

## Conference: History of the British in Westphalia. Encounters - Relations - History (1945-2020)

**Date:** 9.-11.3.2017

**Location:** University of Paderborn, Warburger Str. 100, 33098 Paderborn

**Organiser:** University of Paderborn, Institute of History, Chair for Contemporary History;  
Association for Westphalian History and Archaeology

An era has come to an end: By 2020, the British Armed Forces will have finally left Westphalia. The military bases had diverse impacts on different areas of public life including the political, cultural, social, and economic developments within the former British occupation zone. A lot of questions arise from this issue: How did the soldiers, officers and families stationed in German towns and regions perceive the area? How and where could Germans and Britons meet and to what extent did they actually seize these opportunities? Which social conflicts existed in the garrison towns, which debates arose due to the British presence, and how were these problems approached and solved? Did the occupation and stationing policies differ from those of the Americans, French or Soviets?

To answer these questions, further extensive and systematic studies are required. Therefore, the conference "Britons in Westphalia" is devised as a forum where various aspects of the British occupation and stationing regimes will be presented and discussed. The period of time taken into consideration includes the years of occupation as well as the more recent years of the troop stationing within the framework of NATO, and up until the withdrawal of troops and the conversion of military properties.

Thus, the scope of interaction and the relationships between the occupying and the occupied will be scrutinised. Additionally, questions will be raised as to how those relationships changed during the transformation from occupying to residential forces, and which structures and processes permanently influenced the cities and regions. The thoughts are geographically focussed on Westphalia.

The conference provides the opportunity to discuss new fields of research from a historical, sociological, political or cultural study perspective and also in comparison to the situation in the other occupation zones and stationing regimes respectively. The conference contributions are planned to be published in the series "Studies and Sources of the Westphalian History".

The conference is part of the project "Britons in Westphalia. 1945-2020": It is a research and exhibition project that covers a 75-year-long relationship.

It is initiated and delivered by the City of Paderborn in cooperation with the Landschaftsverband Westfalen-Lippe, the Association for Westphalian History and Archaeology, the University of Paderborn – Chair for Contemporary History and the Association of East-Westphalian Archives, and with the support of the British Forces Germany. It is partially funded by the LWL-Kulturstiftung Westfalen-Lippe and the Ministry for Family, Children, Youth, Culture and Sport of the federal state NRW – regional cultural and educational policy NRW. [www.briten-in-westfalen.de](http://www.briten-in-westfalen.de)