

General

The index above shows in general terms the areas covered by the G.S.G.S. 1:50,000 series. It will be noted that map coverage at this scale is patchy and that, while Holland, Belgium and northern France are almost completely covered, no 1:50,000 series is available for the centre of France or for Germany. The explanation lies principally in two factors; the first, that the preparation of a map at this scale demands either sound, and preferably modern, existing map coverage of equivalent or larger scale or else fairly complete coverage of air photographs together with map coverage of sufficient detail (say 1:100,000 scale) to tie down the air photographs. The second factor is the time necessary for the preparation of the vast number of map sheets that would be involved to produce complete 1:50,000 cover. The question of the relative value of complete map cover at 1:50,000 scale as opposed to complete cover at 1:100,000 with special areas at 1:25,000 scale is debatable. At all events the facts remain that neither adequate material nor sufficient time have so far been available for the preparation of total cover at this scale.

It will also be seen from the samples of the series illustrated that none of them carry the layer tints used on smaller scale Army/Air style maps. Nor in fact has any attempt been made towards any particular uniformity of style from series to series, each being prepared in the most economical way. The type and amount of information given on the various series is, however, roughly common, all series having been prepared from much the same type of material and each showing the maximum of detail available and practicable to the scale. Most series have been designed so that the printing of sheets in the field by mobile Field Survey Units can be quickly and simply carried out.

Overlaps of sheets within series do not occur. Slight overlaps between some of the series are involved as shown on the index.

G.S.G.S. 4083, the series covering Holland, will not be issued on an operational scale.

G.S.G.S. 4040B, FRANCE, 1 : 50,000 (enlarged 1 : 80,000) (Sample below)

This series is a direct reproduction of the French 1 : 80,000 map, enlarged to 1 : 50,000 and gridded. It was originally produced largely as a stage in the production of G.S.G.S. 4250 in order to provide map users with some sort of provisional map coverage of areas pending the production of a redrawn series.

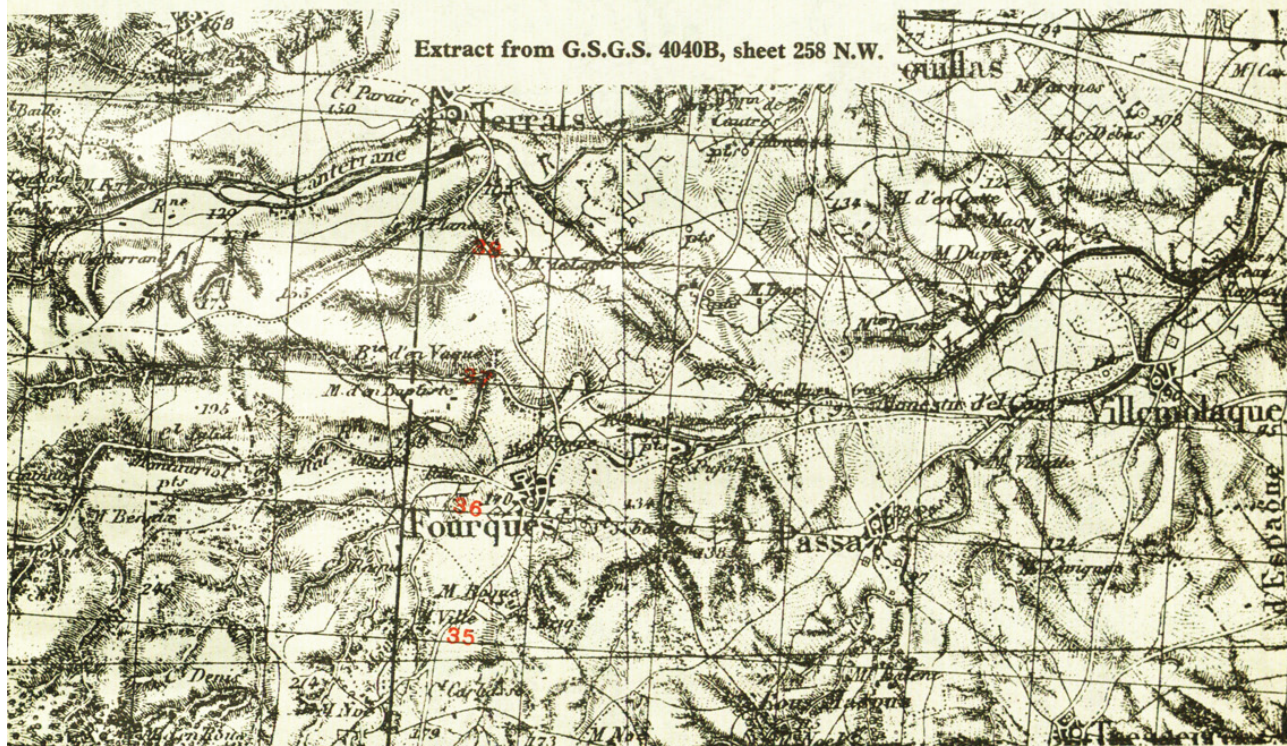
It still continues to serve as a 'stop gap' in coastal areas of south-west and Mediterranean France but for operational requirements it will eventually be superseded by G.S.G.S. 4249 (1 : 100,000) and G.S.G.S. 4250 or 4471 (1 : 50,000). It is because it is the only fairly large scale map available at the moment for large areas of France that it is mentioned here.

The map is difficult to read, as the sample illustrates. The hachures showing relief have, in fact, been based on ground survey and give an accurate picture of the terrain if carefully interpreted. No attempt to revise sheets has been made and the dates of the French originals copied are the only guides to the relative merits of sheets.

The 1 : 80,000 French originals are the only large scale series prepared by the French which give complete cover over the whole country and the sheet line system of this series is the basis of the sheet lines of the G.S.G.S. 1 : 100,000 series (G.S.G.S. 4249), and of one of the 1 : 50,000 series (G.S.G.S. 4250, but not of G.S.G.S. 4471).

The index on page 16 shows an area in Mediterranean France, within the general area to be covered by G.S.G.S. 4471, in which sheets of this series are available. Sheets of G.S.G.S. 4040B are also current for the strip of sheets of G.S.G.S. 4250 down the south-west coast to the Spanish frontier (see index), but here, as elsewhere, they will eventually be superseded. Included with the general notes on French maps is an index to the complete 1 : 80,000 series : this shows sheet lines and numbers of G.S.G.S. 4040B. (It should be noted that each sheet is produced as a quarter of one main sheet and has the main sheet number followed by N.W., N.E., S.W. or S.E., as the case may be.)

In passing, it is worth mentioning that an identically similar series, G.S.G.S. 4040A, was prepared as a western extension to G.S.G.S. 4040 but has now been superseded by G.S.G.S. 4250.

**G.S.G.S. 4040, N.E. FRANCE AND BELGIUM, 1 : 50,000 (See sample on page 20)**

The general position of this series is shown on the index on page 16 : a more detailed index is given at the end of this book.

Initially prepared in 1938-9 for the B.E.F., this series has since been extensively revised : the general style and appearance of the map, however, remains unaltered.

The sheet lines of this series, unlike those of all other 1 : 50,000 series, have no relationship to the sheet lines of any local series, either French or Belgian. This means, for instance, that any one new (possibly captured) French 1 : 50,000 sheet or Belgian 1 : 40,000 sheet is liable to affect up to four sheets of G.S.G.S. 4040 : this fact also explains the extreme amount of detail appearing on certain parts of several sheets in France while the rest of such sheets remains comparatively open.

For France the series was originally based on French 1 : 50,000 and 1 : 20,000 original maps where these were available : beyond the limits of this good material sheets had to be based purely on the French 1 : 80,000 series. For Belgium the map was compiled from the local 1 : 40,000 and 1 : 20,000 series. Unfortunately it was decided during initial (1938-9) compilation to simplify and generalize the map and a considerable amount of detail, such as tracks, minor names, ditches, etc., was omitted. During the revision of the series (1941-3) much of the extra detail shown on the original material was added. Air photographs covering a large amount of the area became available during revision and were used to bring the map up to date. The extent of air photo. revision on each sheet is shown by a diagram in the sheet margin in the normal way. Sheets 33, 34, 35, 46, 47, 52, 53, 57, 58, 62, 63, 65 and 74, in the Lille area, were revised by the B.E.F. during the winter of 1939-40.

Recently certain additional French 1 : 50,000 originals have become available in areas where previously the only basic map material had been the French 1 : 80,000. Comparison, however, shows that the revision which has been made to such sheets of G.S.G.S. 4040 (from air photographs, etc.) brings them into line with nearly all the additional detail on these newly acquired 1 : 50,000s as well, of course, as adding the most recent information which was precluded by the dates of the 1 : 50,000 sheets : the only important point was slight differences of contouring (which was to be expected, seeing that the 1 : 80,000 had been the basis of the G.S.G.S. sheets concerned).

The modern edition of this series differs from its predecessor in two further respects. Previously, overlaps existed between all sheets: though helpful from some points of view these have now been eliminated, principally in order to bring sheets down to a size that can be printed in the field by Survey units and also because of the work involved in trying to keep overlaps up to date (revision to one sheet immediately affecting the eight adjoining sheets). The other point of difference is that on the new edition roads have been revised and reclassified on the general width basis from the Michelin 1 : 200,000 series and from intelligence reports.

All sheets of the series are available in their revised form.

