

OSADA KRECHOWIECKA

Gm (Tuczyn) Aleksandria
pow Równe

Poland regained her independence in 1918, but our forefathers fought Soviet Russia for our eastern borderlands until September 1920.

An act was immediately passed on December 17, 1920 to grant land to the soldiers of the Polish armed forces. The Treaty of Riga was signed on March 18, 1921 when the eastern borders of Poland were established. Shortly thereafter, demobilization of soldiers qualified to receive lands in the Eastern Borderlands of the Republic of Poland began.

In the spring of 1921, 102 soldiers of the 1st Regiment of the Krechowce Lancers (Ułani Krechowieccy) celebrated the last Easter holiday in their headquarters. A week later, they set out from Hrubieszów by train on their way to Wołczyn. In the military tradition, wearing very worn out uniforms, they travelled in freight cars together with their horses, swords and saddles

The regiment allocated them several wagons, two field kitchens, some small tools but no farm tools or farm equipment. The Krechowce settlers were guaranteed two months provisions for their people and six months feed for the horses of the garrison from the town of Równe lying 16 km from the Osada Krechowiecka. The soldiers of the Krechowce Regiment were going to Wołczyn to start a new life on their own land. The hard labour of pioneers awaited them on the parcels of land granted them for free for the defence of the borders of the Homeland.

The Krechowce settlers arrived in Wołczyn on April 5, 1921. Because the land allotted to them was virgin land, they temporarily quartered themselves in the village of Hory gród. The soldiers' first activity was to appoint an executive for the "Work Detail" with the following positions: supplies manager, office manager and treasurer. Because the conditions were primitive, the soldiers left Hory gród in stages, gradually moving to villages such as Szubków and Remel that were situated closer to their land.

The area near Szubków designated for the group of soldiers of the Krechowce Regiment, consisting of subdivided Polish estates, was located on the left bank of the River Hory. Once the land had been a military training camp (artillery) but now it lay fallow and overgrown by weeds.

After a time, one group of the Krechowce veterans moved into several empty barracks in a wood called the Karłowczyzna Range¹. The veterans lived in groups, working as a team helping each other, sharing a common kitchen, building sod houses together, etc.

As of September 1, 1921, the army ceased allocating provisions to the units of settlers. From that point, they were on their own. Some got assistance from their families; others who got married were bailed out by the dowries of their wives. There were very few that fortunate that first year.

Soon groups of surveyors began to establish the boundaries of the individual plots. This exercise took some time and a lot of hard work. All the calculations were completed by the autumn of 1922. The settlement was approximately 1,500 hectares. The Osada Krechowiecka (taken from the name of the regiment) was comprised of two training farms of 45 hectares each, 85 regular farms of between 11 and 13 hectares each and two meadows of 2 hectares each. There were also plots for public use - the Karłowczyzna wood of 200 hectares and 4 hectares for the settlement community centre and school.

Because the 1st Regiment of Krechowce Lancers had been granted land for 102 settlers within the County of Równe, it was allocated an additional more than 200 hectares. This area lay on the main

¹ Uroczysko Karłowczyzna

road to Równe, about 6 ó 7 km from the Osada Krechowiecka near the villages of Wielki ęty and Horodyszczce. It consisted of two plots, one plot of 45 hectares designated for instruction in farming and a smaller plot for 19 non-commissioned officers of the Krechowce regiment. They established an independent unit of 20 farms called Bolesęwice. The name derived from the first commander of the 1st Regiment of the Krechowce Lancers whose name was Bolesęw Mo cicki. This group remained in close contact with the Osada Krechowiecka.

When all the plots in the settlement were defined, the work detail was disbanded. Then, all property acquired with communal resources, such as tools, equipment, carts, etc., was distributed among the settlers. Additional horses sent by the regiment were paired off and distributed among the settlers by the drawing of lots.

After the disbandment of the work detail, a general meeting of the settlers was called to elect by democratic process four members of the executive of the new Osada Krechowiecka. The following positions were filled: the director, treasurer, manager of the settlement and secretary.

The plots were distributed by the drawing of lots. Since the fields had been sown before the distribution of plots, it worked out that most of the men had sown the fields of their colleagues, often at the other end of the settlement. They had to wait until after the harvest to work their own fields. The soil was good loess with a clay base, requiring a specific type of cultivation.

Along the 5 km northern border of the Osada Krechowiecka was a federally owned forest. The settlement was bisected by the wide, straight, well-travelled road, from Równe to Tuczyn. Many country roads led from this main road to various villages such as ęty , Aleksandria, Remel, Szubków, Ko lin, Hory gród, etc. These were large villages (the largest of which was Ko lin with 1200 people) whose inhabitants were assimilated into the prevailing Ruthenian and Ukrainian culture. There were a number of unpleasant incidents involving the local population in the initial years of the Osada Krechowiecka. The cause of these problems was an attitude of hostility and distrust on the part of the locals towards the settlers. With the passage of years, relations improved between the two groups and in some instances there was even reciprocal cooperation and respect.

To the east and south, the Osada Krechowiecka bordered on Osada Hallerowo sharing a small part of the southern border with Osada Jazęwiecka. The rest of her southern border she shared with the Osada Bajonówka. These were military settlements. The village of ęty lay to the south and further south was the county seat of Równe. In the direction of the wood there were 20 five-hectare civilian plots whose owners maintained close ties with the settlement immediately on their border. The Osada Krechowiecka was larger in territory and population than any of the above-mentioned settlements.

The beginnings of the settlement were very difficult. Many people lived in sod houses. They started by digging wells and building their homes. The men worked together in small groups to hasten the work so that they could take up residence on their own plots as quickly as possible. Many of the settlers had no idea how to cultivate the land. Agriculture courses were organized to remedy this situation. Then, the settlers began to put into action the settlement's cultivation plan. They planted fruit-bearing and decorative plants, as well as vegetable gardens. In 1923, the first agricultural association in the county of Równe was established at the Osada Krechowiecka.

By then, most of the settlers were married and the settlement was developing well. A great deal was accomplished by common effort. A dairy operated in a home rented from one of the settlers. A school was established in the home of another settler. The needs of the settlement were many. Construction of a community centre was begun in 1929 when all the settlers helped to transport the necessary materiel. A loan from the National Agricultural Bank² made possible the completion by the end of that year. The settlement school was relocated to the community centre. Classes were added as children arrived in the settlement to a limit of 7 classes totalling 240 children. The teaching

² Pa stwowy Bank Rolny

staff grew accordingly. The head mistress of the school from the beginning to the end was Miss Maria Klossówna.

The Settlement celebrated its 10th anniversary in 1931. A delegation from the 1st Regiment of the Krechowce Lancers in Augustów attended, as well as associated veterans of the regiment. A gala dinner for several hundred people was held, at which the following poem was recited by the children of the settlement:

The Tenth Anniversary of the Settlement

*Ten years ago ó there was nothing here
I was not here, and neither were you or nor he
Only the wind howled in the empty field
And the sad sun journeyed across the sky.
Then came our daddies;
Each one sowed and ploughed and built a home,
Then, everyone brought their wives
Now they have many sons and daughters,
And we will work for the common good
And we raise now our children's voices and shout:
õAll for our homeland!!! All for our settlement!!!ö*

From the beginning of the 1930s, the settlement was in full bloom economically and organizationally. The settlement community centre housed the school, the central dairy, a room for making sauerkraut, a post office and telephone operator, a branch of the Kasa Stefczyka³, a co-operative shop, a warehouse for grain, and the offices of all executives and organizations (The Farmersø Association, the various breedersø alliances, the Housewivesø Association, youth organizations such as brownies, guides and scouts, the executive of the settlement itself, and living quarters for the head mistress of the school).

The settlement was bisected by a good road from Równe to Tuczyn where there was a bus route. The beautiful orchards, plantations of sugar beets, tobacco, the ponds full of fish and the herds of cattle and flocks of fowl, were all evidence of the increasing prosperity of the settlers. The common effort of the settlers was bearing fruit.

The local population in the neighbouring villages also benefited from the presence of the settlers: the locals found work on the farms, the neighbouring farmers gained access to improved breeds of cattle and fowl, better types of grains and new seeds for onions, celery, etc.

The crowning effort of all the settlers but primarily of the Osada Krechowiecka was the building of a church in the Karłowczyzna Range. Some of the people of neighbouring settlements and villages helped to transport the necessary stones. The church was built and consecrated for the use of the parish in 1937. The first and only parish priest was Father Jan K kol. A memorable and significant event took place in May 1939 when a copy of the picture of Our Lady of Cz stochowa was brought from Jasna Góra⁴ and installed in the settlement church. We did not know then that this was the last joyful community celebration on the Osada Krechowiecka before the outbreak of WWII.

³ The national farmersø cooperative

⁴ The monastery where the original miraculous picture resides.

The ladies of the settlement, who were members of the Association of Housewives, ran the library, organized social meetings and dances, as well as assemblies to honour anniversaries. They also provided courses in child-raising and hygiene. Their greatest single accomplishment was getting a health centre with living quarters for a nurse to live in, built in the Karłowyszczyna area. This was done through the help of the Red Cross. The Health Centre housed a medical clinic, a dental office and a counselling service for mothers and children. A doctor (Internist) came to the settlement twice a week to see the sick settlers and their children in the examining rooms made available to him at the health centre.

All the posts in the settlement and the area were voluntarily occupied by settlers. Some of the settlers rented out their farms and only visited them, usually during their vacations. There were those settlers who rented farms to their colleagues. In such cases they worked two and sometimes three farms.

All the settlers worked as a group for their ideals and the common good. A neighbourly, friendly atmosphere of solidarity always prevailed in the settlement, where help was available for every need. In recognition of their service, the regimental standard was honoured with the order of Polonia Restituta in 1938.

The outbreak of WWII and the invasion of the Eastern Borderlands by the U.S.S.R was a shock to everyone. Then, on February 10, 1940, came the expulsion and forced relocation of the Polish population (chiefly the veterans and their families) to the forests of Siberia and the steppes of Kazakhstan. The chapter of the history of the settlement of the Eastern Borderlands of the Polish Republic had now come to a close.

All that remains are our memories, of happy childhood years at the Osada Krechowiecka.

LIST OF SETTLERS AT THE OSADA KRECHOWIECKA

(Established on the parcelled out estate at Szubków-Karłowyszczyna) (the number corresponds to the number of the plot)

<u>No.</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>No.</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>No.</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>Name</u>
1		Roman Cybulski			Podchorski	22.	plut.	Stefan M czka
2.		Zygmunt Górecki	12.	u€	Władysław D browski	23.	plut.	Szczepan Balmas
3.	wachm.	M. Kazimierz Weselinski	13.		Jan Dzierzgowski	24.	u€	Zygmunt Jaruga
4.	st. wachm.	Franciszek Glaszczak	14.		Stefan Talarowski	25.	wachm.	Marcin St pie
5.	st. wachm.	Józef Stobniak	15.	wachm.	Włodzimierz Kulikowski	26.	rtm.	Józef Płanski
6.		Antoni Szyma ski	16.	wachm.	Władysław Jakubowski	27.		Antoni Sta ior (Sulimirski Józef)
7.	wachm.	Franciszek Biedul	17.	wachm.	Henryk Duszy ski	43.		Edward Milewski
8.		Walenty Struzik	18.		Piotr Fr czak	44.		Jakub Chromik
9.		Józef Dobaj	19		Ignacy Urba ski	45.		Feliks Bojankiewicz
10.	plut.	Władysław Zielinski	20.	u€	Wincenty Cał	46.	wachm.	Władysław Gorzkowski
11.	ppor.	Bolesław	21.	plut.	Aleksander Chlewinski	47.	plut.	Gustaw Chanecki
						48.	kpr.	Franciszek

<u>No.</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>Name</u>
		Gorczak
49.	st. u€	Franciszek Gaćka
50.	plut.	Józef Brzostowski
51.	u€	Franciszek Sterna
52.	u€	Stanisław Graniczny
53.	wachm.	Jan Szymański
54.	por.	Edward Czajkowski
55.	wachm.	Piotr Swojnóg
56.	u€	Walery Radomski
57.	st. wachm.	Stanisław Armatys
58.	st. u€	Antoni Kulik
59.	u€	Stanisław Wojna
60.	u€	Karol Kaćsiewicz
61.		Władysław Szymanik
62.	u€	Wojciech Morozowicz
63.	u€	Stefan Prochera
64.		Józef Zwoliński
65.		Romuald Graniczny
66.		Józef Ogonowski
67.		Wojciech ygadź
68.		Józef Wrzyszczyński
69.		Adolf Zajdel
70.		Józef Szopa
71.	u€	Bronisław Kucharewicz
72.		Zygmunt Waćsiewicz
73.		Jan Zdanek
74.	u€	Modest / o
75.	u€	Władysław

<u>No.</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>Name</u>
		Paszyński
76.		Jan Madaj
77.		Bernard Bujnowski
78.		Kazimierz Kaczmarek
86.		Jan Jankowski
87.		Stefan wierzyski
88.	st. wachm.	Józef Maćka
89.		Stefan Dobrzański
90.	st. wachm.	Klemens Grzybowski
91.		Wincenty Rzoćca
92.		Stanisław Bory
93.	plut.	Stanisław Pukacz
94.		Aleksander Mićdza
95.		Romuald Balicki
96.	wachm.	Józef Kwiatek
97.		Mieczysław Netwinko
98.	st. u€	Jan Sieradzki
99.		Julian Sokolowski
100.	wachm.	Mieczysław Massalski
101.	u€	Władysław Słomka
102.	plut.	Zdzisław Prokopowicz
104.		Stanisław Wolkowski
113.		Wojciech Dudziewicz
132.		Ryszard Bojankiewicz
133.		Jan Koziczynski

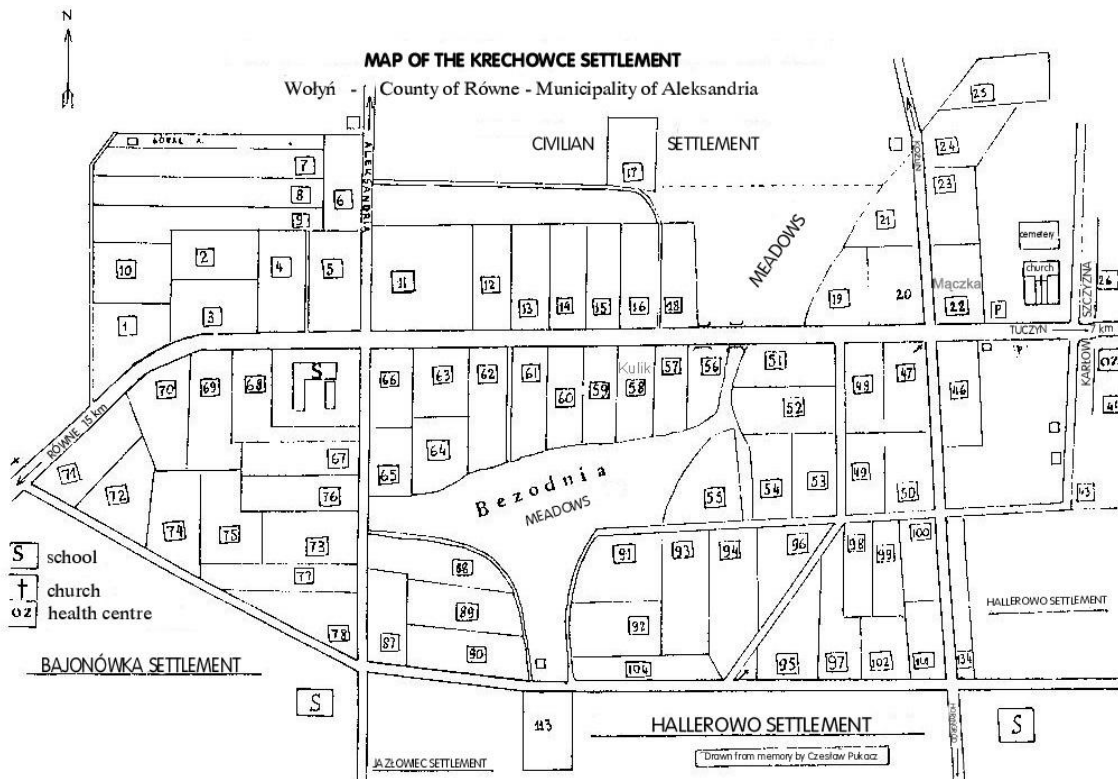
<u>No.</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>Name</u>
134.	wachm.	Jan Dabrowski

Approximate English Translations of Ranks:

<u>Rank.</u>	<u>Rank</u> <u>Abrev.</u>	<u>Translation</u>
kapral	kpr.	Corporal
major	Mjr	Major
plutonowy	plut.	Lance- sergeant
podporucznik	ppor.	2 nd Lieutenant
porucznik	por.	Lieutenant
rotmistrz	rtm.	Captain (Cavalry)
starszy ułan	st. uł.	Lancer 1 st Class
starszy wachmistrz	st. wachm.	Sergeant 1 st Class
ułan	uł.	Lancer
wachmistrz	wachm.	Sergeant

(Not all ranks are known)

p.s the missing numbers belong to civilian settlers, there were 20 plots of 5 hectares on the edges of the Osada. No details available.



Plan drawn from memory by Czesław Pukacz



Joy and Strength Holiday

The annual "Song and Physical Education Holiday for Youth" housed in the dormitories of the Alliance of Settlers taking place from 15-17 May of this year in Równe was a time for great joy and pride, full of uplifting experiences for the town of Równe and the whole region.

"The Song and Physical Education Holiday" that brought together youth from settlements from all over Poland coincided with the 15th Anniversary of the establishment of the Alliance of Settlers in the Counties of Równe and Kostopol. The Anniversary ceremonies, included in the general program of activities of the Song and Physical Education Holiday, enhanced the convention, and underscored the role of hosts played by the Alliance of Settlers in Równe. Many honored guests attended, most important of which were Mr. H Józewski the Premier of the Province of Wołyń and Brigade General Smorawicki

Of course, the focus of the day was the youth. There were boys and girls from Wilno, Warszawa, Brześć, Grodno, Lida and Nowogródek (Wołyń, No. 21, 1937)



1 Pułk Ułanów Krechowieckich: 1st Regiment of Col. Bolesław Mościcki known as the Regiment of the Krechowce Lancers ó Augustów

- Regimental colours: amaranth on white pennant.
- Hats: four-corner hats with amaranth coloured rims.
- "Zawsze dzielni, wszędzie znani, Krechowccy to ułani" (Always brave, known everywhere, Krechowians are lancers)"
- Regimental day ó July 24 (anniversary of the battle at Krechowce in 1917)



Web Links

Krechowce Lancers (in Polish) - <http://krechowiacy.republika.pl/>

Osada Krechowiecka (in Polish) - <http://www.wolyn.ovh.org/opisy/karlowszczyzna-08.html>