

A black and white aerial photograph of a city, likely Cambridge, Massachusetts. The image shows a dense urban layout with a river winding through it. A prominent feature is a large, circular stadium or arena on the left side. The city is surrounded by green spaces and trees. The overall scene is a detailed view of urban infrastructure and natural elements.

NCAP

RCAHMS NATIONAL COLLECTION
OF AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHY

**Aerial Photography,
Geoinformation
& Air Intelligence**

One of the world's largest
collections of historical
aerial photography.

WHAT IS NCAP?

The National Collection of Aerial Photography – NCAP – is one of the world’s largest and most significant collections of aerial photography.



NCAP holds millions of aerial photographs, declassified by the UK Ministry of Defence, of places around the world. Created during the Second World War, and throughout the Cold War, the photography provides a detailed and unique perspective on key moments in world history. Alongside the extensive holdings of peacetime aerial survey work, which record many Commonwealth countries in their entirety, NCAP imagery records change across much of the world.

NCAP supplies historical aerial photography in mono or three dimensional formats, as seamless mosaics, with associated geo-information, imagery analysis and historical records.

In addition to its own holdings, NCAP can provide copies of imagery and intelligence documents sourced from other specialist archives, and Government agencies, around the world.

Used by environmental consultants, the media and private researchers, NCAP imagery is an essential tool for bomb disposal, the identification of contaminated land and historical research. High resolution digital images, copied from the original prints and films, are delivered electronically to customer specifications.



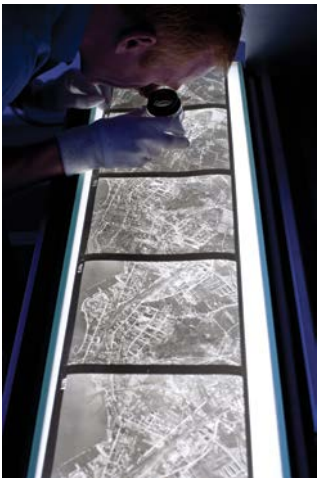
OUR IMAGE RECORDS

Cologne, Germany, throughout the Second World War.



PRODUCTS & SERVICES

NCAP aerial photography is an unparalleled source of information for understanding the environment of the past and its legacy for today. Please contact us, and arrange a consultation with one of our experts, to discuss your specific business requirements and establish contact with your dedicated business manager.



Features

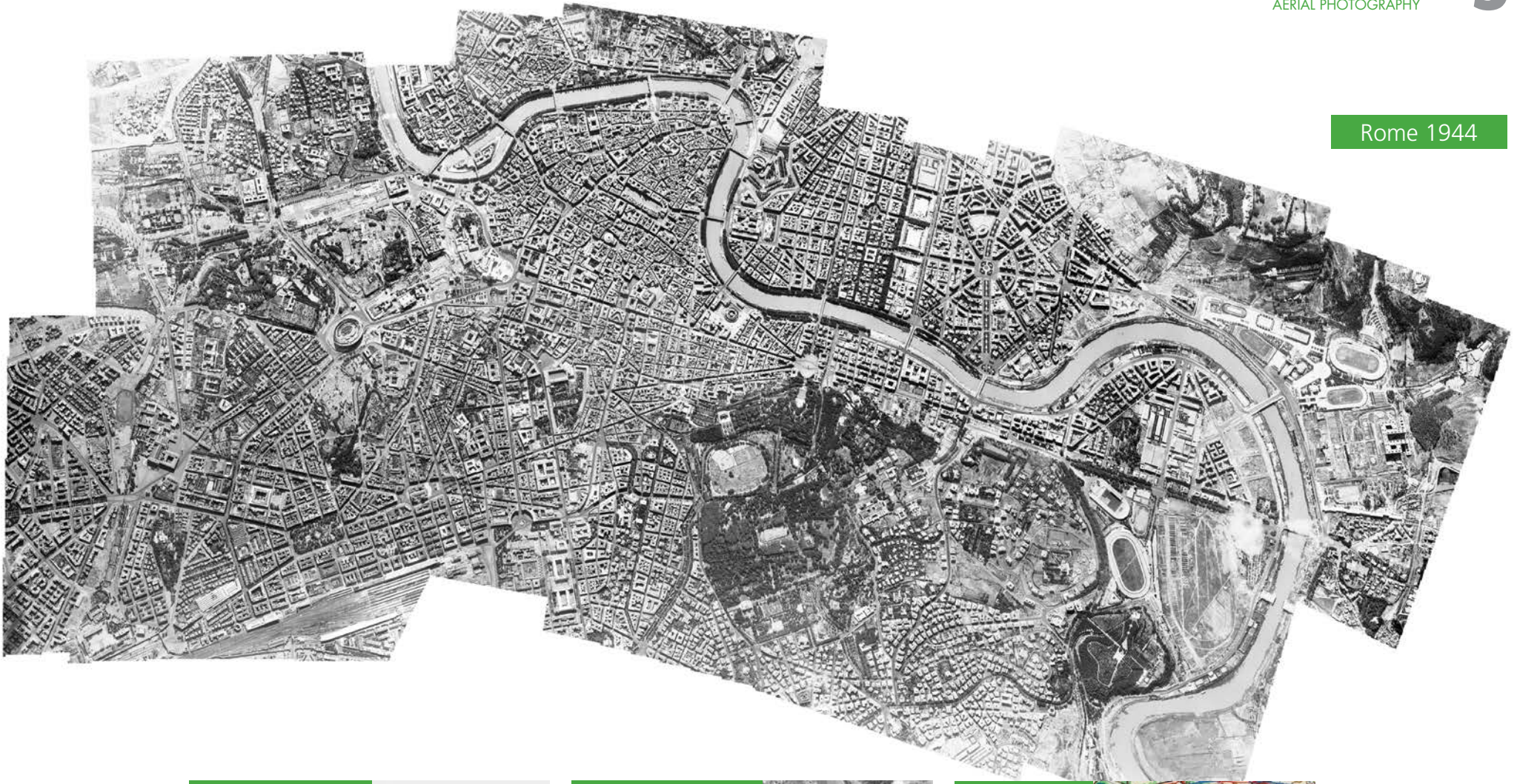
- Over 10 million Second World War aerial photographs
- Sources include RAF, USAAF, German Luftwaffe, RCAF, SAAF, Directorate of Overseas Surveys
- Imagery available at 50cm resolution, with some urban areas available at higher resolution
- Mosaics
- Access to British and American Air Intelligence records
- Photographic interpretation reports
- British and American Military Mapping

Applications

- Unexploded Ordnance risk assessment
- Assessment of site use legacy
- Identifying potentially contaminated land
- Land use change analysis
- Climate change research
- Property boundary disputes
- International boundaries research
- Historical map verification
- Insurance risk assessment
- Policy planning
- Cultural history
- Media
- Animation, multi-media and 3D applications



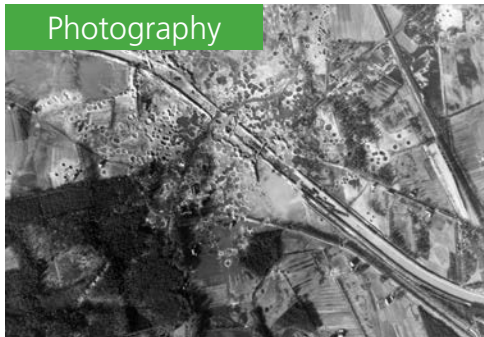
Rome 1944



Intelligence

| SECRET OPERATIONS RECORD BOOK | | | | | | | | | |
|-------------------------------|-------|------|----------|-------------|---------|------------|---------|---------|---------|
| Time | Date | Area | Altitude | Time of Day | Weather | Visibility | Remarks | Remarks | Remarks |
| 10:00 | 10/10 | 1000 | 1000 | 10:00 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 |
| 10:05 | 10/10 | 1000 | 1000 | 10:05 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 |
| 10:10 | 10/10 | 1000 | 1000 | 10:10 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 |
| 10:15 | 10/10 | 1000 | 1000 | 10:15 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 |
| 10:20 | 10/10 | 1000 | 1000 | 10:20 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 |
| 10:25 | 10/10 | 1000 | 1000 | 10:25 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 |
| 10:30 | 10/10 | 1000 | 1000 | 10:30 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 |
| 10:35 | 10/10 | 1000 | 1000 | 10:35 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 |
| 10:40 | 10/10 | 1000 | 1000 | 10:40 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 |
| 10:45 | 10/10 | 1000 | 1000 | 10:45 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 |
| 10:50 | 10/10 | 1000 | 1000 | 10:50 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 |
| 10:55 | 10/10 | 1000 | 1000 | 10:55 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 |
| 11:00 | 10/10 | 1000 | 1000 | 11:00 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 |

Photography



Mapping



AIR SURVEY

NCAP holds extensive amounts of aerial survey photography of countries from the mid 1940s to the late 1980s.

To inform their development and administration, air surveys were systematically flown to provide a complete and accurate knowledge of these countries, their size, boundaries and the natural and developed areas within their borders.

Flown during peacetime, the vertical aerial photographs created during these air surveys record the development and growth of large parts of Europe, the Middle East, Far East, the islands of the Caribbean, Atlantic and Pacific Oceans and the continent of Africa.



Big Bend, Swaziland.

Suez Crisis.

1956



RECONNAISSANCE PHOTOGRAPHY

NCAP holds over 10 million aerial photographs taken during the Second World War flown by Allied Air Forces and captured from the German Luftwaffe.

Throughout the Cold War, operating from bases throughout the world, photographic reconnaissance missions informed UK Government foreign policy. This vital intelligence was central to many British and NATO military and humanitarian operations when created, and now represents a vital record of history and change.

Image left: El-Qantara el-Sharqiya, Egypt.

EXPLOSIVE ORDNANCE DISPOSAL

NCAP imagery is used by Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) experts across Europe to assess, manage and mitigate the risks from unexploded ordnance.

During the Second World War, millions of tonnes of bombs were dropped by the Allies. It is estimated that between 10% and 15% failed to explode. Today, many of these are still present underground or underwater and pose a significant risk to life and safety.

The images to the right show the impact of the attack on the German city of Darmstadt, by Bomber Command, on 11 September 1944.





CREATIVE USES

NCAP works with partners throughout the world, including documentary makers and computer software companies, who feature our imagery and services in their products.

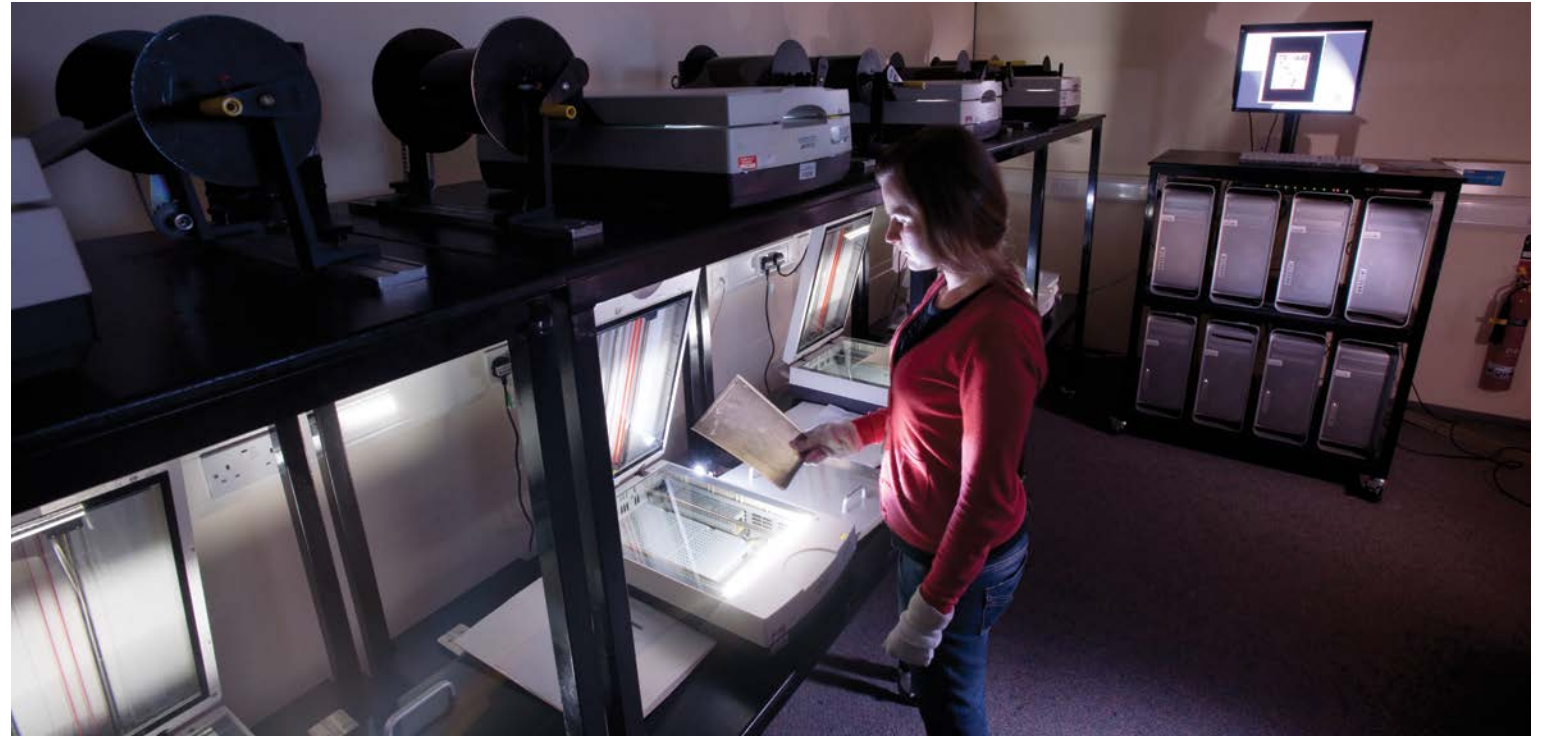
The historic aerial imagery in NCAP records many key moments of world history as they happened. From unique coverage of the D-Day Landings and the hunt for secret German weapon installations to concentration camps, the creative industry has used NCAP imagery to provide authenticity to their productions.

Top right: ITV Foyle's War.

DIGITAL IMAGING

Our extensive digital imaging facilities are used to create high-quality digital copies of the wide range of photographic and paper records held.

For ultra-high resolution digital imaging we operate a suite of photogrammetric scanners, that capture the geometry of the original aerial film and prints to micron levels of accuracy. To ensure the highest quality reproduction all our photography is fully conserved before digitisation is undertaken. An express service is available for customers who need imagery without delay.



KEY NCAP CONTACTS



Allan Williams has been Curator of NCAP for over 10 years. A graduate in spatial planning from Heriot-Watt University, he works on the declassification of Ministry of Defence imagery, and has led the associated growth of NCAP. Allan regularly works with the media

– including the BBC and Discovery Network – and in 2013, Random House published his book *Operation Crossbow*, on the history of photographic intelligence.



Kevin McLaren is an imagery analyst with over 15 years experience working with aerial photography. Responsible for Customer Services, Website Subscribers and the development of content on the NCAP website.

Kevin is a graduate of the University of Edinburgh in geology, and the UK armed forces Joint School of Photographic Interpretation.



Andreas Buchholz is a geoinformation specialist and geography graduate from the University of Würzburg, with private sector experience working in bomb disposal consultancy. Responsible for NCAP Geoinformation Products and Services, Andreas

manages a portfolio of major clients, and leads the development of NCAP Imagery Production, one of the largest digitisation facilities in the UK.



Alan Potts is a digital imaging specialist with over 25 years experience in the public and private sectors. An expert in digitisation techniques and image enhancement, Alan is responsible for the digitisation team that use rostrum cameras, flatbed scanners and

photogrammetric imaging systems, to supply imagery to customer specifications.

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OF AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHY

Front Cover: Rome, Italy, 1944

3D Anaglyph: Edinburgh Castle, 1961

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RCAHMS

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