech			
182	Krzysztof Wiech			
183	Krzysztof Wiech			
184	Krzysztof Wiech			
185	Krzysztof Wiech			
186	Stanisław Kęszycki			
187	Krzysztof Wiech			
188	Witold Flak, serial TVP "1920 Wojna i miłość"			
189	Michał Janson			
190	Grzegorz Sokołowski			
191	Krzysztof Wiech			
192	Witold Flak, serial TVP "1920 Wojna i miłość"			
193	Witold Flak, serial TVP "1920 Wojna i miłość"			
194	Krzysztof Radzikowski			
195	Witold Flak, serial TVP "1920 Wojna i miłość"			
196	Piotr Skonieczny			
197	Krzysztof Radzikowski			
198	Krzysztof Radzikowski			
199	Krzysztof Radzikowski			
200	Archiwum UM Przasnysz			
201	Michał Janson			
202	Krzysztof Wiech			
203	Krzysztof Wiech			
204	Krzysztof Wiech			
205	Leszek Giżyński			

Photo number	Author, location PL
206	Witold Flak, serial TVP "1920 Wojna i miłość"
207	Krzysztof Wiech
208	Marek Jakuczek
209	Krzysztof Wiech
210	Krzysztof Wiech
211	Marek Jakuczek
212	LUCKYYOU Interactive
213	Krzysztof Wiech
214	Krzysztof Wiech, dworek Podkampinos
215	Paulina Prusiecka
216	Krzysztof Wiech, Arkadia
217	Archiwum GRH Kampinos
218	Krzysztof Wiech, Arkadia
219	Krzysztof Wiech, skansen Sierpc

### **NOTES**

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