



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 debateable. 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.

This series covers western France ; its sheet lines, which are exactly the same as those of the French 1:80,000 series, are shown in greater detail in a large index at the end of this book.

Sheets have been prepared by enlarging the French 1:80,000 series, revising it from air photographs where these existed and then redrawing the map entirely. This method of treatment has various possibilities of error : the 1:80,000 series is not a very accurate map and its inaccuracies are increased by the enlargement ; the plotting of contours from the hachures on the 1:80,000 sheets, a problem even for the 1:100,000 series (G.S.G.S. 4249), is inclined to cause bad inaccuracies in parts ; air photographs often leave areas not covered, and the flying of special survey type photographs takes time. The inaccuracies of certain initial sheets of this series were such that new editions of them had to be prepared. For these later editions and for all sheets now in production the best quality survey air photographs are being used wherever available and the actual French trigonometrical values are being made the basic framework of the map. On sheets now in hand an extra symbol has had to be introduced to show woods, obtained straight from the 1:80,000 maps, which have not been revised from air photographs. In addition, contours are being checked with sheets of the 1:25,000 series where such exist (*vide* G.S.G.S. 4347, page 23). Thus, the basic reliability of sheets is high in areas shown (on marginal diagrams) as being revised from survey air photographs and comparatively low in areas where only the 1:80,000 sheet concerned has been available.

Roads and railways have been revised and classified (the former on the standard French width basis) as for other smaller scale series.

The lettering of place names is one of the bad features of the series ; the names of important towns tend to get hidden and the relationship between a village and its name sometimes becomes ambiguous through bad positioning of lettering. This is partly due to an attempt, initially, to make the same drawings serve both for the 1:100,000 series, G.S.G.S. 4249, and for this 1:50,000 series.

Mistakes in the spelling of place names, principally of small village names, is another bad tendency on sheets.

Most of the sheets in the northern and western coastal areas are now available. In view of the preparation of 1:100,000 series over the entire area it has only been essential to produce 1:50,000 sheets for specific areas as occasion demands.

