

NCAP

NATIONAL COLLECTION
OF AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHY

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

NEWS

Finding Aids released



Over the winter, 552 finding aids to Second World War aerial photography of locations across Europe were uploaded to the NCAP website. These allow subscribers to **Zoomable Images and Finding Aids** to search for, locate and identify a further 120,362 aerial photographs which exist but have not yet been digitised.

Over 19,800 finding aids can now be examined on our website, unlocking access to 3,267,000 aerial photographs. We plan to upload the remaining catalogued finding aids for Europe to our website by the summer of 2017. We will then turn our attention to uncatalogued finding aids of locations across the world.

NEWSLETTER – WINTER 2017

Missing Pilot Found



Aircraft crash site (NCAP-000-000-030-953)

The remains of a US pilot, lost in action on 27 May 1944, may have been found thanks to an aerial photograph on the NCAP website.

P-47 Thunderbolt pilot, Lt Frank Fazekas, was posted missing when his aircraft was shot down near Buyssecheure, in northern France. In May 2016, a team from the University of Wisconsin-Madison, searching in France, were alerted to the image by the US Department of Defence POW/MIA Accounting Agency.

Using the photograph, which was taken two days after Lt Fazekas was lost, they were able to home-in on the crash site, visible on the image as an impact crater and ground scar. Aircraft wreckage and human remains were discovered. The remains, believed to be those of Lt Fazekas, are now undergoing DNA testing.

Photogrammetric Expansion

In recent months, we have expanded our digitisation suite and now operate one of the

largest facilities of photogrammetric imaging systems in Europe.



VEXCEL ULTRASCAN 5000

These specialist instruments are designed to digitally capture the geometry of original aerial films, diapositives and prints to micron levels of accuracy. We are able to supply our customers with ultra-high resolution digital copies, with which they can generate extremely accurate datasets for use in their own projects and geo-products.

We operate eight photogrammetric imaging systems in our Edinburgh facility, and a further two in our Washington, DC, digitisation unit. Most of these systems are capable of detecting the edges of a frame, digitising it at resolutions of up to 7-microns, and automatically winding the film to the next frame. This means we can digitise whole rolls of survey-standard aerial film with minimal intervention.



WEHRLI RM-6 AUTOSCANNER

Our equipment is located in a clean, dust-free environment and is regularly calibrated and serviced by the official engineers for each system, ensuring that they remain accurate and efficient.

We use an automatic film-cleaner to remove unwanted particles of dust from the film before it is scanned.



SCANATRON CLEAN-1000 automatic film cleaner

Preserving Historical Aerial Prints

Many of our aerial photograph prints date from the Second World War. Processed rapidly, many were never washed properly and have become curled over the intervening decades of storage.



To tackle these legacy conservation issues, we clean and humidify prints before pressing them for several days, in order to flatten them before scanning. This ensures the best quality digital copy is made. We then re-house them in new, acid-free boxes, to help them survive for decades to come.