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“Col A D Yudin and others”

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The Charles Close Society was founded in 1980 to bring together all those with an interest in the maps and history of the Ordnance Survey of Great Britain and its counterparts in the island of Ireland. The Society takes its name from Colonel Sir Charles Arden-Close, OS Director General from 1911 to 1922, and initiator of many of the maps now sought after by collectors.

The Society publishes a wide range of books and booklets on historic OS map series and its journal, *Sheetlines*, is recognised internationally for its specialist articles on Ordnance Survey-related topics.

Colonel AD Yudin and others – the personalities behind Soviet military city plans

Dave Watt

In the early days of the Ordnance Survey the familiar names of Benjamin Baker & Assistants and Ebenezer Bourne appear in the margins of many of the Old Series sheets. Real people directly responsible for specific work.

By the twentieth century this naming had gone, save for that of whichever Director General was in charge at the time. As to who wielded the tools on the bench, no mention unless they signed or initialled their work, overtly as with the artwork of Palmer and Ellis Martin etc, or covertly such as ‘Trev’ or ‘Bill’ in the chalk cliffs of the Isle of Wight.¹

In the Soviet Union accountability survived into the 1980s but my initial discovery of this only surfaced after my wife suggested I list my collection, starting with the stuff she couldn’t read, to understand what was “in that map press in your study”. These included the Soviet city plans.

My cataloguing criteria did not conform to any standard, but I quickly decided on a column of ‘Other notes’, derived from my shaky transliteration of the marginalia and on some of the plans this included personal names.

Davies and Kent in their standard reference ‘The Red Atlas’² have covered this personal aspect of the City Plans, and not only by investigating the British examples, and as I ploughed on familiar names appeared regularly, the aforementioned Col Yudin but others as well (see spreadsheet below). Some were the ‘Kommander chast’, the Commanders of the various un-named Units of the Military Topographic Directorate which made the maps. Others were the actual compilers and editors of the maps, the people on the bench. These particularly interested me as you can only make a good map of a place if you understand its topography, culture and people through study of maps and any other sources. Here we had named citizens who were doing just that but moreover, unlike their western counterparts, they could never hope to visit the places they were mapping, so had no ‘prior knowledge’ bias, sometimes with unexpected results. The Unit Commanders meanwhile would presumably take the rap for mistakes so had to be able to recognize an error. So they needed this knowledge too.

Could anything be found out about these people?

Generally, analysis of the gender of surnames revealed the Unit commanders were all male. However, within the compilers and editors one characteristic was quickly apparent. Almost invariably the compilers, who actually wielded pen and ink were women, identified by the ‘a’ ending of their surnames. The only ‘a’ editor had worked on the plan of Belfast, so, except for her, they were all male

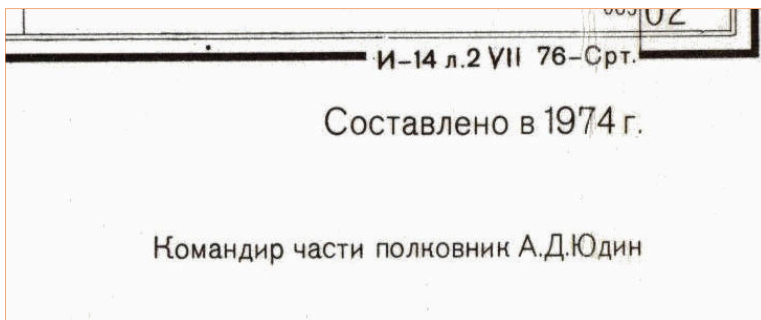
¹ See Chris Higley, *Old Series to Explorer*, Charles Close Society, 2011, page 121.

² John Davies and Alexander Kent, *The Red Atlas: How the Soviet Union secretly mapped the World*, University of Chicago Press, 2017, p.48.

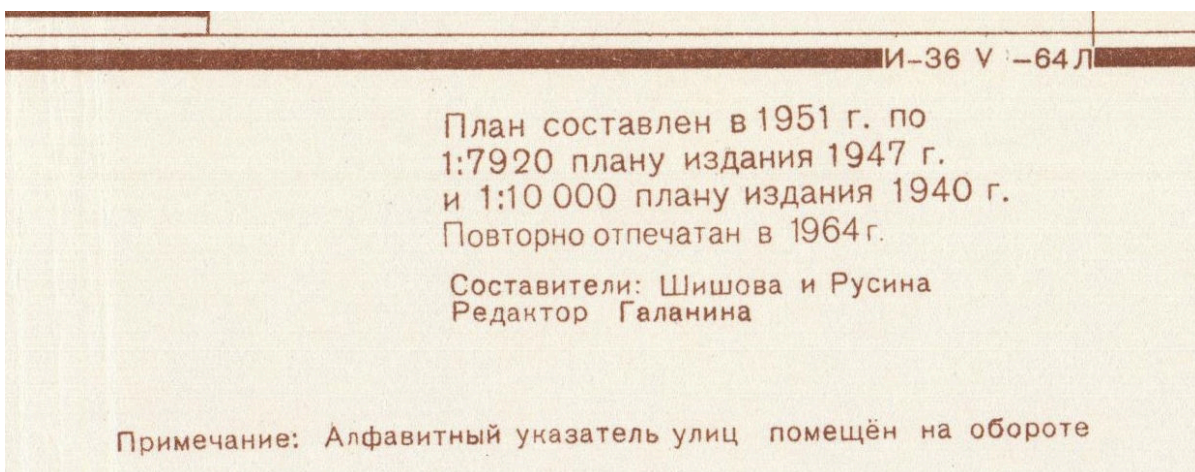
too. This confirmed the typically Russian direct and non-PC explanation I'd been told elsewhere. Women have better colour vision, steadier hands, cost less, are less likely to hit the vodka or answer back so they draw better and work faster. Men are the opposites of all the above and in any event are, of course, naturally in charge.

But what of specifics? Having compiled a list of who'd done what, it was time to call in the brains – Dr John Cruickshank – to see if he could shed any light. Had he seen any biographies, obituaries or service records of any of these people? Unfortunately, both his documentary sources, *Military topographers of the Red Army*³ and *Book of memory*⁴ failed to yield results.

And so I've hit a frustrating dead-end especially as my language skills don't extend to trawling Russian Google or eBay, but if any keen Russian speaker would like to take up the challenge, it would put faces to names and hence faces to maps.



Extract from marginalia of 1:10,000 Blackpool, compiled 1974, printed July 1976 at Saratov. Unit Commander Colonel А.Д. Юдин (A.D. Yudin).



Extract from marginalia of 1:10,000 Belfast, compiled 1951 from 1:7920 edition of 1947 and 1:10,000 plan edition of 1940, re-printed May 1964 at Leningrad. Compilers Schischova and Rusina, Editor Galakina.

³ E.I. Dolgov and C.V. Sergeev, Moscow: Topographic Service of the Armed Forces of the RF, 2005.

⁴ Moscow: Veterans Council of the Military Topographic Directorate of the General Staff, 2010(?).

City plans produced and published by the Military Topographic Directorate of General Staff of the Soviet Union

Unit Commander and Sheet	Notes
Colonel I.I.Shalman	
Bedford	Compiled in 1970. Printed Nov 71, Saratov
Blyth	Compiled in 1970. Printed Aug 71, Saratov
Bristol	Compiled in 1971. Printed Nov 72, Leningrad
Cardiff	Compiled in 1970. Printed Jun 72, Leningrad
Coventry	Compiled in 1971. Printed Mar 72, Leningrad
Great Yarmouth	Compiled in 1970. Printed Jan 72, Saratov
Leeds	Compiled in 1971. Printed Sep 72, Leningrad
Luton	Compiled in 1971. Printed Sep 73, Leningrad
Colonel E.S.Burmistrov	
Birmingham, Wolverhampton, Walsall, Dudley, West Bromwich and Solihull	Compiled in 1975. Printed Jul 77, Leningrad
Colonel V.N.Golikov	
Barrow	Compiled in 1973. Printed Jan 75, Leningrad
Blackburn	Compiled in 1972. Printed Aug 74, Leningrad
Leicester	Compiled in 1972. Printed May 74, Leningrad
Manchester, Bolton, Stockport and Oldham	Compiled in 1972. Printed Nov 75, Leningrad
Colonel A.D.Yudin	
Blackpool, Cleveleys, Thornton, Poulton-le-Fylde	Compiled in 1974. Printed Jul 76, Saratov
Burnley and Padiham	Compiled in 1974 and 75. Printed May 76, Dunaev
Cambridge	Compiled in 1973. May 77, Saratov
Colchester	Compiled in 1973. Printed Oct 75, Saratov
Darlington	Compiled in 1974. Printed Oct 76, Dunaev
Doncaster	Compiled in 1974/75. Printed May 76, Dunaev
Dover	Compiled in 1972. Printed Feb 74, Saratov
Gainsborough	Compiled in 1973. Printed Nov 75, Dunaev
Halifax, Sowerby Bridge	Compiled in 1973. Printed Nov 75, Saratov
Hartlepool	Compiled in 1974. Printed Jun 78, Leningrad
Hastings	Compiled in 1974. Printed May 76, Dunaev
Northampton	Compiled in 1972. Printed Feb 79, Sverdlovsk
Nottingham	Compiled in 1972. Printed Jul 75, Saratov
Reading	Compiled in 1973. Printed Dec 75, Saratov
Rhondda	Compiled in 1975 from materials dated 1974. Printed Mar 78, Tbilisi
Sheffield, Romarsh, Rotherham, Wickersley, Eckington	Compiled in 1975. Printed Apr 77, Dunaev
Teeside (Stockton-on-Tees, Billingham, Thornaby-on-Tees, Eston, Guisborough)	Compiled in 1973. Printed Aug 75, Saratov
Thurrock and Gravesend	Compiled in 1974. Printed Apr 77, Saratov
Torbay (Torquay, Paignton, Brixham)	Compiled in 1974. Printed Jul 76, Dunaev
York	Compiled in 1974. Printed Feb 80, Sverdlovsk
Colonel V.N.Samsonov	
Chester	Compiled in 1972. Printed Oct 73, Dunaev
Newcastle-upon-Tyne, Gateshead, South Shields, Tynemouth	Compiled in 1974. Printed Jun 77, Dunaev
Oxford	Compiled in 1972. Printed Mar 73, Dunaev
Preston	Compiled in 1974. Printed Aug 76, Dunaev
Sunderland	Compiled in 1974. Printed May 76, Dunaev
Swansea	Compiled in 1974. Printed Sep 76, Dunaev
Colonel V.M.Kosyagin	
Greenock	Compiled in 1977. Printed Jun 79, Sverdlovsk
Colonel I.P. Titov	
Dublin	Compiled in 1970. Printed Feb 80, Sverdlovsk
Colonel G.L.Lyakhin	
Liverpool	Compiled from 1:25 000 maps edition 1968. Printed Apr 74, Dunaev
Colonel L.M.Balobin	
Portland and Weymouth	Compiled in 1970. Printed Aug 72, Dunaev
Others	
Plan of city of Belfast	Pre 1956 Sofia Conference specification. Plan compiled in 1951 from 1:7920 plan edition 1947 and 1:10 000 plan edition 1940 reprinted 1964. Compilers Shishova and Rusina, editor Galanina. Printed May 64, Leningrad
Plan of city of Crewe	Pre 1956 Sofia Conference specification. Compiled in 1956 from 1:10 560 maps edition 1910 and 11 and 1:25 000 maps edition 1951 and 52. Compilers N.F.Frolkina and M.A.Shugunova, editor M.N.Valerianov. Printed Jun 57, Saratov
Plan of city of Harwich	Pre 1956 Sofia Conference specification. Compiled in 1956 from 1:10 560 maps edition 1925 and 28, 1:20 000 edition 1942 and 1:25 000 edition 1946. Compilers M.D.Gorelova and E.V.Basova, editor M.N.Valerianov. Printed Sep 64, Saratov
Plan of city of Kilmarnock	Pre 1956 Sofia Conference specification. Compiled in 1956 from 1:10 560 maps edition 1910 and 11 and 1:25 000 maps edition 1952. Compiler N.A.Oleynikova, editor A.K.Kubyshekin. Printed Jul 58, Kiev
Plan of city of Pembroke	Pre 1956 Sofia Conference specification. Compiled by LKF [Leningrad Cartographic ?] in 1949 from 1:10 560 maps edition 1934 and 36. Compiler Mekhnik-Cartograf Sutnikova. Printed Jun 50, Leningrad
Plan of city of Wolverhampton	Pre 1956 Sofia Conference specification. Compiled by RKF (Riga Cartographic) in 1949 from 1:10 000 maps edition 1942. Compiler 'Gert-kart. Sukhomiinkova and Pokomareva. Printed Aug 63, Dunaev

Note: the other 50 or so Soviet plans of UK and Irish cities do not include the names of personnel involved.