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“Introduction of UTM grid”

Mike Nolan

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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.

The introduction of the Universal Transverse Mercator (UTM) grid
Mike Nolan

Sheetlines 96 included a short note on the introduction of the UTM Grid on British military mapping,¹ a programme which commenced in 1952. In that note was a list of ACIs (Army Council Instructions) which introduced the use of the UTM grid on maps of various parts of the world as the programme progressed. The last entry was in 1963 which was the last year covered by ACIs in the National Archives at Kew. Missing from that list was a related ACI, No. 156/1963, which introduced the RSO (Rectified Skew Orthomorphic) Grid in Malaya and Singapore, but that is another story!

By a coincidence, at the Defence Surveyors' Association's *Maps & Surveys* seminar at the Royal School of Military Survey in June 2013 the DSA presented one of its annual prizes to Paul Butterfield of the Defence Geographic Centre, Feltham for his work in compiling a new manual of graticules and grids.

Conversation with Mr. Butterfield resulted in an application to DGC under the terms of the Freedom of Information Act as a result of which the following information relating to the introduction of the UTM Grid has been provided:

<i>Army Council Instruction etc.</i>	<i>Part of the World</i>
ACI 447/1953	Europe (Priority 3) Denmark
ACI 725/1953	Iceland
ACI 540/1954	Danube
ACI 69/1958	South Arabia (Aden Protectorate)
ACI 431/1960	Thailand
ACI 128/1962	Burma, Thailand, Laos border
DCI (Army) 6/1965	Zanzibar
DCI (Army) 30/1965	Bechuanaland, S.W. Africa, Angola
DCI (Army) 58/1965	Basutoland, Swaziland, Southern Africa
DCI (Army) 238/1966	Burma/Thailand
DCI (Army) 52/1967	East Africa
DCI (Army) 99/1967	La Reunion and the Seychelles
DCI (Army) 225/1967	Java and Christmas Island
DCI (Army) 424/1967	Kelulauan and Bunguran (Natunas)
DCI (Army) 425/1967	Somalia, French territory of Afars and Issas (Formerly French Somaliland and Eastern Ethiopia)
DCI (Army) 426/1967	Southern Borneo and Part of Celebes
DCI (General) 38/1968	N. Sumatra (North of the Equator)
DCI (General) 100/1968	Cyprus
DCI (General) 119/1968	Eastern Indonesia
DCI (General) 170/1969	Spain and Portugal

¹ Mike Nolan, The introduction of UTM grid on military maps; a sixty year retrospective, *Sheetlines* 96, 20-29.

DCI (General) 171/1969	Southern Sumatra
DCI (General) 9/1970	Trinidad and Tobago
DCI (General) 58/1970	Kra Isthmus
DCI (General) 211/1970	Greece
DCI (General) 12/1971	Maldive Islands and Chagos Archipelago
DCI (General) 66/1971	Western Central Africa
DCI (General) T1/1972	Southern Italy
DCI (General) T18/1972	Comoro Archipelago
RN J105/82 Army J58/82 RAF J57/82 (DCI Joint Service)	Afghanistan
RN J106/82 Army J59/82 RAF J58/82 (DCI Joint Service)	Part of North East Africa



Paul Butterfield (on the right) and Alastair Macdonald examining each other's work at the DSA's seminar in June 2013. Alastair Macdonald was the compiler of Manual of Graticules and Grids on Military Maps and Air Charts published by the Directorate of Military Survey in 1973.

Irish postcodes

Further to the stories about Irish postcodes in recent *Sheetlines*,¹ *The Irish Times* of 8 October 2013, under the headline *Every address to have postcode by 2015* carries the news that a consortium led by Capita Ireland has been awarded a contract to introduce a new postcode system. This, it is claimed, goes beyond the usual area codes in most developed countries. The new postcode will comprise seven digits providing a unique identification for every letter box in the State. The 'unit specific' code will be in the format A65 B2CD with the first three digits relating to the postal district. A spokesman said important knowledge of locations will be retained in the new addresses. For example Dublin 4 will still be identifiable in the first three digits of the new code, D04.

¹ Paul Ferguson, Postcodes in Ireland, *Sheetlines* 89,16 and Gary Delaney, Loc8 codes – directions made easy, *Sheetlines* 90,38.