

STUDIUM POLSKI PODZIEMNEJ THE POLISH UNDERGROUND MOVEMENT (1939-1945) STUDY TRUST

www.polishresistance-archive.org

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History's new future

THOUSANDS of original Polish Second World War documents will be electronically stored thanks to a cash grant.

The Polish Underground Movement (1939 to 1945) Study Trust (PUMST) based in Leopold Road, Ealing, has been awarded a grant of £49,800 so that most of the 70,000 documents held by the trust can be safeguarded for the future.

Dr Kristopher Stolinski, chairman of PUMST, was delighted to receive the grant which he believes will benefit members of the borough's thriving Polish community. He said: "The documents will be processed electronically and then stored on suitable recording media to be viewed on computer monitors.

"The proposed procedures will

by **USHMA MISTRY**

not only make the documents more accessible but will also reduce handling, which under normal circumstances results in the deterioration of paper and on-viewing fading of the text."

Some of the documents held by the PUMST record the Allied struggle against the Germans and include deciphered radio messages exchanged between the commanders and individual fighting units of the Polish Secret Army and the Commander in Chief of the Polish Forces in Britain.

Former soldiers or members of their families looking for details about their past can find them in the archive personal paper collections held by the PUMST.

Dr Stolinski, added: "Acade-

mics and students of history of many nationalities, who study this period of modern history, find our documents of prime importance in their research.

"The electronic search systems will eventually make it much easier to find the requested documents, which relate to the persons whose details are requested."

Cllr Barbara Yerolemou, a member of Ealing's Polish community and shadow cabinet member for finance, welcomed the news of the grant.

She told the Times: "I think it's wonderful. For years and years the PUMST have just beavoured away in their own time preserving history and now they have got public acknowledgement and some funds for all their hard work."



Memories: members of the PUMST and (inset) an historic photograph

