

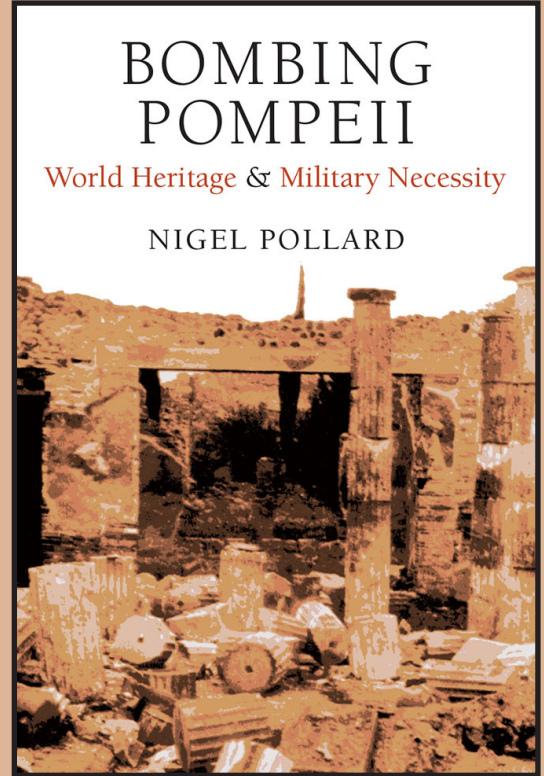
Bombing Pompeii

World Heritage and Military Necessity

Bombing Pompeii examines the circumstances under which over 160 Allied bombs hit the archaeological site of Pompeii in August and September 1943, and the wider significance of this event in the history of efforts to protect cultural heritage in conflict zones, a broader issue which is still of great importance. From detailed examinations of contemporary archival document, Nigel Pollard shows that the bomb damage to ancient Pompeii was accidental, and the bombs were aimed at road and rail routes close to the site in an urgent attempt to slow down the reinforcement and supply of German counter-attacks that threatened to defeat the Allied landings in the Gulf of Salerno. The book sets this event, along with other instances of damage and risk to cultural heritage in Italy in the Second World War, in the context of the development of the Allied Monuments, Fine Arts, and Archives – the “Monuments Men.”

Nigel Pollard is Associate Professor in the College of Arts and Humanities at Swansea University.

“Pollard knows his material inside and out, and his argument will certainly become definitive. The subject also opens up the larger issue of protection of physical culture and monuments in wartime.”
— Harry B. Evans, Fordham University



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