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“Albert Eades”

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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.

Albert Eades



Among the collections donated to the archive recently are some technical and instructional items left by Albert Eades (1910-1992). Bert Eades, as he was known, joined the Ordnance Survey at London Road, Southampton in 1935, where his basic training as a surveyor and early service took place. He was posted on continuous revision to Beeston, Nottinghamshire in 1938, moving to Hayes, Middlesex and Hythe, Kent before going on to war service in the Royal Engineers. Most of this was spent in the Survey Training Centre R.E. after its move to Wynnstay Park, Ruabon in North Wales in January 1941.

Quite a number of artists seem to have been posted at this time to Ruabon, perhaps for their drawing ability. One of them was M Hunter, who in 1945 executed in pastel the accompanying portrait of Bert Eades, which we reproduce here by kind permission of his son and daughter. Their investigations into Hunter have so far proved fruitless, and if any reader can help them to learn more about this talented artist, please let us know via the editor.

Bert Eades returned to London Road, Southampton after the war, where he became a Survey Instructor. In 1955 he went as a Surveyor Grade III to Cosham, and in 1958 to the Berkshire Field Office in Reading, where he remained until his retirement in 1973 as a Surveyor Grade IV in a disestablished capacity. He was awarded the Imperial Service Medal in 1972.

Among the items given to the archive are several notebooks on levelling and field survey used by Eades both as an instructor and as a surveyor in the field. We have been able to add a number of 1946 printings (the earliest?) to our sets of 'study notes' and 'notes for candidates for technical examination' which seem to have been standard Ordnance Survey issue for nearly thirty years after the war – covering subjects such as geodetic control, map projections, levelling, triangulation, drawing and reproduction, both of large and small scales. We have also acquired a wartime printing of *Notes on field survey*, which is prefaced by an introductory message from the Director General, G Cheetham, written in November 1943: 'To members of the Ordnance Survey who are at present prisoners of war'.

We are very grateful to Bert Eades's family for so generously donating these items to our archive.

Roger Hellyer