

# NCAP

NATIONAL COLLECTION  
OF AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHY

Welcome to the NCAP Newsletter - Spring 2017, which aims to keep our subscribers informed of new releases and upcoming projects here at NCAP.

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## NEWS

### UK Aerial Image Pack launched



New for 2017, the UK Aerial Image Pack is a one-stop image solution. It rolls a search, film retrieval, high-resolution image scan and authentication into one order, delivered within 10 working days, at an all-in price of £150 plus VAT.



STAFF CONDUCTING IMAGE SEARCH, NCAP

## NEWSLETTER – SPRING 2017

Using the postcode or grid reference of a customer's location of interest, our staff select an image from our extensive holdings of UK aerial photography which best matches the customer's requirements.

The UK Aerial Image Pack consists of:

- Image Search
- High resolution 1200 dpi digital image
- Retrieval of original film from storage
- Letter of Authenticity
- Faster, 10-working day delivery

### Operation COMET



NIJMEGEN RAIL BRIDGE

Low-level aerial photographs are now accessible on our website of three Dutch bridges photographed in advance of Operation Comet in 1944. This was to have been a parachute and glider assault by British airborne troops to capture all three bridges, at Grave, Nijmegen and Arnhem.

The operation was superseded by Market Garden – a much larger affair, and featured in the 1977 film *A Bridge Too Far*.

Pilots from 541 Squadron, RAF, were detailed to collect oblique photographs of the bridges on 6 September 1944. All three made daring low-level passes over their targets before returning to base at RAF Benson, Oxfordshire.



GRAVE ROAD BRIDGE

## Houston, Texas

Our most recent image upload includes 180 aerial images of Houston, Texas. Dating from September 1993, the images cover locations in and around the city.



RADIAL DISPLACEMENT OF SKYSCRAPERS, HOUSTON

The view of central Houston, above, illustrates the effect known as 'radial displacement'. This occurs when tall buildings seem to lean outwards from the centre of the photograph.



COOLING VENTS, HOUSTON

This image shows an unusual form of forced-draft air cooling at a coal-fired power station in Houston.



LOG FLUME AT ASTROWORLD THEME PARK, HOUSTON

The image above captures the moment of impact, as a log-canoe hits a pool of water at the end of a ride at Astroworld. This theme park closed in 2005 and the site was subsequently cleared. It remains unused to this day.

## PR Pilots at Rest

To check that the film loaded into a PR Spitfire at RAF Benson on 6 September 1944 was winding correctly, the first frame was exposed. The pilot then flew to Grave, the Netherlands, on a dangerous high-speed, low-level mission to photograph the bridge there. Returning safely to base, his film then

revealed a contrasting picture of calm and relaxation recorded before his departure.



AIRMEN AND PR SPITFIRES, RAF BENSON

Two airmen can be seen, surveying the airfield, with Spitfires dispersed around the perimeter. Parked nearby is an open-topped, two-seater sports car, the off-duty mount of one of those Spitfire pilots.



## Finding Aids Approach 4 Million

This spring we uploaded 2,185 finding aids to Second World War aerial photography of Europe to our website. These allow subscribers to **Zoomable Images and Finding Aids** to search for, locate and identify a further 498,000 aerial photographs which exist but have not yet been digitised.

This means that researchers can now search for, and identify over 3,947,000 aerial photographs of locations across Europe.



We plan to finish uploading all of our catalogued finding aids for Europe to our website by the summer of 2017. We will then turn our attention to un-catalogued finding aids of locations across the world.

## Genealogy and Finding Aids

Finding aids can also be used to identify individuals.

In the key to the finding aid for sortie AC/1165, sortie plot ACIU 29623 (below), the pilot who flew the mission is identified as Warrant Officer Chalk, of 16 Squadron, RAF.

Also noted in the lower right-hand corner; is the plotter, who annotated the base map with the ground coverage of the photographs taken – Lance Corporal Davidson, of the Army Photographic Interpretation Section (APIS) of 21 Army Group.

