

1917 Aerial Survey of London



Bluesky has released a series of vertical photographs, flown during 1917 following the path of River Thames, believed to be the first aerial imagery. This historically significant collection also includes images of WWI trenches and war defences and images taken while the pilot, an Army Fusilier, was stationed in Russia.

The collection measures already more than a million aerial photos dating back as far as the 1940s. Visitors can search by simply entering a postcode, address or grid reference. Detailed search results, including the age and ground coverage, of every image that matches the search criteria are displayed and the visitor can choose to purchase either a hard copy print or digital image file.

The original photographs were contained in a family album owned by a retired RAF helicopter pilot, whose Grandfather took them during WWI whilst attached to the Royal Flying Corps and while stationed in Russia with the 45th Royal Fusiliers. The photographs include iconic images from the time including other soldiers, buildings, plans and Russian peasants. In addition to the 'formal' survey of the River Thames, the collection also includes other aerial shots of trenches and other war defence infrastructure.