

## **The Polish Soldiers who settled in the UK**

Text of an article by Surrey Polish journalist Greg Bozcar, published 3 May 2013 and available online at <http://www.mojawyspa.co.uk/artykuly/30149/O-polskich-zolnierzach-osiadlych-w-UK>

Tweedsmuir Camp resettlement camp in Surrey, which for several years has been home to Polish soldiers and their families after World War II. The history of this place brings exposure in Surrey History Centre in Woking.

After the war, thousands of Polish soldiers decided not to return (or could not do) to their homeland, which was in the hands of the Communists. Those who were able to settle in the UK, were located in former military bases - such as Tweedsmuir, lying next to the village of Thursley in Surrey. During the war it belonged to the Canadians, and later, by the end of the 50s, served eighty-Polish families who found a place where the traumatic experiences of war could be substituted for a normal life.

At the exhibition in Woking, you can read about the everyday life of residents of Tweedsmuir. The display is modest: an outline of history of the camp, replicas of a dozen or so photos and documents, the original outfit folk donated to the by Jadwiga Seredyńska, made in the camp by her father, plus a DVD to watch on the spot.

This is a typical part of the display. Part of permanent exhibition on the Polish communities in the Tweedsmuir, which since last year is at the Rural Life Centre in Tilford - says Di Stiff from Surrey History Centre. Many Poles living in Surrey, especially of the younger generation, will not have heard about the post-war camp. The idea is to promote the permanent exhibition as much as possible and give exposure to the project. To do this the display has been shown in the surrounding towns and was at Godalming Museum and now it is here with us. I know that the museum in Tilford is organizing the Polish Day in May.

That permanent exhibition in Tilford was opened last year, as a result of the project brothers Wies and Zen Rogalski who were born in a Polish military camp and gathered all the material on Tweedsmuir.

Mini-exhibition at the Surrey History Centre in Woking will last until April 27 2013, admission free. Polish Day in the Rural Life Centre in Tilford is scheduled for May 19, 10-17hrs (museum tickets for the price of £6 to £8.50, family-£26) in the program, our familiar music, food and beer, and the stories of those years.

Text and photos by Gregory Boczar, <http://www.MojaWyspa.co.uk>



Di Stiff from Surrey Heritage with Polish national costume donated to the Tweedsmuir Project by Hedwig Seredyńska.

**DISCHARGE CERTIFICATE.** Army Form D100J  
(If this CERTIFICATE is lost no duplicate can be obtained.)

1. Army No. <b>30079418</b>	2. Surname <b>MODZELAN</b>	
3. First Names <b>EDWARD</b>		
4. Effective Date of Discharge <b>4 - FEB 1949</b>	5. Corps from which Discharged <b>PRC</b>	6. Rank on Discharge <b>S/Sgt.</b>
7. Service with the Colours <b>1</b> Years <b>342</b> Days	8. Service on Class W(T) Reserve <b>-</b> Years <b>24</b> Days	9. Total Service <b>2</b> Years <b>-</b> Days
10. Cause of Discharge <small>U.S. 1949 (para. 1182d). The service being longer required on completion of service.</small>		
11. Campaigns and Service Abroad		
12. Attestation <b>WITLEY CAMP</b> <b>SUP'T'S OFFICE</b> <b>20 FEB 1949</b> <b>64331 J. MODZIELAN</b>	13. Military Conduct <b>Exemplary</b> <b>Edward Modzelan S/Sgt.</b> Signature and Rank, Officer i/c Records.	
Date <b>4 FEB 1949</b>	Place <b>WITLEY</b>	
<b>POLISH RESETTLEMENT CORPS</b> <b>RECORD OFFICE</b> <b>4-FEB-1949</b> <b>WITLEY CAMP</b>		

(S.11638) 588,000  
Hw. 1.47 G.9992

Discharge certificate for Edward Modzelan (former resident at Tweedsmuir Camp), issued in the former Polish Resettlement Corps camp, Witley, 1949 (SHC ref 9196/1/3/9).