



Sheetlines

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THE CHARLES CLOSE SOCIETY
for the Study of Ordnance Survey Maps

“News from the archives”

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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.

News from the Archives

As promised in the Archives subcommittee report presented at the AGM, here is some more information about two new additions to the CCS Archives.

Seven issues of *'On the Map'* have been kindly donated to the Archive by Iain Taylor of Halifax, Nova Scotia. These were formerly the property of Mr Barnes, a surveyor, and later his son, Dave Barnes of Rugeley, Staffordshire.

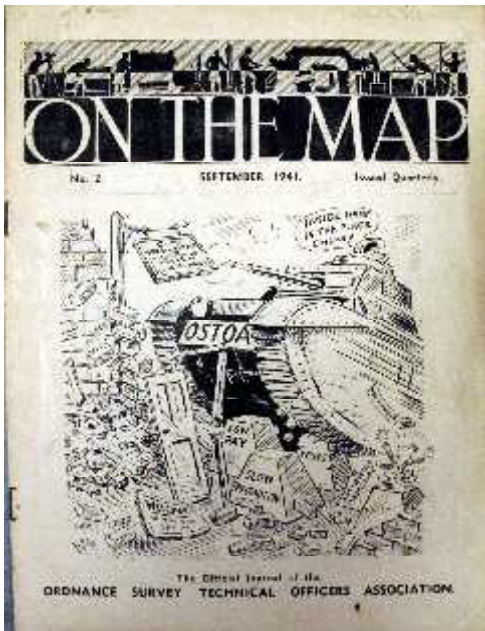
Although the main title stays the same throughout, the two earliest issues (September and December 1941) describe themselves as the journal, or official journal, of the Ordnance Survey Technical Officers Association, whilst the later

issues (March, April and May 1946 and March-April 1947) are subtitled "The Official Journal of the Association of Government Geographers and Allied Technicians" (classmarks CCS_OS_415/1 and 415/2 respectively).

All are slim publications of about twelve pages, 25cm by 19cm in size and printed in black and white, with the covers of all but the earliest also printed in red.

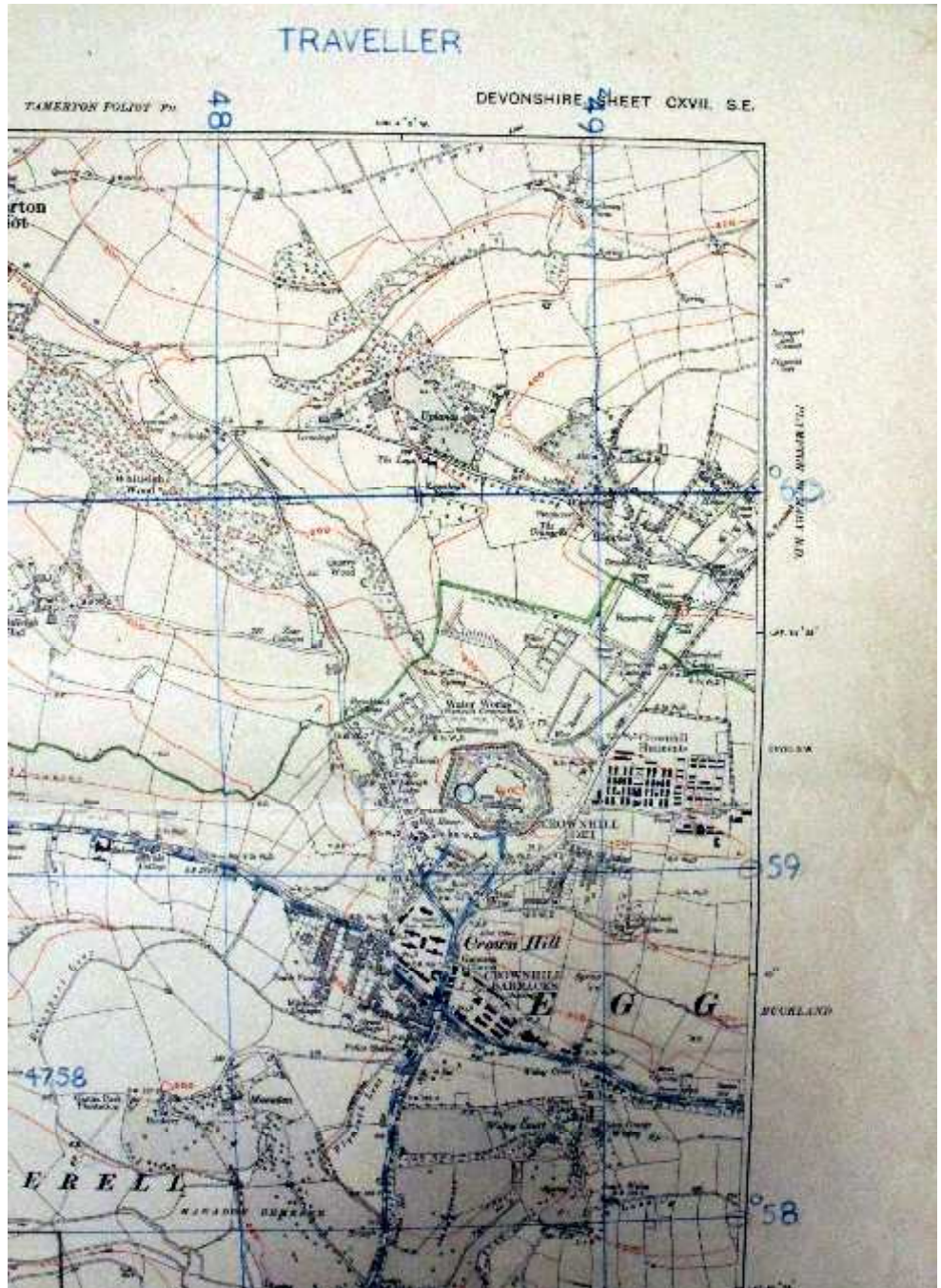
The September 1941 issue states: "contributions of an informative, instructive or humorous nature (stories of persons and events in the annals of O.S.O. or of survey work abroad especially welcome) and cartoons are invited from members and other interested persons".

And the contents are very much a hotch-potch. The more serious articles include those on triangulation and levelling, desert navigation, the origins and history of GSGS and the new (in March-April 1947) medium and small scale maps of Ordnance Survey. In the 1946 and 1947 issues the emphasis of much of the remaining material is on Union business. However, the two earliest 'Ordnance Survey' issues contain a much broader range of material and include, for example, announcements of births, marriages and deaths and, inevitably given the date, a roll of honour 'in proud and grateful remembrance' and a list of prisoners of war and those reported missing. Interesting insights into war-time life at Ordnance Survey include a short article on the tardiness with which the expenses claims of those on fire-watching duties are being met and the difficulties encountered in getting home by those who live some distance away (September 1941 p.7). The December 1941 issue (pages 4-5) then has an article about a Mr Jim Reed who had been injured whilst acting as one of the Ordnance Survey A.R.P. Fire Superintendents and on whose behalf colleagues had been asked to contribute a penny a week. The article's final paragraph states that now that Mr Reed had been awarded a disablement allowance by the Civil Service War Service Distress Fund of 23/- per week for the period covering treatment, the voluntary levy was being discontinued.



So, plenty of different types of information, ripe for someone to come and investigate further!

The second acquisition is something of a mystery and your help is sought. Acquired from a gentleman whose father worked for Ordnance Survey in both Chessington and Southampton are four six-inch County Series sheets of three discrete areas in the vicinity of Plymouth printed in 1941, 1944 or 1945 (classmark CCS_OS_L130). So far, not unusual! However, all have (mostly) blue stencilled and hand drawn annotations the most obvious of which is the National Grid. In addition, dashed lines in red or blue follow some roads, and green solid lines follow some boundaries. All of the maps have the word 'TRAVELLER' stencilled in blue at the top.



It has been suggested that the marks along the roads might indicate a scheme for re-levelling and that 'Traveller' might indicate a sheet to be taken out on the ground rather than kept in the office as a record copy.

What do you think? Write or email me and I will put a summary of the replies in a future issue of *Sheetlines*.

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