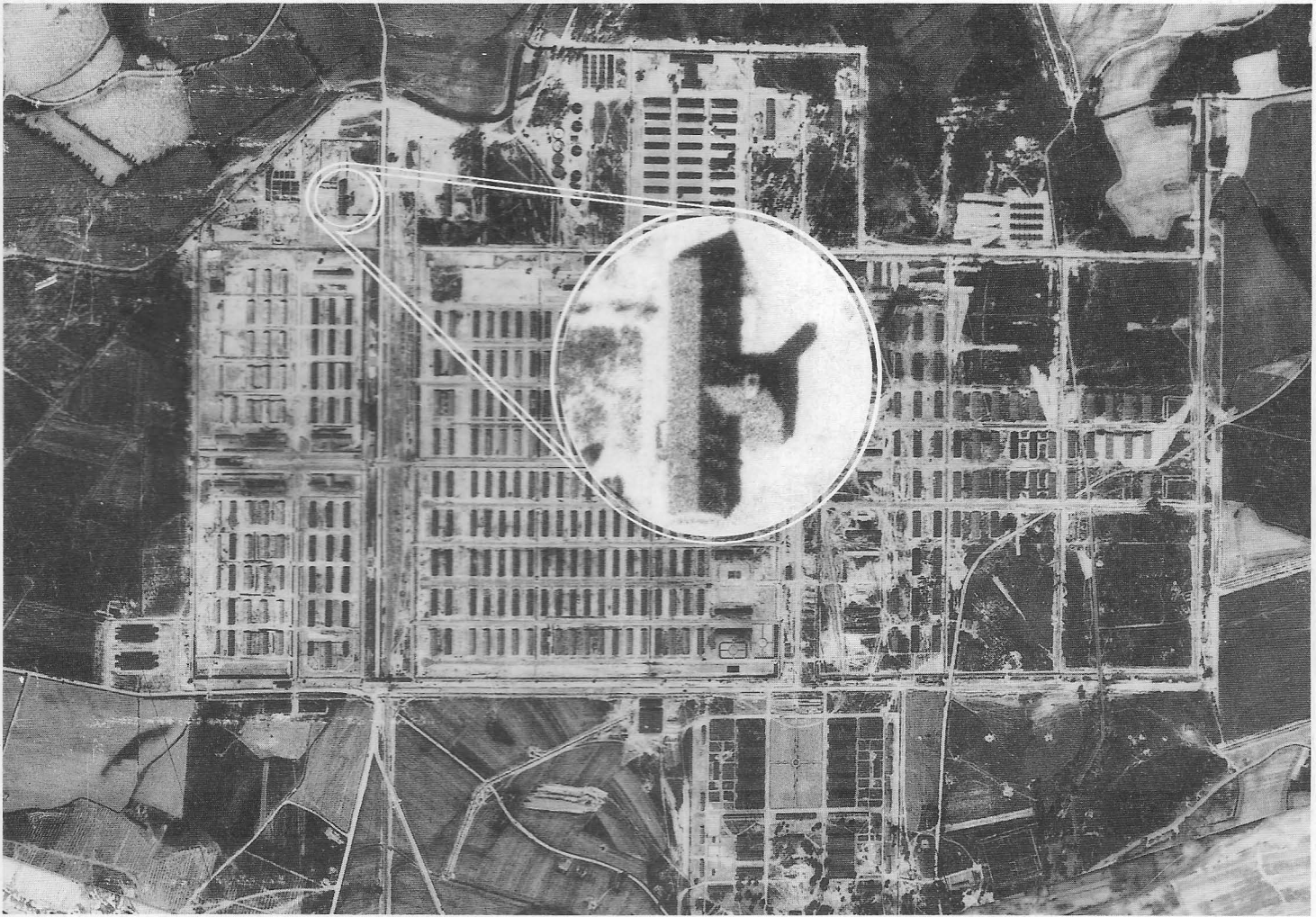


Air Photo Evidence

Auschwitz, Treblinka, Majdanek, Sobibor,
Bergen Belsen, Belzec, Babi Yar, Katyn Forest



World War II photos of alleged *mass murder* camps !

Does evidence *confirm* or *dismiss* eye witness stories ?

Were *gas chamber* marks put on by *C.I.A. workers* ?

by

John C. Ball

Corrections:

pg. 6-"Photo 1-July '40" = "Photo 1-July '43"

pg. 13-Photo 4: "...just eight weeks..." = "...just fourteen weeks..."

pg. 43-Photo 9: "...of photo 8" = "...of photo 7"

pg. 51-(photo scale) "10 meters/33 ft." = "30 m./100 ft."

- (text) "...80 meters/260 ft." = "...260 m./850 ft."

pg. 52 and 53-(photo scale) "28 m./90 ft." = "90 m./300 ft."

pg.69-Photo 1: The chimneys were "small and round" = "rectangular"

pg. 74-Photo 4: "...anti-aircraft emplacements" = "...smoke cannisters"

pg. 88-Photo 12 (last line) "...May 25th, '44" = "...May 25th, '40"

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Ball Resource Services Limited
Delta, B.C, Canada

Air photos:

- (1) I selected the 1939 to 1945 air photos of Europe and western Russia during April and May, 1992 from the collection at the U. S. National Archives Air Photo Library in Alexandria, Virginia,
- (2) The photos were interpreted in Vancouver using a Yena Interpreterscope and a table stereo viewing magnifier, and
- (3) I then enlarged selected photos using a Pro Lab 4 x 5 inch enlarger, and had them scanned for publication at 150 lines per inch.

Acknowledgement:

I wish to thank the staff at the National Archives Air Photo Library for their patient assistance in helping me locate the photographs reproduced in this book.

Irony of using *German* air photos:

It is ironic that 1/2 of the air photos in this book, which are being used to determine the truth about accusations that Germans systematically murdered people in detention camps, are those which were exposed by the *German* military from 1939 to '45 when they were taking photos of targets such as railway lines and access roads.

Air photos taken from 1939 to '45 by the Americans and British are only available for *Auschwitz* and *Bergen Belsen*; all of the other 1939 to '45 photos in this book were exposed by Zeiss Yena cameras in German airforce planes.

A brief history:

Residence: I have lived in British Columbia, Canada almost all my life and now live in Delta, just outside of Vancouver.

Training: In 1981 I received a Bachelor of Science degree in Geology from the University of British Columbia.

Air photo experience: With my work as a mineral exploration geologist I have interpreted air photos using stereo magnifying equipment since 1976.

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Introduction:

1. Objective when I started research:

My objective was to *analyze* aerial photographs of World War II German controlled detention camps in Poland for evidence to confirm the claims that mass murders, burials, and cremations had been conducted there, and to *compare* this evidence with information from other locations where mass executions or deaths together with mass burials had occurred.

2. Method:

I reviewed the books listed in the references and then compared these allegations for each of the alleged mass murder camps with the evidence revealed from studying the air photos. Enlargements were made of important pictures.

3. Chapter arrangement:

Chaper 2 to 4 reviews areas like the *Katyn Forest* where mass burials occurred, **chapter 5** reveals air photo evidence about whether mass murders and cremations were being conducted at *Auschwitz* or *Birkenau*, **chapter 5.4** shows evidence which I believe proves marks were added to 1944 Auschwitz air photos before their public release in 1979, and **chapter 6 to 10** shows the alleged Treblinka, Belzec, and Sobibor camps from 1940 to '44 and the Babi Yar ravine as it looked in 1943.

4. Nothing is hidden from air photos:

Looking at the air photos will be just as if we went back in time to World War II to take a series of airplane flights over the different areas.

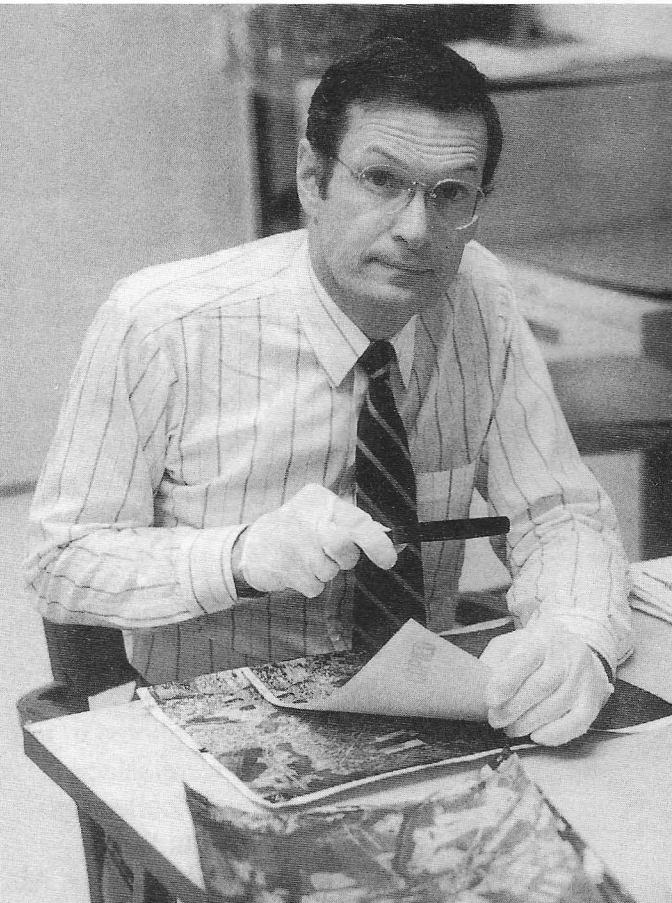


Photo 1: Myself looking at a few of the 1.2 million *German* air photo prints in the American National Archives collection from which 1/2 the photos in this book are taken.

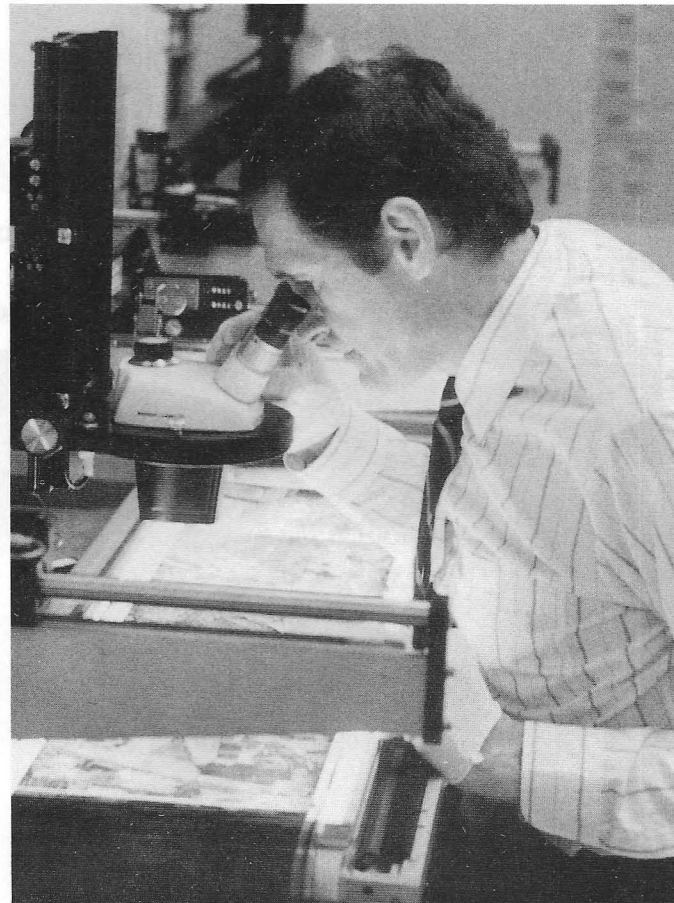


Photo 2: Using a microscope to inspect one of the thousands of rolls of 23 centimeter (9 inch) negatives taken by the *American* military from which the other 1/2 of the photos are taken.

Chapter 1

The development of World War II aerial photography

During the 1930's German technicians pioneered the development of aerial photography cameras, high quality lenses, and viewing equipment. From 1939 to '45 they compiled millions of air photos from flights over Europe and western Russia. Photo interpreters monitored military equipment and troop movements while using stereo viewing magnifiers, which give a 3-dimensional effect by looking at two photos taken one after the other that both photographed the same area on the ground.

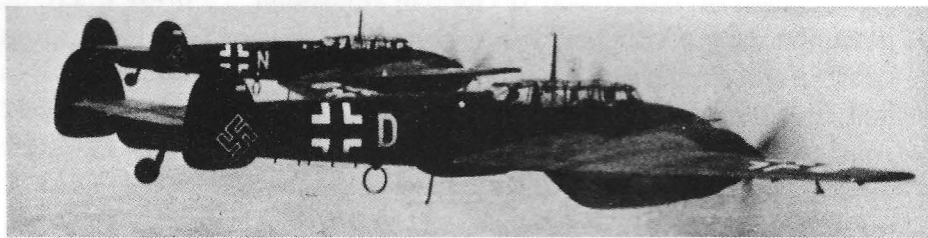


Photo 1: A Messerschmitt 110 twin engine air photo plane.



Photo 2: A Lublin, Poland train station map drawn on an air photo.

Air photos from American library which were taken by Germans are in this book



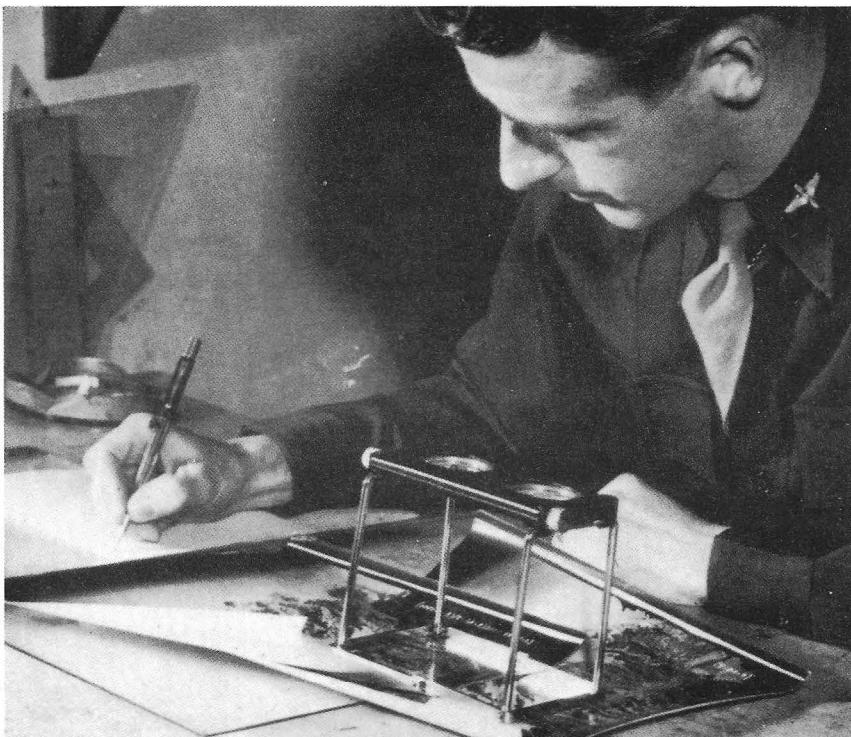
Photo 3 - After 1945: Americans looking through a German made stereo viewing magnifier which also allows two people to view at the same time.

At the end of the war the American military seized truckloads of German air photo prints and sent them to the U.S. where 1.2 million were released to the public during the 1980's. The German photos in this book were selected from the collection stocked at the National Archives Air Photo library at Alexandria, Virginia, U.S.A.

American and British air photo development

American and British air photo reconnaissance and interpretation developed from being almost non-existent in 1939 to a well equipped and top priority program by 1943. Bombing targets such as communications centers, railway stations, power plants, factories, and city centers were photographed and the developed 23 centimeter (9 inch) prints were studied at field offices and at the large Medmenham interpretation center near London, England where the Americans and British worked together.

Photo 4: (right) A U.S. Army interpreter writes a report while using a stereo viewing magnifier.



Faster higher aircraft combined with larger focal length cameras by 1943

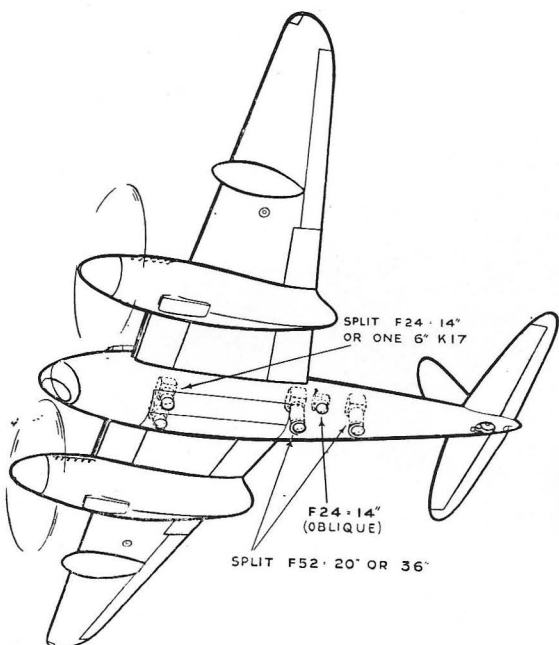
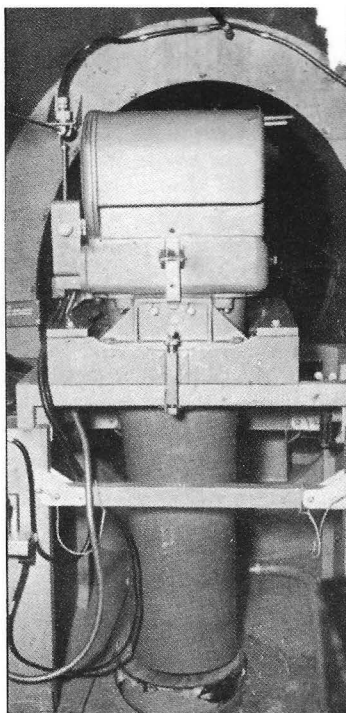


Photo 5: (above) Camera locations in the Mosquito. Photo 6: (right) A 36 inch (90 centimeter) camera in position that could obtain large scale images from high elevations.



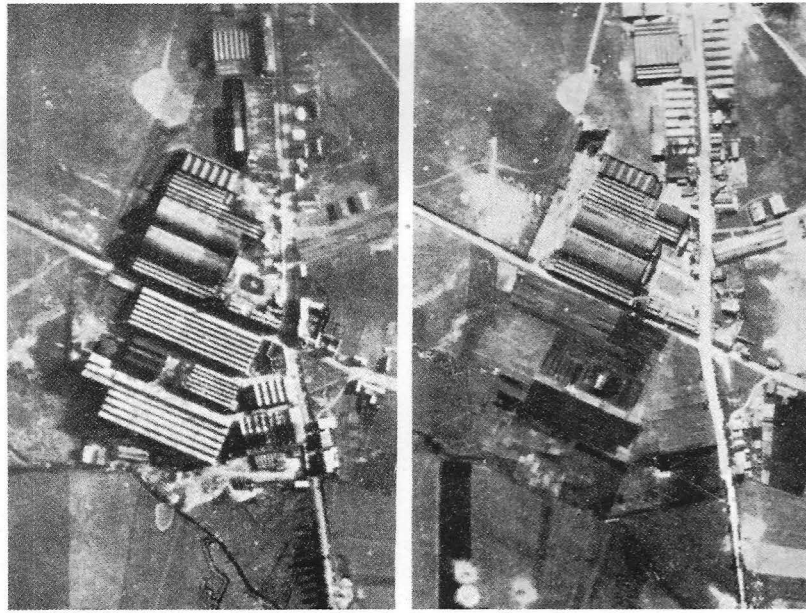
The twin engined DeHavilland Mosquito aircraft was modified after 1940 so that it could photograph most areas of Europe after 1941 because:

- (1) radar could not detect it as it's skin was plywood,
- (2) it flew 600 kilometers (380 miles) per hour at 13 kilometers (8 miles) elevation), and
- (3) it could fly 1450 kilometers to a target and then return.

The Germans were also aware that after 1943 the Mosquito could fly from Italian airfields to photograph Poland.

By 1943 long focal length 90 centimeter (36 inch) cameras were developed.

Camouflage used to hide important or sensitive possible bombing targets

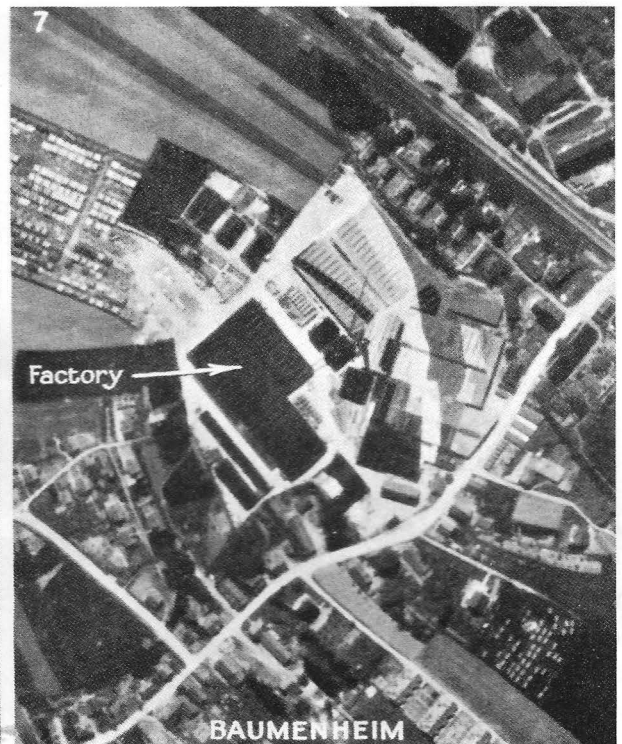
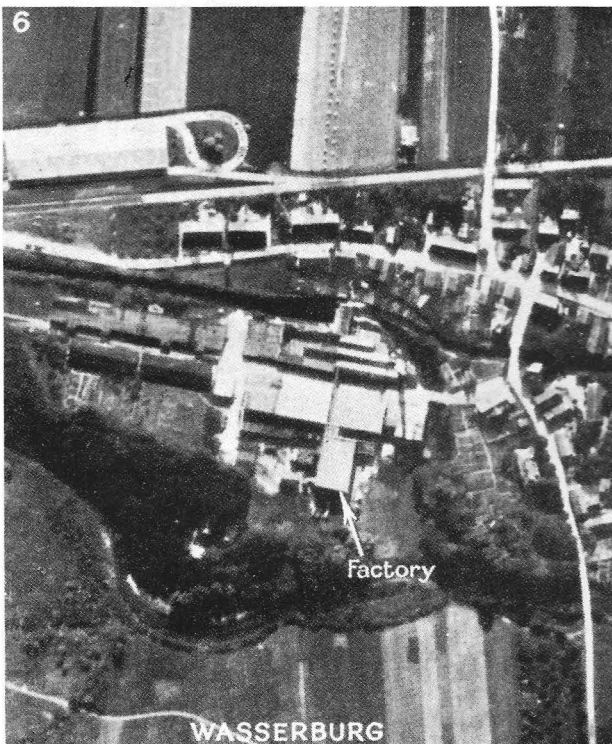


After 1941 the German military was aware that high elevation aircraft were photographing western Europe, and after 1943 they knew all of former Poland could be reached from Italian airfields. They therefore made extensive use of camouflage to conceal and guard important and sensitive installations from being photographed and bombed.

Photo 7 -1942: (left) Photos taken in Europe before and after a factory was camouflaged using draped coverings and paint.

Camouflage often not successful against air photos

Photo 8: (below) The results of using camouflage were mixed. A factory or weapons storage site could be made to look like a farmhouse to an observer in a plane, but if photographed the building would probably fail to deceive the camera for it's ability to record small details and at the same time give an overall view of the building in relation to it's surroundings. Two factories determined by air photo interpreters to be factories are the camouflaged shoe factory at Wasserberg (left) and the agricultural equipment factory at Baumenheim (right).



Air photo interpretation used to confirm or dismiss stories from spies

By 1942 spies in Europe were channelling rumors, indications, and 'eye-witness' accounts of selected areas to England, which were summarized and given to British or American air photo interpreters who would study the photos for evidence as to whether these spy reports could be confirmed.

Military commanders placed the highest priority on air photo interpretation reports because they gave positive evidence of a selected target as opposed to rumors and alleged 'eye-witness' stories. For example spies may have submitted evidence that a group of farmhouses were being used to produce aircraft parts, but it wouldn't be until an interpreter received and could study air photos for evidence such as ground scarring from vehicles, smoke, chimney sizes, fuel storage areas, or changes in the building layout from previous months that a decision could be produced as to whether the spy reports could be confirmed or not.

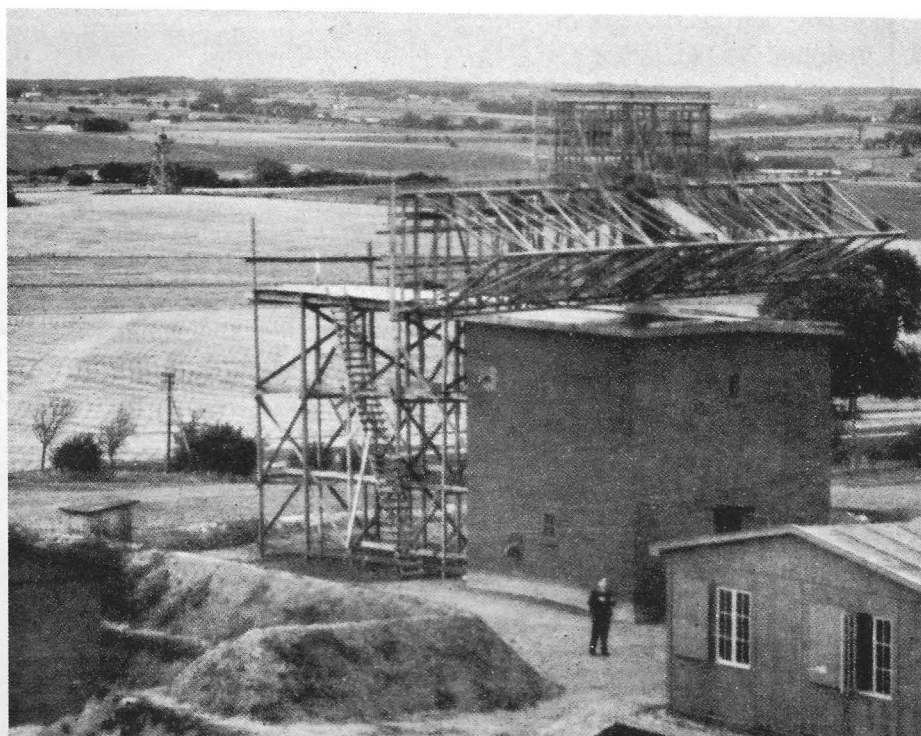


Photo 9: (left) The largest battleship in the world at that time, the *Tirpitz*, photographed off the Norwegian coast on July 12th, 1944 to confirm spy stories it was in the area. The British sunk it with six ton bombs after determining it's exact location and anti-aircraft defences from the air photos.

Photo 10: (above) Low level photos using a camera positioned in the nose of a plane such as the Mosquito were used to obtain information of important potential bombing targets such as this radar installation in Denmark.