

From the acclaimed website of

Tweedsmuir Military Camp

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You can access the website using
www.TweedsmuirMilitaryCamp.Co.Uk

News of the **Tweedsmuir Camp Exhibition** at
the Rural Life Centre in Surrey, England

Press Release



14 August 2010

Tweedsmuir Camp Exhibition - Polish displaced people in Surrey after World War Two

(A history project endorsed by the Polish Embassy in London)

The administrators of Tweedsmuir Military Camp website, Wies and Zen Rogalski, are pleased to announce that they have secured lottery funding to erect a permanent exhibition that celebrates the history of Tweedsmuir Camp near Thursley in the county of Surrey, England, which was built by the Royal Canadian Engineers in 1941.

During the Second World War the camp acted as a Canadian depot, returning to Canada non-effective Canadian Army personnel and from 1943 to 1944 'clearing' American troops for enlistment into the United States Army. Between 1947 and 1960 the camp was used as temporary accommodation for personnel of the Polish Resettlement Corps (PRC) and their dependants.

The intention is to take the exhibition on tour to a number of national as well as local venues prior to erecting it permanently at the Rural Life Centre, an open air museum in close proximity to the site of what once was Tweedsmuir Camp. The following are examples of anticipated project outcomes:

- Construction of a building reminiscent of the timber barracks that once existed in Tweedsmuir Camp to house the exhibition at the Rural Life Centre.
- A DVD record of the site's history and interviews with Polish people who lived in the camp as family members of PRC personnel.
- A booklet outlining the camp's history and personal accounts of living in the camp written by ex-Canadian Army personnel and Polish people.
- Photographs from Canadian sources, notably the Lorne Scots Museum in Ontario, Canada and Polish private collections as well as the Polish Institute and Sikorski Museum, Kensington.
- Conservation of historical material that will be archived at the Surrey History Centre for future researchers.
- Collation of documents procured from the National Archives, Canadian Archives, Polish Institute and Sikorski Museum, Secretts as well as private collections.
- The legislative procedures used by the Attlee government to disperse personnel from the Polish Forces within the UK after the war and compare this with present day legislation to include features such as human rights and living in a diverse world.

Stuart McLeod, Head of the Heritage Lottery Fund in the South East said: "This exhibition promises to be fascinating. It will enhance public understanding of personal experiences of living at Tweedsmuir Camp, whilst simultaneously bringing alive the distinctive heritage, culture and traditions of the Polish community for locals and visitors alike."

Major contributors to the project will be the Heritage Lottery Fund, the Rural Life Centre, local Polish and English communities, Surrey History Centre, Polish Institute and Sikorski Museum, Ascot Timber Buildings, and Secretts. A number of individual contributions will augment the project. Further details about project contributors will be posted periodically on the Tweedsmuir Military Camp website.

Read more about the project by linking to [Current Projects](#) on this website.

A Lottery Funded Project Directed By Wies and Zen Rogalski