

## Back in Time - 5 - 1940s Aerial Photographs

by John Rabbitt

In the EPRA archive we have two wartime aerial photographs, we understand that these were taken to assess the bomb damage in the area. We believe the date of these photographs is 1943.



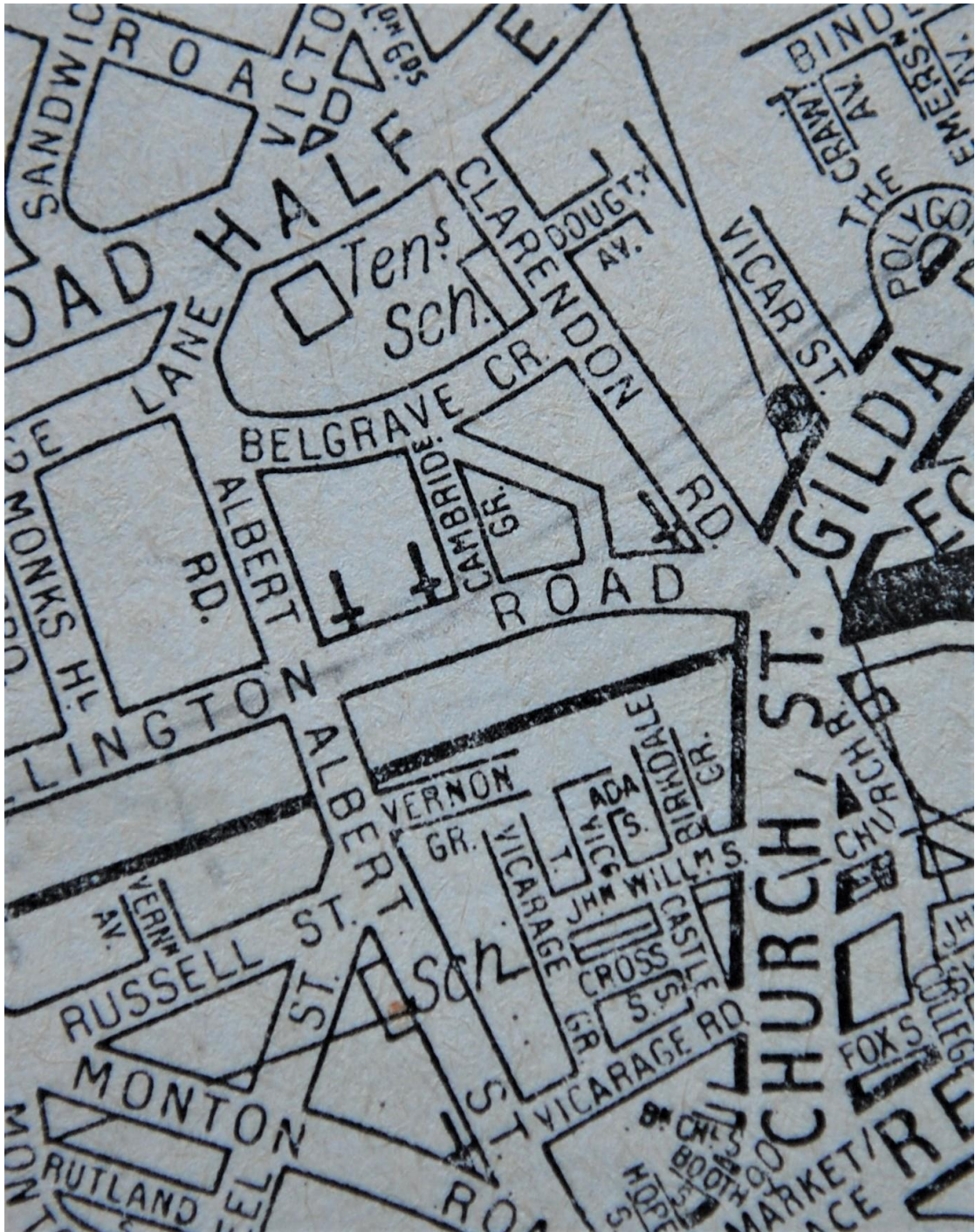
**Aerial Photograph of Ellesmere Park 1943**

This is a fascinating aerial photograph of Ellesmere Park. It shows all the very large houses and extensive grounds before many of the houses were demolished in the years after the WWII. The group of three ponds can clearly be seen on the Three Sisters. There were still some houses to be built on Cavendish Road. The large allotment area on Cavendish Road can be seen adjacent to Monton House. The another very large property is Barclay House which is now Barclay Drive off Victoria Road. The orientation and length of the shadows cast by my house lead me to think the photograph was taken between about 9am and 10am GMT in either in the spring or autumn.



### **Aerial Photograph of Eccles 1943**

This is an aerial photograph of part of Eccles, on the far right is the front of the Eccles Station building which was built on the railway bridge. The main road at the top of the photograph is Half Edge Lane, complete with tram lines. I have included a portion of the 1965 Manchester A to Z to make it easy for you to identify the roads. It is interesting to see the large number of terraced houses located where now the John Williams Street car park is (behind Booths). One house in Clarendon Road does show significant bomb damage after a bomb fell in the back garden. A photograph of the old Eccles Station can be found at: <http://www.freccles.org.uk/heritage.asp>



A to Z of Eccles 1965



I have enlarged part of the Eccles aerial photograph to show the bomb damage at 36 Clarendon Road, the first house on the left as you walk down Clarendon Road. This house is opposite to the playground of Clarendon school. You can see from the length of the shadows that only short walls of the building are left. The house was rebuilt after the war on the same footprint as the original house.

**Aerial Photograph 36 Clarendon Road Bomb Damage**



The house at 36 Clarendon Road as it is now.

**36 Clarendon Road – 2020**

**John Lyle, one of our members, has some wonderful recollections of the bomb damage in our locality.**

As a child I would play on the fields behind Highfield which went across to the railway line. I also played in the fields behind the houses on Monton Road which is now the site of the houses on Dovedale Avenue. Behind where the Wendover Apartments are there was a ruined house which I believe had been hit by a bomb, the map you sent shows a building on that site.

I know a house on Monton Green was also hit, there are two new houses on the site just up from the Blue Bell pub, they were built in the 1950's. I also think one of the ponds on Worsley golf course was formed by a bomb.

The theory is either the German bomber missed his target of Trafford Park and just unloaded their bombs or he was just a bad shot. If you draw a line from Clarendon Road to the pond on the golf course you will see the line goes more or less straight through all these points. There may be other sites on the same line.

**John Lyle - 2020**

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