



# *Sheetlines*

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“The Reichsamt für Landesaufnahme: a  
correction”

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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.

## *The Reichsamt für Landesaufnahme: a correction*

*John L Cruickshank*

In my articles on the *Reichsamt* I stated that the 1:50,000 map of Germany failed to progress during the 1930s.<sup>1</sup> I now appreciate that this is incorrect. After the declaration that the 1:50,000 scale was to be a matter for the *Reich* rather than the *Länder*, there is almost no mention of the scale in the *Mitteilungen des Reichsamts für Landesaufnahme*. I had incorrectly taken this to indicate that no progress was made. In fact between 1935 and 1939 (when work stopped) a substantial group of sheets were produced. The bulk of these covered the area of Germany adjacent to the then Polish frontier, that is Niederschlessien, the part of Mark Brandenburg east of the Oder, and Hinterpommern. All these areas are now within western Poland. Rolf Böhme gives an unhelpful account of the development of the series but a very clear index map showing not only the sheets prepared, but also those for which no reproduction material survived the war.<sup>2</sup> Beck gives a brief but useful outline of the evolution of this series drawing on scattered previously published sources.<sup>3</sup> Strictly speaking however, the sheets of this series were not published. They were issued subject to the security classification ‘*Nur für den Dienstgebrauch*’ and carried a four-line paragraph explaining that the sheet was a ‘*geheime Gegenstand*’ (secret object) within the meaning of section 88 of the 1934 *Reichs-Straf-Gesetzbuch*. This is why the series was not publicised in the *Mitteilungen*!

I am grateful to Ian O’Brien for drawing this error to my attention.

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<sup>1</sup> *Sheetlines* 72 and 73.

<sup>2</sup> Rolf Böhme, *Der Verbleib der Original der amtlichen Kartenwerke des deutschen Reiches*, Deutsche Geodätische Kommission, Reihe E, Heft 16, (Frankfurt am Main, 1978), 22 and Beilage 2.

<sup>3</sup> W Beck, ‘Die topographische Karte 1:50 000’, (in) G Krauss, W Beck, G Appelt and H Knorr, *Die amtlichen topographischen Kartenwerke der Bundesrepublik Deutschland*, Sammlung Wichmann, Schriftenreihe Heft 10 (Karlsruhe, 1969), 12-25, esp. 13-15.