



The Military Survey (Geo) Branch

Summer Newsletter 2018 – issue 68



Queen Elizabeth II, Colonel-in-Chief of the Corps of the Royal Engineers, looking through a Theodolite during her visit to the 42 Survey Engineer Regiment at Denison Barracks in Hermitage, Berkshire in 1998. Queen Elizabeth II becomes the longest-reigning monarch in British history on the evening of 9 September 2015. To mark the event the BBC presents an image from the archives of the Press Association from every year of her reign - BBC News Magazine. Source: Pinterest - pinbot@explore.pinterest.com

'FOUGASSE' OR FAKE: MILITARY SURVEY'S EMBLEM

Initial Research – A Work in Progress

By Alan Gordon

Over the years there has been confusion in the minds of some over the name of Military Survey's unofficial emblem, the cartoon of the soldier with a globe on his shoulder. Cyril Kenneth Bird (1887-1965), who signed his drawings 'Fougasse', is generally presumed to have drawn the graphic for Military Survey during the Second World War with, perhaps, his 'birth' being related to the formation of the Directorate of Military Survey in 1941. This is, however, pure speculation as no documented proof of the 'Fougasse' connection has yet been unearthed.

Cyril Bird was an officer in the Royal Engineers during the First World War and was severely injured when blown up by a shell at Gallipoli in 1915. He spent a long period in hospital during which time he submitted cartoons to Punch magazine. He used the name 'Fougasse' to avoid confusion with another Punch contributor, W Bird. He chose 'Fougasse' as it was a type of French landmine of "particularly erratic performance"; it is also the name of a bread made in Province. He became Art Editor of Punch in 1937 and Editor in 1949, retiring from that position in 1953. During the Second World War he produced many drawings for various Ministries, including the famous "Careless talk costs lives" poster. In the early Sixties, Fougasse forged a link with the Hydrographic Department when David Haslam, later to become the Hydrographer of the Navy, arranged for him to illustrate a new guide to beach surveying called 'Let's Go Beachcombing'. 'Fougasse' died in 1965 by which time the cartoon had been adopted as the emblem of Military Survey.

The soldier with the globe on his shoulder seems to have been originally one of two similar figures in a line, the other being drawn in RAF uniform. In 1943 a third figure, this one in American uniform, joined the line-up on the cover of a Supreme Headquarters Allied Expeditionary Force (SHAEP) aeronautical chart catalogue which also included the single character inside. The GI's attendance on SHAEP documents continued until 1945 but then he appears to have been 'demobbed'.

In 1970, to highlight the new tri-service nature of Military Survey following the establishment of a post at the Naval Aeronautical Information Centre, Major Tom Farmer who was serving as Survey 2c drew (or arranged to have drawn!) a sailor to complete the set. The three servicemen became known as 'Tom, Dick and Harry', Dick being the soldier. The cartoon featured on the cover of official Military Survey publications such as Technical Instructions and map catalogues and was used as the unit emblem by 512 STRE as it reflected the tri-service nature of the unit establishment. However, no doubt as a result of one of the endless defence cuts, the trio was 'downsized' several years later to the single soldier who slowly became known as either 'Fred' or 'Fougasse'. This single soldier came into even greater prominence when the Military Survey Defence Agency adopted him as its logo and placed him on the cover of its annual reports from 1992 until 1997, an act that got him Parliamentary exposure.

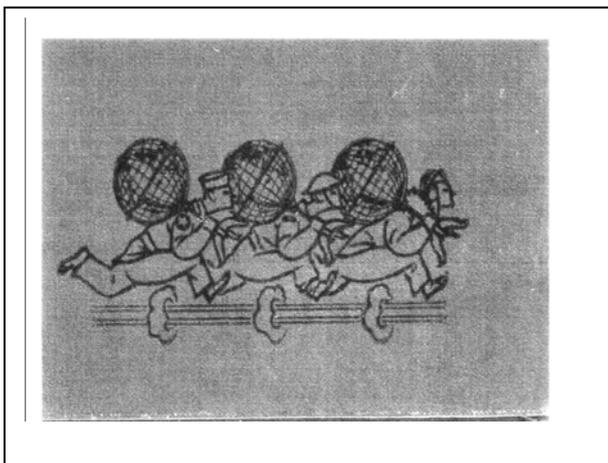
There have been several attempts to update the original soldier, a change from Second World War 'tin hat' to Cold War 'steel helmet' survived whilst replacing the Lee Enfield .303 with an SLR didn't appear to find favour. Also, at some stage the airman's helmet was updated and his parachute given some lacing. The cartoons appear to have been redrawn on countless times as evidenced by the variations in line work and detail on the globe. Versions of the threesome appeared in the MCE in-house journal with the faces of well-known Feltham characters replacing the cartoon faces and at least two 'customised' versions of Fred were officially sanctioned. Bert Axten produced an 'aged' version as the all-too appropriate logo of the Military Survey Late Entry Officers annual dinner night and 1997 saw a special 250th Anniversary variant adorn the artefacts produced to celebrate the event. However, this was Fred's swansong as he was retired from service on the creation of the DGIA but, like all good military surveyors, following retirement Fred joined the Military Survey Branch of the Royal Engineers Association and now has pride of place on the Branch Standard. Of note also is that the Sergeant's Mess at Hermitage commissioned a fine statuette of 'Fred' as its presentation item to members leaving the service.

So what is the true story of the birth of the soldier with the world on his shoulder? Mike Nolan's research has so far failed to unearth exact details of Fred's origin but several options are possible.

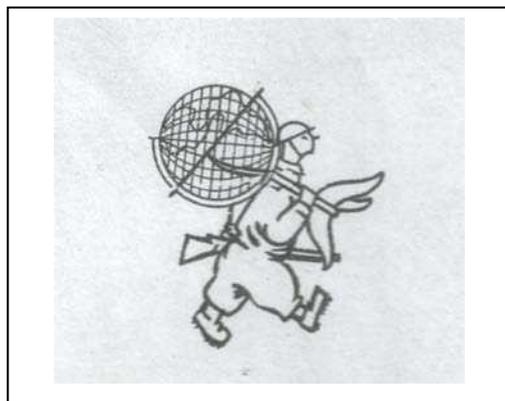
Firstly, was Fougasse, who at the time was employed by the government as a cartoonist, commissioned to create an appropriate emblem, possibly for the newly formed Directorate of Military Survey? So far no record to prove this has been unearthed.

Alternatively, the figure may have appeared in a Fougasse cartoon and simply been adopted, officially or otherwise, for use by Military Survey. However, Mike leafed through every single wartime issue of Punch held in the Bodleian Library searching for a cartoon of a soldier with a globe on his shoulder but found nothing. Finally, given the prodigious output of Fougasse during the war particularly as posters that were seen everywhere, did a talented military cartographer simply draw the cartoon in the Fougasse style which was, after all, very popular at the time. Close comparison of proven Fougasse cartoon characters and the earliest versions of the Military Survey men are inconclusive, they are obviously in the style of the time but not that close a match prove that Cyril Bird drew them personally.

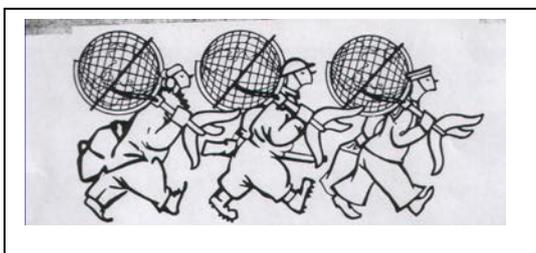
Whilst all avenues of research are by no means exhausted yet, the conclusion at this stage is that Cyril Bird just might have drawn the original cartoon character but there is no provenance to support the claim. It is more likely that an unknown draughtsman drew it in the style of the day. Finally, whoever came up with the idea of the soldier purposefully marching forward with the globe in one hand and a rifle in the other encapsulated perfectly in a single image the embodiment of the military surveyor and, whatever his ancestry, the little cartoon figure has been synonymous with Military Survey for more than half a century.



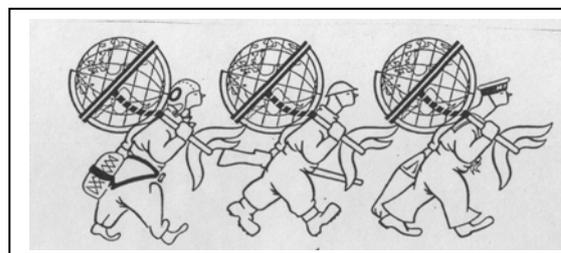
Version including a 'GI' as it appeared on a SHAEF document in 1943.



This version appeared on the cover of a 1950 map and Chart Catalogue and clearly shows the landmass on the globe as The Americas.



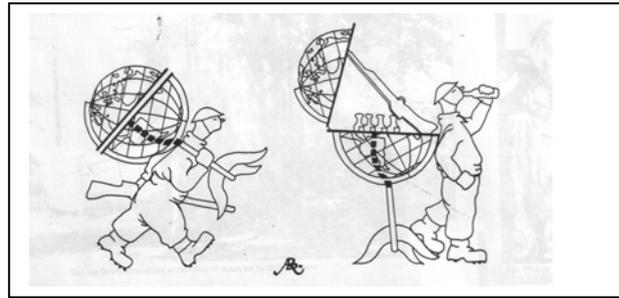
In 1970 a sailor joins the line up to become Tom, Dick and Harry.



Version redrawn with finer line work, updated airman, double line gimbal but still with the Second World War 'tin hat'.



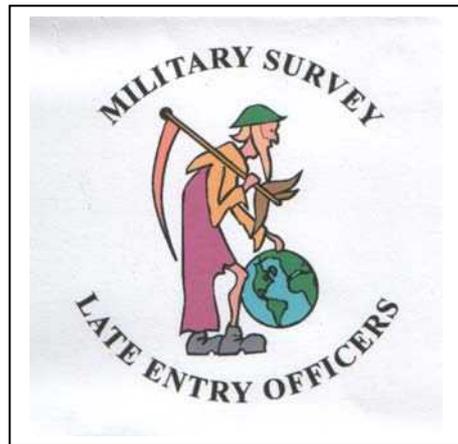
Fred on his own but with a Cold War steel helmet and very broad gimbal to the globe.



A version that appeared in a Soldier magazine article about 42 Survey Engineer Regiment in 1983.



The 250th Anniversary logo made use of the broad gimbal.

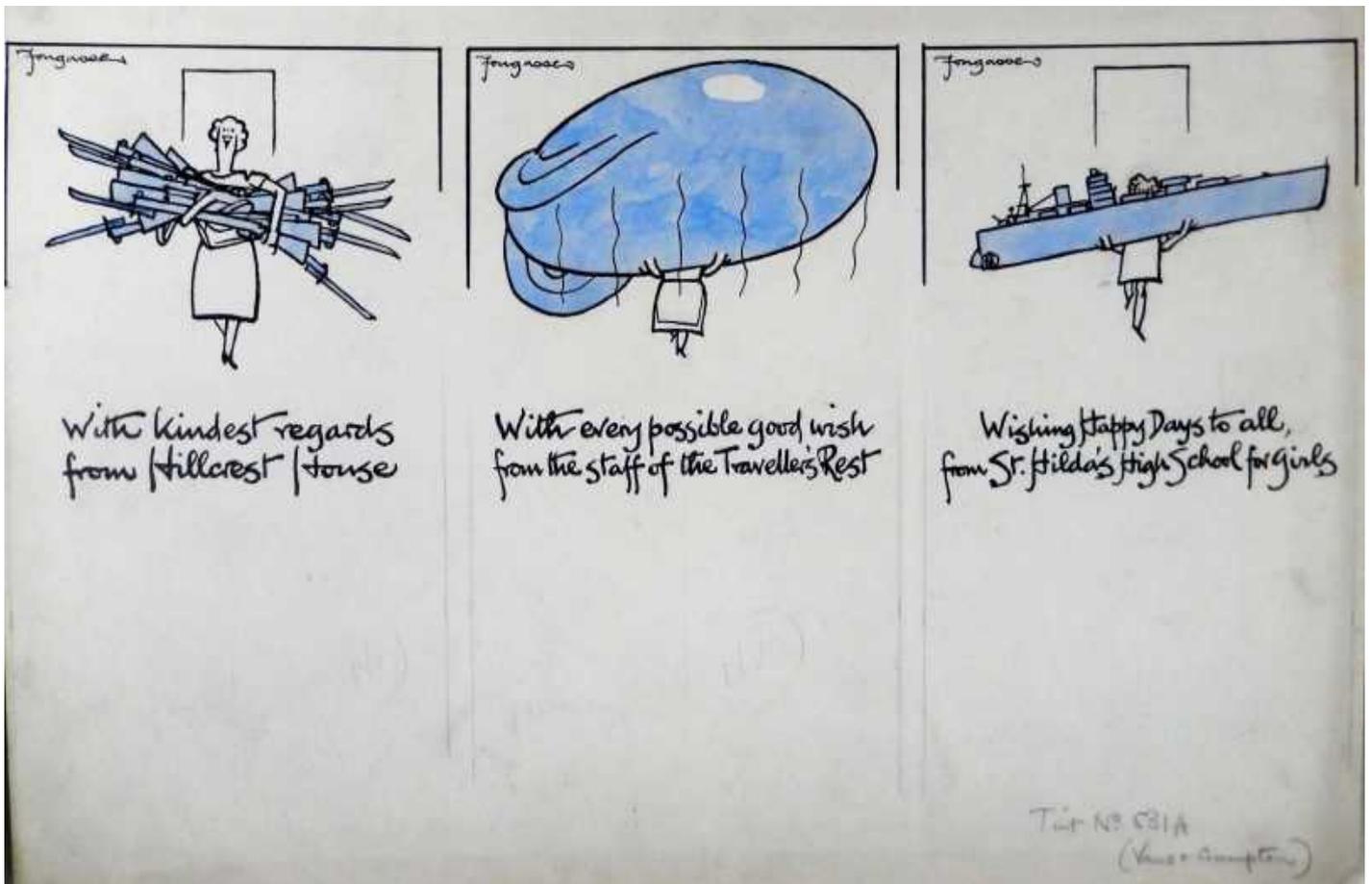
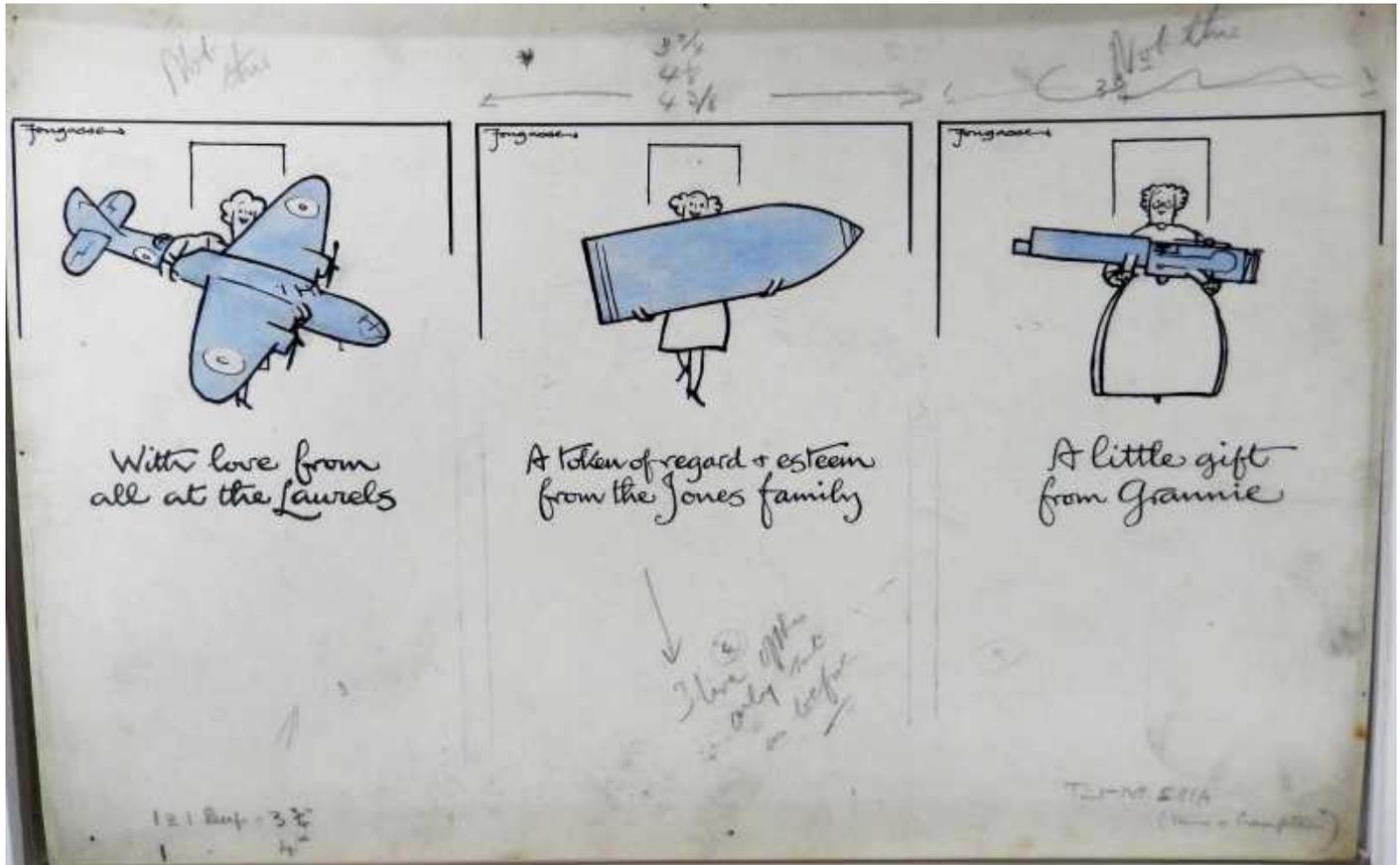


Bert Axten's very clearly illustrates the ravages of time experienced by LE officers.

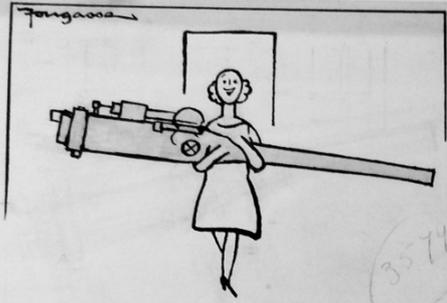
Mr Kenneth Bird (Fougasse) also agreed to provide sketches for a book of instruction for officers serving in Coastal Force craft, who are almost without exception young R.N.V.R. officers with very little experience of the Royal Navy. His approach was to make the book very digestible to the young recruits. Mr Kenneth Bird agreed that he would not ask for remuneration for his work.

Below is some of 'FOUGASSE' art work undertaken during WW2 for various organisations collecting metal and other materials for arms, ammunition etc.

(TNA files INF 3/197/198/200/201/222 & 223)



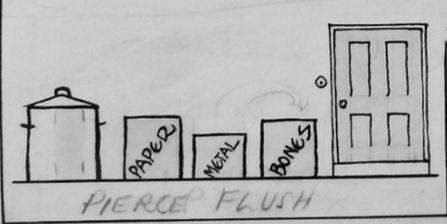
T. 531A



3574

With best wishes from Mrs. Smith

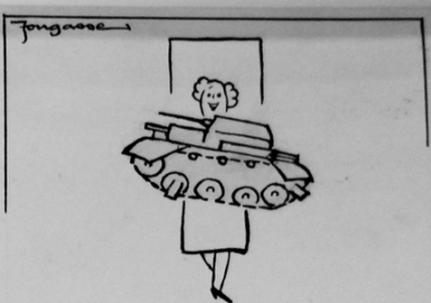
HELP TO WIN THE BATTLE OF BRITAIN AT YOUR OWN BACK-DOOR



PIERCE FLUSH

4"

T. 531



4
9
5 1/2
side

With Mrs. Macgregor's compliments

Letterpress to be set in type:—

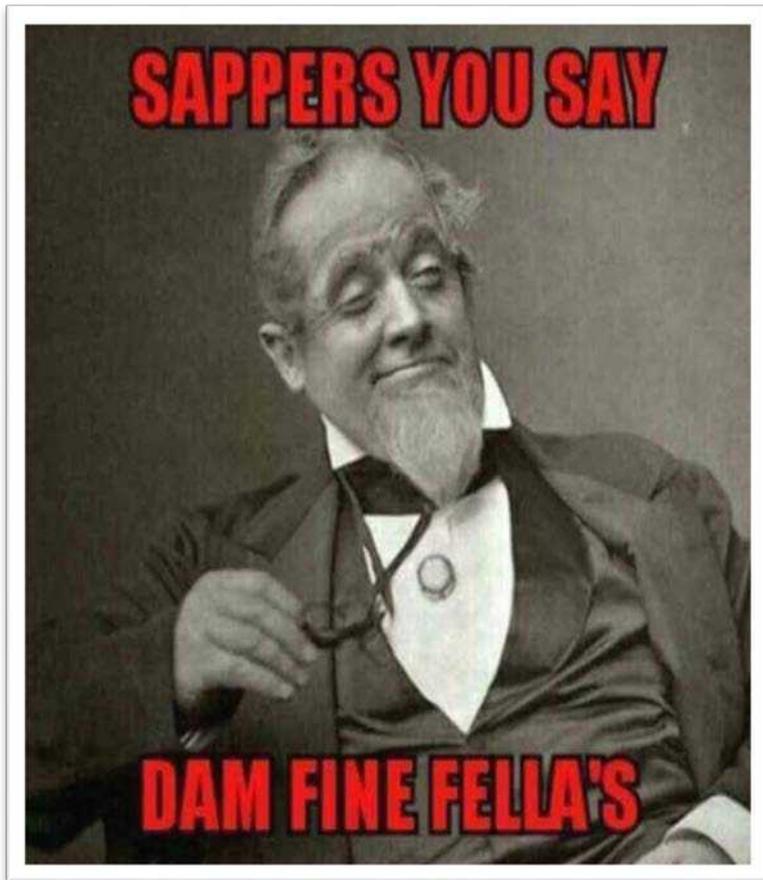
Every scrap of METAL is wanted — for guns & tanks & ships

Every scrap of BONE is wanted — for planes, explosives & fertiliser

Every scrap of PAPER is wanted — for ammunition... & many other things

So join the HOME SALVAGE CORPS & see that all your paper, metal & bones are always collected & put out separately, by your back-door

leave plenty of space

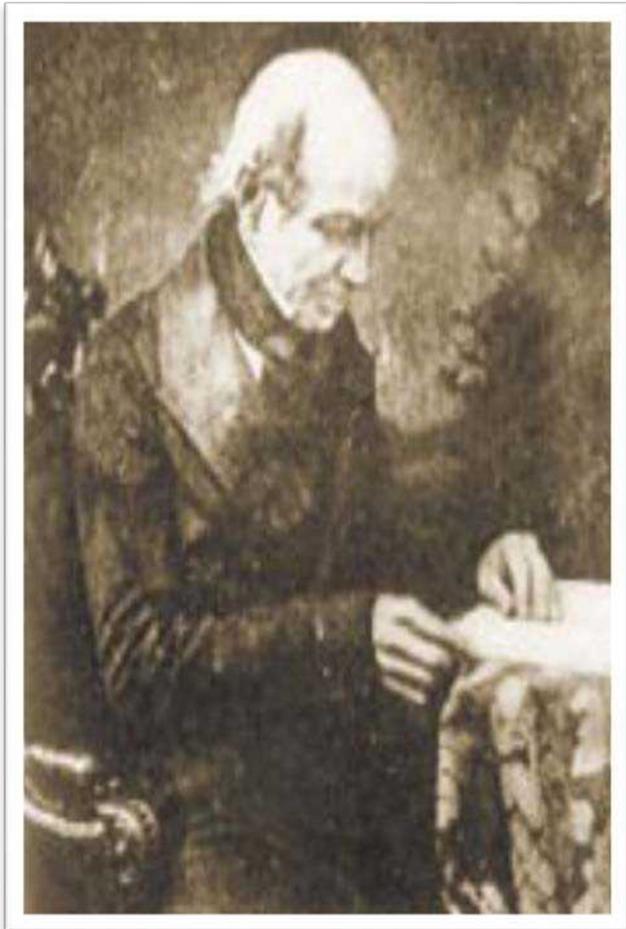


The Geographical Section of the General Staff (GSGS) (The history of the formation of the GSGS)

(We are all familiar with the initials GSGS which appear before the map series number as published by Military Survey. However we are not all aware of the origins of the Geographical Section of the General Staff and how it came to be established as part of the British Military Intelligence Service)

The origins go back the Crimean War (1854-1856) and the fact that at the time there was no reliable mapping. However, a retired officer of the Bombay Engineer Corps **Major Thomas Best Jervis** had a penchant for maps. He had retired from service in 1836 aged 39, many believe piqued that he had not been appointed Surveyor General of India. An earnest Victorian eccentric, in his retirement Major Jervis continued his passion for cartography and maps. But in response to growing European unrest and foreboding throughout the Empire from 1846 onwards, he urged Whitehall to create a 'Mapping Department' and an official Geographer - Cartographer that he believed he naturally should lead; Whitehall politely declined what they deemed an eccentric wearisome sapper. Throughout 1854, Major Jervis again petitioned the government to establish this topographical department. In a letter to the Secretary of War in July 1854, Jervis wrote frankly:

“The fact is palpable and notorious, that this great, intelligent, powerful commercial country...is entirely dependent for good maps on the Continent for German, French, and other maps. What else we have are, in truth, but school atlases. We have an admirable hydrographical office for nautical surveys and charts, and another for the Tithe Commissioners’ surveys; but for our colonial, commercial, or war purposes we have no resource but foreign information.”



Lieutenant Colonel Thomas Best Jervis, Bombay Engineer Corps, Indian Army (1796-1857).

Fortunately, Jervis whilst on holiday in Belgium had purchased in a Brussels shop a complete Russian series of the Crimea and the complete Austrian coverage of Turkey, which he offered to the government. Whitehall at the time was somewhat baffled by the lack of map coverage of their chosen battle zone and were reduced to buying school atlases in the Strand. The Commander of the Allied force, Lord Raglan, was heard to remark, “Sevastopol was as great a mystery to him as it was to Jason and the Argonauts”.

The Secretary of State for War, Lord Panmure, stated that Jervis’s maps were most desirable but that the budget was marked out so categorically he could not contemplate such expenditure. He stated however that if Jervis reproduced the maps at private cost the Government would purchase as many copies as the commanders thought necessary. The enthusiasm (not to mention his personal fortune) that his Crimean maps generated in the field among British and French officers, as well as the high-level recognition of his work (The Emperor Napoleon III invited Jervis to Paris and presented him with a massive gold snuff box) helped Jervis goad the British government to action.

To his great satisfaction a letter arrived in February 1855 from the War Department, telling him of the Treasury’s approval of the creation of a Topographical and Statistical (T&S) Department in the War Department and offering him the post of superintendent.

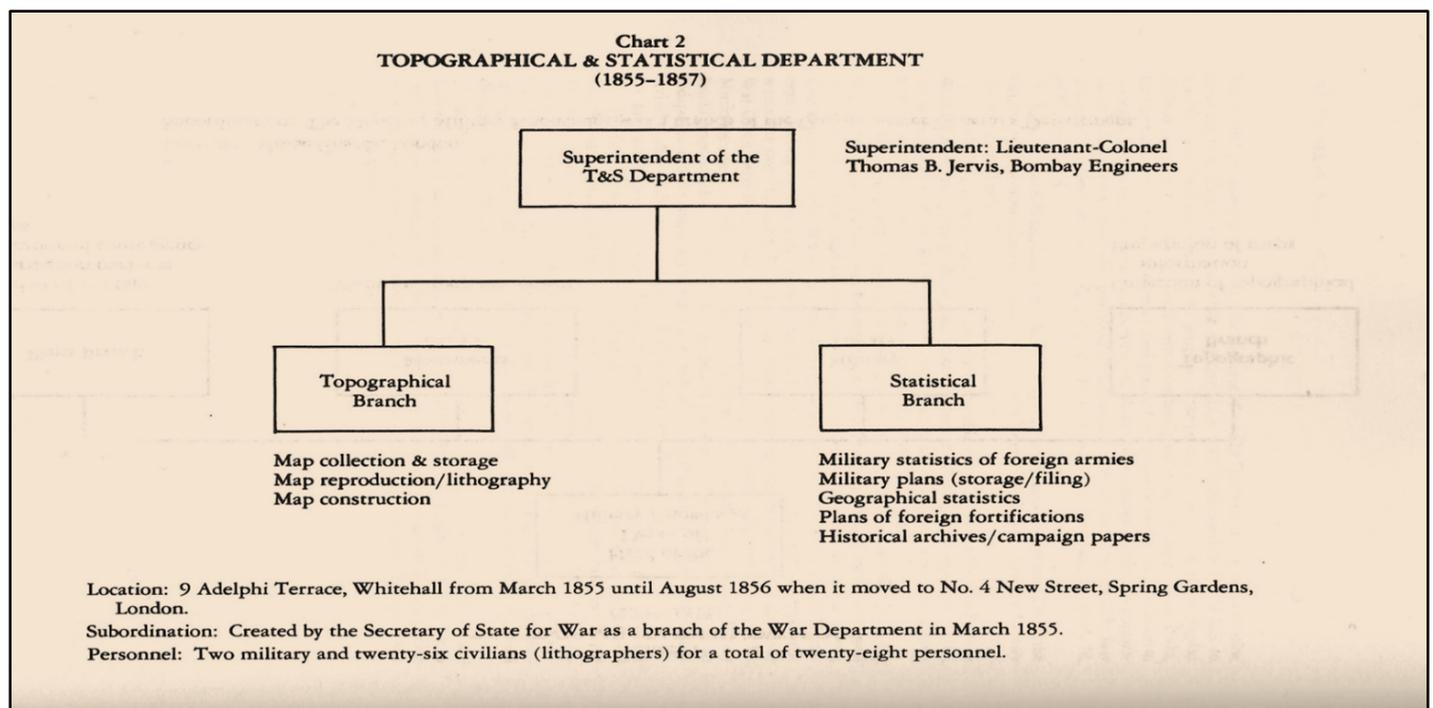
Under its newly promoted chief, Lieutenant Colonel Jervis, the T&S Department produced some excellent maps 5 in its first two years including:

- a) Map of the Principal Military Communications of the Caucasus and Contiguous Provinces, constructed in 847 by the Divisional Staff of the Imperial Army of the Caucasus, and corrected to January 1, 1853. Two sheets in chromolithography (a colour print).
- b) Map of Khiva, the Sea of Aral, and the Country between the Caspian and Herat, constructed by Lieut/Colonel Jervis.
- c) One sheet in chromolithography. Administrative Map of Moldavia, from the original Rumanian map; the names translated by Lieut/Colonel Jervis.
- d) One sheet in lithography - Plans of Sebastopol with the defences and siege operations.

The Department also produced several books, the most notable being the collected ‘Despatches and Papers of the Campaign in Turkey and the Crimea’ which, as well as giving all the returns from the Commanders in the field, contained excellent colour maps of the major battles. Another ‘side-line’ of the Department was the production of lithographs that were sold to the Public; the two most popular being ‘View of the Battle of Balaclava’ and ‘View of the Docks at Sebastopol’. In addition, this irrepressible man continued to send endless correspondence to the Whitehall. He urged that a limited number of officers and NCOs should be sent to the Military Depot at the Horseguards to be trained in military drawing, modelling and intelligence. Jervis explained that:

“such instruction would involve no further charge to the State than that of proper accommodation, books, drawing materials, surveying instruments, precisely as heralded at the Depot de la Guerre in France”.

From a Geographic Engineer perspective, like Major General William Roy (1726-1790) before, he argued in a very detailed memorandum that the best way of obtaining information was to go and get it oneself. He argued that a number of small ‘brigades’ should be formed to travel overseas and carry out geographic and statistical research. These brigades he suggested should consist of seven men; four draughtsmen, a geologist and someone who could sketch, all under the command of an officer who had a *“flair for languages and a taste for adventure”*. In 1856 Lord Panmure agreed to this idea and a party of civil engineers, surveyors and draughtsmen with equipment supplied by the Topographical and Statistical Depot under Lieutenant Colonel Geils, did go to the Middle East and charted, for the first time, the entire upper course of the Euphrates River. This was Lieutenant Colonel Jervis’s last achievement, for on 3rd April 1857, racked by a disease brought from India, he died in his sleep.

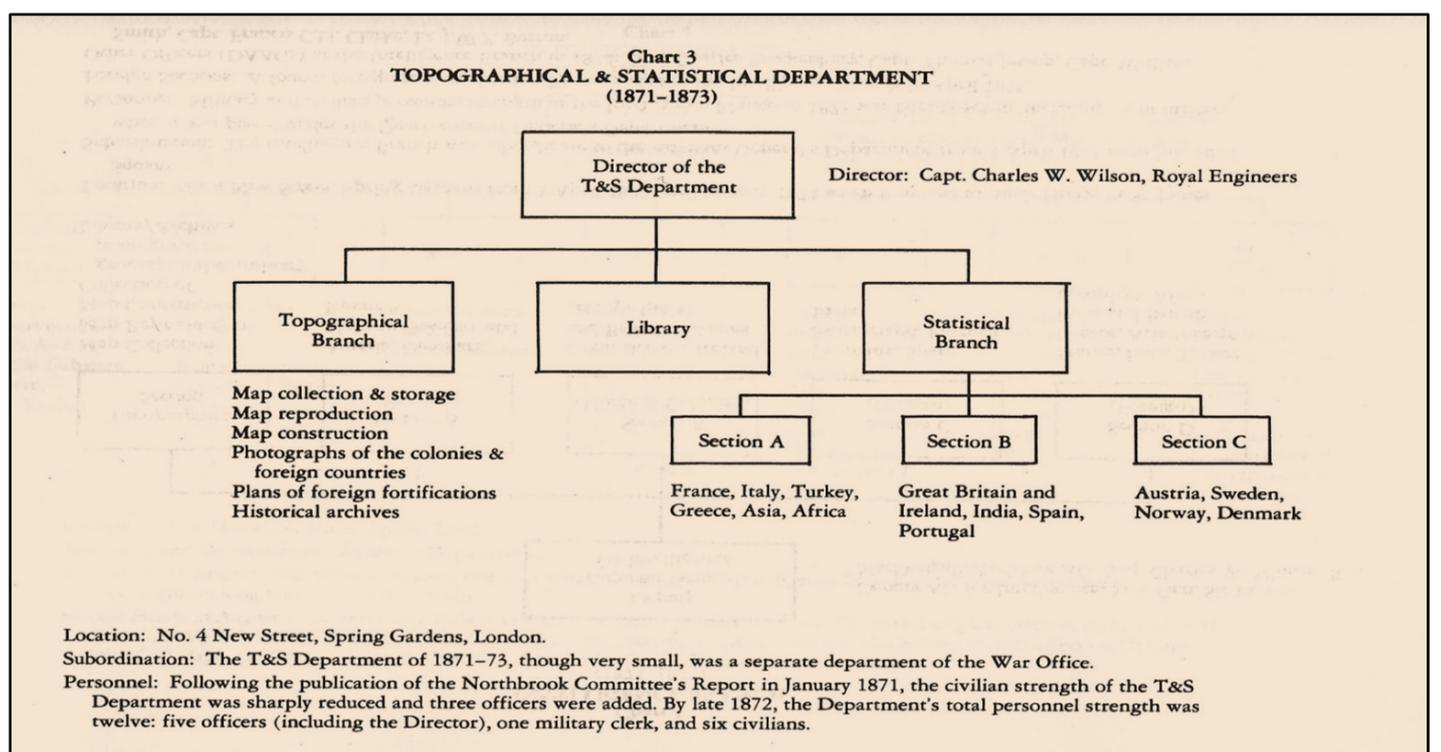


Soon after the death of Thomas Jervis in 1857, the secretary of war, Lord Panmure, appointed a committee to look into the efficiency of the T&S Department and its relationship to other government agencies. Their main concern appears to have been a desire to save money. The recommendations of this committee were followed, almost to the letter, by Panmure. To unify all government mapmaking agencies and save money, he placed the Ordnance Survey and the Topographical Depot of the QMG (the surviving remnant of the Depot of Military Knowledge) under the T&S Department. This enlarged T&S Department was directed to maintain close relations with topographical agencies of the self-governing colonies and to coordinate the mapping of the Crown colonies and other dependencies.

Rather than breathing life into the “statistical” half of the T&S Department, these changes served to reinforce the already near-total dominance of “topographical” side. The new director of the Department, **Lt Col Henry James** of the Royal Engineers, a veteran of many years in the Ordnance Survey, had little interest in military intelligence. As in the first years under Jervis, the efforts of the T&S Department seem to have been devoted to studying the topography of foreign countries. The nature and strength of the armies were treated as minor matters, relegated to the background.

An even more damning indictment of the T&S Department was contained in the initial report of a young officer who replaced Colonel James as director in April 1870. **Captain Charles Wilson’s** performance on the North American Boundary Commission (Secretary) not only helped him establish his credentials within the Royal Engineers and the army, but attracted favourable attention from the Foreign Office. Along with other members of the commission, Wilson returned to England in 1862. After a brief interlude of fortification work along the Thames, he requested a transfer to the Ordnance Survey and volunteered for the job of surveying Jerusalem. In the succeeding five years, Captain Wilson further enhanced his excellent reputation in survey work during a series of assignments – Jerusalem and Palestine (1864-66), Scotland (1866-68), and the Sinai Peninsula (1868-69) – which twice took him to the Middle East. The young officer’s technical competence, combined with his ability to operate effectively in politically sensitive areas, made him an attractive candidate for future employment with the Foreign Office. In 1869 however, it was not the Foreign Office but the Topographical and Statistical Department of the War Office which sought Wilson’s services.

In January 1869, while on surveying duty in the Sinai Peninsula, Captain Wilson received a letter from the director of the T&S Department, Col Sir Henry James, asking him if he wanted to be recommended for the job of executive officer of the department. Wilson returned to England in May 1869 to assume his new post. Sir Henry James was a “Survey man” and as director general of the Ordnance Survey treated the T&S Department as a subordinate branch, so it was hardly surprising that Charles Wilson found the T&S Department in an advanced state of decay when he arrived from the Sinai in 1869.





Major General Sir Charles W Wilson RE (1871 – 1873)

The addition of a bright and energetic new executive officer to the staff of the T&S Department in the spring of 1869 did not result in an immediate revival of that moribund organisation. Captain Wilson was appalled at the state of affairs he discovered, but he was in no position to openly criticize or to directly challenge the powerful and well-entrenched Sir Henry James. Wisely, Wilson bided his time, learned all he could about the organisation, and made mental notes about what ought to be done. His patience was rewarded the following year when Ordnance Survey was separated from the T&S Department and transferred from the War Office to the Office of Works. Charles Wilson, now only thirty-four years of age, became director of the T&S Department.

His new job did not carry with it an automatic promotion, so Wilson was still a captain when he assumed the directorship on 1 April 1870. Captain Wilson realized that a golden opportunity was at hand to translate his ideas into action. By virtue of education, intelligence, energy and experience Charles Wilson was exceptionally well prepared for the task.

Individual qualifications of the new director aside, Wilson's chances of making something of the T&S Department were enhanced immeasurably by the strong support and encouragement he received from the secretary of state for war (Edward Cardwell - 1868 to 1874). No sooner had Captain Wilson settled into the directorship than Edward Cardwell asked him to report on the condition of the T&S Department. Wilson's response, a candid and highly critical memorandum, prompted the reform-minded Cardwell to appoint a committee under Lord Northbrook, the undersecretary for war. The Northbrook Committee was charged with recommending to Edward Cardwell "the best means of turning the Topographical Department to the greatest account." When the report was published in January 1871 it was little more than a restatement of the memorandum Wilson had prepared for Cardwell some eight months earlier. Cardwell's decision to implement the recommendations contained in the report gave Charles Wilson the final stamp of approval he needed to transform the T&S Department.

It is worth noting that at this time the Franco-Prussian War was drawing to a close with the fall of Paris and Edward Cardwell had had success in bringing about a major reorganization within the War Office in 1870-71, this being prompted in part by the rise of German Military power on the Continent. The manifest weaknesses of French intelligence were not lost on Charles Wilson. Even at the end of the Franco-Prussian War, a credible strategic intelligence effort was non-existent within the British War Office. Captain Wilson left no doubt about the situation when he wrote to a friend at the time:

There is not at present in the possession of (our) Government a trustworthy account of any foreign army, and I am almost ashamed to say that had any complications arisen in France last year, and had we been asked for information, we should have had to translate a German work on the French army as giving better account of it than we could prepare ourselves.

Captain Wilson's memorandum of 30th April 1870 ranks as one of the most significant documents in the history of British military intelligence.

Only two pages long, this extraordinary memorandum was concise yet comprehensive; it addressed the present condition of the Department as Cardwell had requested and went on to prescribe the major changes Wilson felt were necessary.

According to Charles Wilson, the overall condition of the T&S Department in early 1870 was poor. The work of the topographical section was hampered by a chronic shortage of funds. The library and map collections were “deficient”; maps produced or collected by other departments of the War Office had not been obtained or even catalogued. And, despite guidance to the contrary which had been furnished some thirteen years earlier by the secretary for war (Lord Panmure), close coordination with topographical agencies of the self-governing had not been achieved.

Captain Wilson’s analysis of the statistical work of the T&S Department, although written over a century ago, dealt with what still are generally, regarded as the three major functions of intelligence work at the strategic and tactical levels, alike: *collection, processing/analysis, and dissemination/reporting*. In its broadest sense, collection includes the planning of intelligence collection operations, the tasking of collectors or collection systems, the actual collection of information from the source or sources to a staff or central agency whose function is to produce intelligence. Charles Wilson’s memorandum of April 1870, as well as information derived from other sources describing the T&S Department at the time; show that on the eve of the Franco-Prussian War the British War Office’s strategic intelligence effort was deficient in all three functions.

Not surprisingly, Wilson addressed the problem of collection most directly. Charles Wilson was acutely aware of this when he informed Cardwell in his memorandum that neither the T&S Department nor the War Office as a whole possessed an established system or plan for the regular collection of foreign military intelligence. Foreign newspapers, military journals, and official publications were not being screened and in fact were not being acquired by the Department.

Captain Wilson also recognised that the end products of the Department, both topographical and statistical, would be of little or no value to the War Office and the army if they were not disseminated regularly. He pointed to the existing problems in this area by recommending to Cardwell that products of the Department

should be made useful not only to the Secretary of State but to the whole Army by publishing quarterly a small sheet containing a list of maps and books added to the Library during the quarter, and translations of interesting articles on military matters in foreign periodicals Secondly, a series of pamphlets, descriptive of foreign armies, similar to those prepared by the Prussian Topographical Department, should be prepared and sold to officers of the Army for a small fixed sum.

In his reorganization scheme Wilson aimed at a more even balance between the topographical and statistical functions and the improvement of the Department’s ability to process military intelligence. The Topographical Section would collect and produce maps; its collection should consist of:

- a. The best map extant of Great Britain and colonies and all foreign countries.
- b. The best plans of foreign fortresses
- c. Maps and plans illustrative of campaigns, battles and sieges.
- d. Photographs of the colonies and foreign countries.

The Statistical Section was to be divided into three divisions, each under an officer responsible for collection and processing of military information concerning particular foreign countries.

Section A. Austria, Russia, Sweden, Norway, Turkey, Greece, Asia.

Section B. Prussia, Germany, Italy, Switzerland, Spain, Denmark.

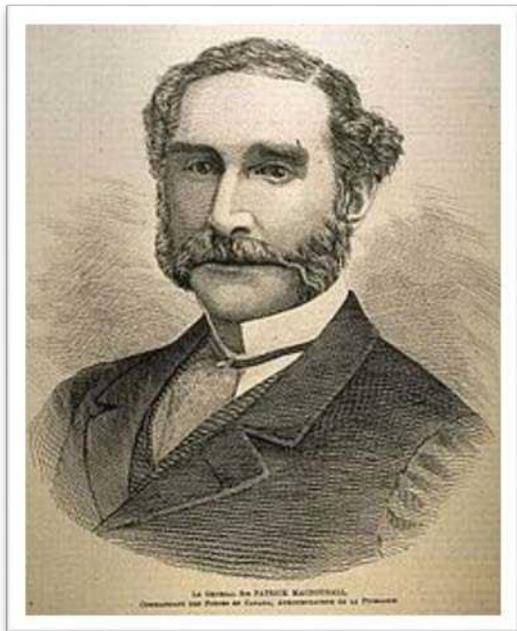
Section C. France, Great Britain, Belgium, the Netherlands, America.

In addition to the Topographical and Statistical Sections, the Department should maintain “a good military library.”

Wilson’s remaining proposals deals primarily with collection and budgetary considerations. He wanted a small amount of money (£250) set aside in the annual Army Estimates for the purchase of books, foreign newspapers, and foreign journals. Officers assigned to the Department were to attend annual autumn manoeuvres of European armies and “should be encouraged to travel.”

After approximately one year’s experience with the restructured T&S Department, Charles Wilson was pleased but not entirely satisfied. In 1872 he sent a new report to Cardwell, recommending that the Department be enlarged and “that an officer of high rank and position” be placed at its head.

On 24th February 1873, British war minister Edward Cardwell made a speech to the House of Commons, in which he announced his plans to establish an intelligence department in the War Office under the direction of a general officer. The Intelligence Branch, as this new department of the War Office was called for the first fifteen years of its existence, was activated on 1st April 1873. Headed by a major general and staffed by a grand total of twenty-seven military and civilian personnel. The Intelligence Branch was tiny and seemingly, unequal to its worldwide responsibilities, when compared with military staffs in London, Washington and Moscow of today, and was small even in its own day, when measured against staff sections performing similar functions in Berlin, Vienna and Paris.

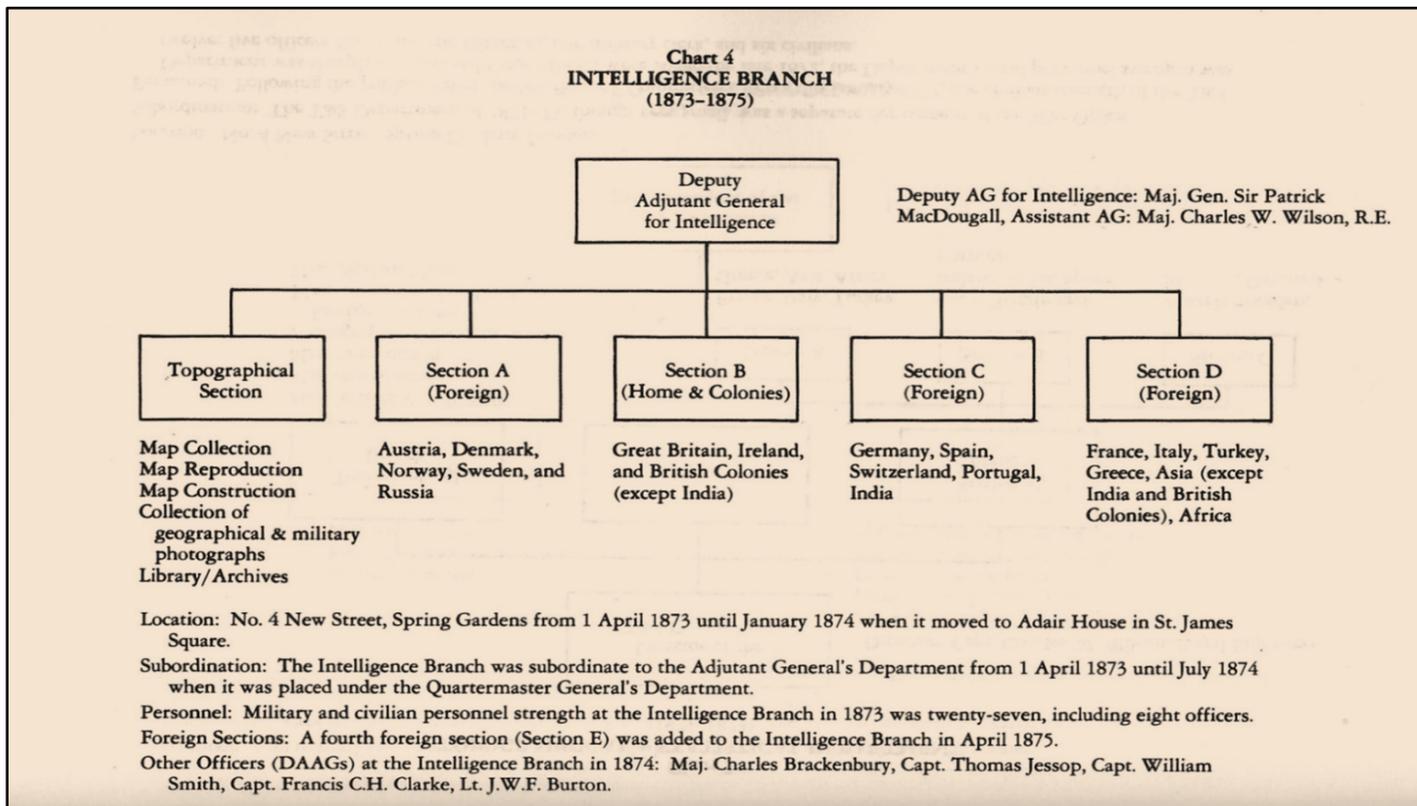


*General Sir Patrick MacDougall
Head of Intelligence Branch (1873-1878)*

Major General Sir Patrick MacDougall (Cameron Highlanders /Herefordshire Regt/ Royal Canadian Rifle Regt) was named the first chief of the Intelligence Branch; his official title was deputy adjutant general for intelligence. Actually, MacDougall would often receive instructions from the commander-in-chief, but administratively, the Intelligence Branch was placed under the adjutant generals department.

Cardwell's appointment of Sir Patrick MacDougall to the new post was an excellent choice. MacDougall had also been the first commandant of the Staff College at Camberley and was one of the army's leading reformers in the post-Crimea War years.

Charles Wilson, promoted to major in May 1873, stayed on in the Intelligence Branch as General MacDougall's deputy for three more years. The presence of Major Wilson insured continuity in the functioning of War Office Intelligence and a smooth transition from T&S Department to Intelligence Branch. Indeed, in both internal organisation and assigned responsibilities, the Intelligent Branch of 1873 was remarkably similar to the T&S Department of 1871-73.



The functions of the Branch included those of its predecessor. However, in addition to the collection of topographical and statistical information, it was charged with the application of such information, in respect to the measures considered and determined on during peace, which should be adopted in war, so that no delay might arise from uncertainty and hesitation.

Sir Patrick MacDougall and his successors interpreted the “application of such information” to mean the involvement of their organisation in strategic planning for the defence of Great Britain and her Empire. Thus from the moment of its official birth in 1873, the Intelligence Branch was more than strictly an intelligence staff. It is possible to see it from this stage on as the embryo of the British General Staff, which was established in 1904, as well as the beginning of a modern military or national intelligence organisation.

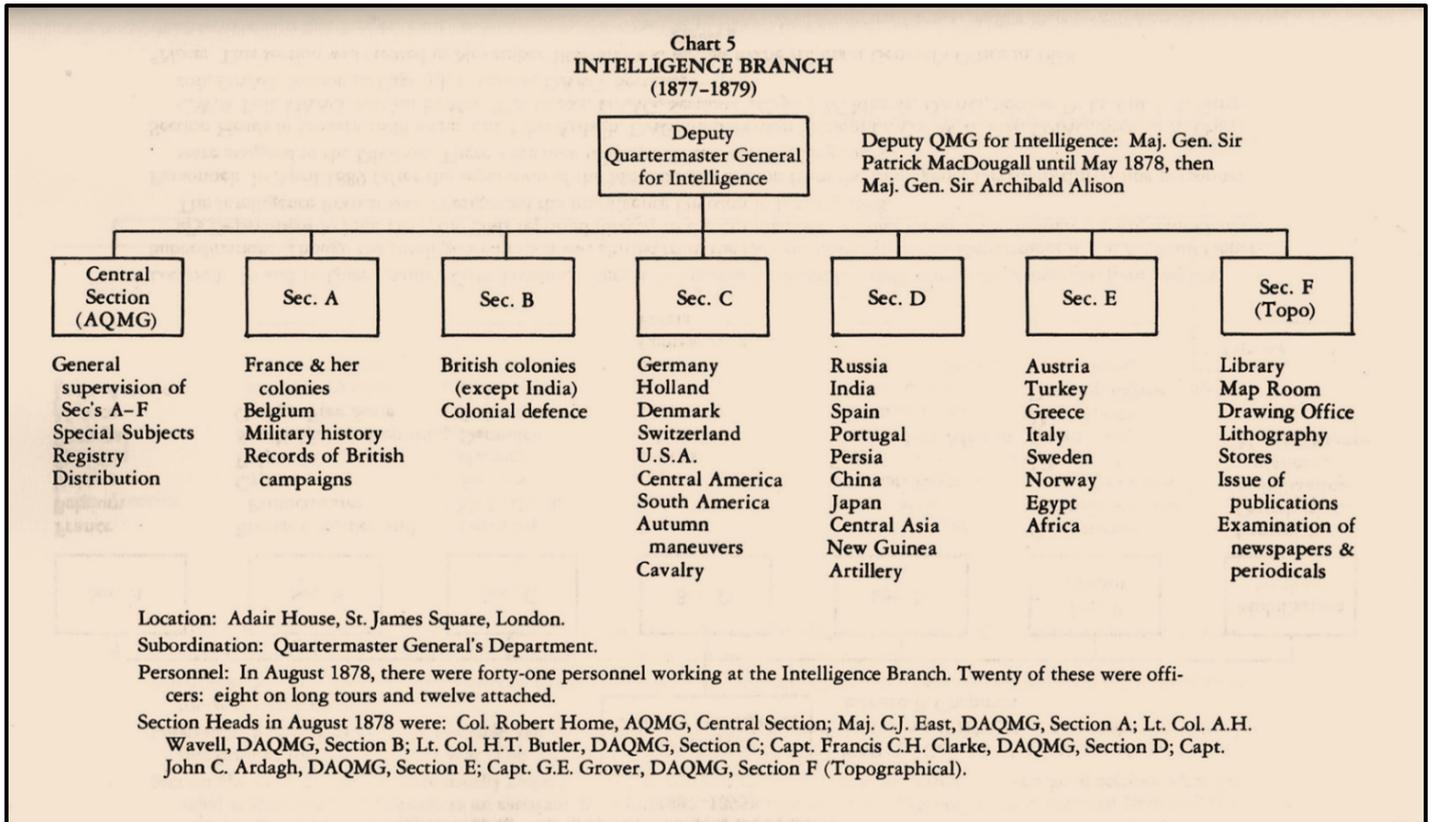
Until at least 1886, the planning/operational element of the Branch’s work was secondary in importance and at times almost insignificant compared to its intelligence role. Nevertheless, the addition of this new mission in 1873, along with an increased emphasis on the collection and production of military intelligence, necessitated some adjustments in both manpower and internal organisation of the Intelligence Branch. Major Wilson had little difficulty in persuading General MacDougall that the branch needed additional officers. MacDougall also decided to form a “Home and Colonial Section” to assist him in strategical planning. When the Intelligence Branch was formed in April 1873, the number of military and civilian personnel assigned rose to twenty-seven, as compared to twelve in the T&S Department of 1872-73. Significantly, officer strength increased from five to eight, and one of the newly authorised was appointed to head the Home and Colonial Section. Charles Wilson, as second ranking officer in the branch, was designated an assistant adjutant general (AAG), while the five section chiefs were rated deputy assistant adjutant generals (DAAG).

Of far more significance than whether the Intelligence Branch was administratively subordinated to the AG or QMG was the fact in April 1873 a permanent military intelligence organization had been established at the War Office in London. In the three years following Captain Wilson’s appointment as director of the T&S Department in April 1870, Edward Cardwell and other senior War Office officials had been convinced of the need for an intelligence department. Charles Wilson was instrumental in defining this requirement, the functions of the new organisation, and its internal structure. There is little doubt that his extraordinary success in injecting new life into the T&S Department in the aftermath of the Franco-Prussian War and in winning the full confidence of the secretary of state for war was a classic case of the right individual being in the right place at the right time. It should not be forgotten, however, that other conditions were present which made the realization of Wilson’s plans possible, or at least far more likely. Of these, the most vital was the growth of a climate of reform in the War Office beginning in 1868. Charles Wilson had received powerful support from the man who did much to establish this new atmosphere, Edward Cardwell. Once Sir Henry James and the Ordnance Survey were removed from the T&S Department in 1870, there was little to obstruct Wilson’s path. The Franco-Prussian War and the example of the Prussian Great General Staff also played a major role in the establishment of a revived T&S Department and eventually of the Intelligence Branch. To his credit, Captain Charles William Wilson’s memorandum of 30th April 1870 had called attention to the need for change before the war began.

The physical relocation of the Intelligence Branch was more than a symbolic gesture. Under the leadership of Sir Patrick MacDougall, the youngest branch of the War Office experienced remarkable growth in the first five years of its existence. By the time Sir Patrick left Adair House in the spring of 1878 and returned to Canada as commander-in-chief of the forces in British North America, the Intelligence Branch of the Quartermaster General’s Department was firmly established as an integral essential part of the War Office.

MacDougall’s successor, **Major General Sir Archibald Alison** (Seaforth Highlanders) (left) was not as well suited for the demanding post he assumed on 1st May 1878. In the long run, the change at the top resulted in a decline in both the productivity and efficiency of the Branch, but this was not evident until the latter half of Alison’s tenure (1882-85), when he remained continuously away from London. For several years after MacDougall’s departure the fine staff that had been assembled and the lofty reputation earned by the Branch over the preceding five years enabled Alison and his subordinates to carry on their work in much the same fashion as it had been accomplished under Sir Patrick.





In July 1882 Major General Sir Archibald Alison, the deputy quartermaster general, Intelligence Branch, left England for Egypt and a field command, taking four of the six DAQMG's with him. Sir Archibald Alison had taken over from Sir Patrick MacDougall as director of the Intelligence Branch in May 1878. Besides the fact that both men were Scots and both had been commandants of the Staff College, Alison and MacDougall were about as different as two major generals in the British Army of their day possibly could have been. Sir Archibald was everything that Sir Patrick was not. MacDougall was "an administrator rather than a man of action, a thoughtful student of war who evidently preferred to work quietly in the shadows." An infantryman, Alison was a dashing and well-decorated field commander who had distinguished himself as a courageous junior officer in the Crimea war, had lost his arm in the second relief of Lucknow during the Indian Mutiny, and had commanded a brigade in some of the heaviest fighting of the Ashanti War. He was without question a superb combat leader but he was not, by temperament or experience, well, suited for his appointment as DQMG for intelligence.

Unsurprisingly, Sir Archibald Alison was not an outstanding head of the Intelligence Branch. Almost certainly, he was ill at ease in the confines of his War Office staff job and eagerly anticipated just the sort of opportunity that materialised in 1882 when Britain intervened in Egypt. Alison returned to form in Egypt, commanding the leading brigade in the storming of the enemy entrenchments at Tel-el-Kebir and eventually receiving the thanks of Parliament and a promotion to lieutenant general. After Wolseley's departure General Alison was commander of British Forces in Egypt until May 1883. When he returned to England, Sir Archibald did not go back to the Intelligence Branch but instead was given command of the Aldershot Division. The DQMG post was allowed to remain vacant for over three years, until January 1886, when Major General Henry Brackenbury (late RA) arrived.

The sudden departure of Alison in 1882 and the failure of the War Office to name a replacement until 1886 was damaging enough, but the absence of four majors Alison took with him to Egypt had a disastrous effect on the Intelligence Branch. The responsibility for intelligence production throughout three years of trouble in Egypt and the Sudan fell on the AQMG. Colonel East handled the task as well as possible until his departure in June 1883. His replacement Col A S Cameron was a poor choice for the critical second position, particularly with no chief to guide him and at a time when staff officers were continually leaving the War Office for active service. Cameron was a recipient of the Victoria Cross, but apparently he had little inclination for intelligence work.

When four of the six DAQMG's were sent to Egypt in 1885 to form an intelligence department for the Suakin Expedition the productivity of the Intelligence Branch in London sank to an all-time low. Another serious problem for the undermanned organisation was one which began to plague the Branch in the late 1870s; which was that since the Branch has so many officers of a ability and had accumulated such detailed knowledge of foreign countries and armies, it ought to be able to make an important contribution to the solution of any problems of organisation or administration that arose in the British Army. Thus, between 1875 and 1879 the Branch was required to submit detailed reports on such topics as the "war establishment" of certain units, the "examination of the lines of communication system," fortifications, the "preparattions for autumn and summer manoeuvres," Rules for the Conduct of War Games." The capability of the Branch to handle such diverse duties, unrelated to foreign intelligence, brought it additional prestige and more work. In the early 1880's the Branch was bareley capable of any useful foreign intelligence work. Still the War Office expected the Branch would continue to respond to demands for information or staff work on virtually any subject, a combination which could only lead to trouble, and eventually, to a loss of influence for the Branch.



General Sir Henry Brackenbury RA (1886 - 1891)

The arrival of **Major General Henry Brackenbury** as the new director of the Intelligence Branch in January 1886 brought not only a remarkably rapid revival of that lethargic organisation, but also the beginning of five years of growth and change comparable to Charles Wilson's reign as director of the T & S Department in the early 1870's and the early years of the branch itself under MacDougall. A long time protégé of Lord Wolseley and an original member of the "Ashanti Ring," Brackenbury lost no time in making his mark upon the Intelligent Branch and winning the respect of his subordinates. He was not held in high esteem by the Duke of Cambridge, the commander-in-chief of the army, no doubt because of his independent mind and his ties to the reform-minded Wolseley, then the adjutant general. At a dinner party during the first years of Brackenbury's directorship, the duke startled a young officer working at the Intelligence Branch by remarking in a sombre tone, "So you are under Brackenbury? A dangerous man, my dear Gleichen a very dangerous man!" Who was this "dangerous man, who was to have such a dramatic impact on the war Office Intelligence establishment?

Henry Brackenbury was forty-eight years of age when he became head of the Intelligence Branch on New Year's Day 1886. One of his elder brothers, Charles, also became a career army officer and as a major served at the Intelligence Branch (Topographic Section) during the mid-1870s. Following a commission in the RA in April 1856 and being too late to see action in the Crimean War, he sailed for India in the summer of 1857. He was forced to return home in 1858 because of ill health and settled down to series of routine assignments. He possessed a considerable talent as a writer and was appointed a professor of military history at Woolwich in 1868. Captain Brackenbury's military career was boosted in 1873 when Lord Wolseley took him to Ashanti as his military secretary. Brackenbury had written to Wolseley, volunteering his services in any capacity. Wolseley provided an interesting portrait of Brackenbury during the Ashanti War (1873-74) in his memoirs:

My military secretary was Captain Henry Brackenbury and my private secretary Lieutenant Frederick Maurice. Both were artillerymen and strangers to me at the time, but I chose them as men remarkable for their ability, and because both were thoroughly well versed in the science of their profession. The former is not only a profound reasoner with a strong will and a logical mind, but – that rare man to find in our Army – a first-rate man of business and an indefatigable worker also. Whatever he undertakes, he performs admirably and thoroughly. Had He adopted some less noble but more paying occupation in life than the Army he would have made a fortune. He spoke reasonably well, and had he made politics his career, I have no doubt that he would have risen to a very high position in that questionable trade.



Field Marshal Lord Wolseley

Lord Wolseley was Henry Brackenbury's faithful patron, and in large part to his support was advanced from captain to brevet lieutenant colonel between 1873 and 1875. By the time Brackenbury assumed command of the famed River Column in the Sudan in February 1885, he was a brigadier general.

Upon his return to England in August he was promoted to major general for "distinguished service in the field." There can be little doubt that Lord Wolseley engineered Major General Brackenbury's appointment as deputy quartermaster general and head of the Intelligence Branch in 1886.

To what degree was Henry Brackenbury qualified to assume the top military intelligent post in the British Army in 1886? In addition to his considerable talents as administrator, staff officer, and writer, he was not without experience in military intelligence. Most notably, Brackenbury had served as military attaché in Paris 1881-82 and so played a vital role in the collection of strategic intelligence on the armed forces of France. When Brackenbury became head of the Intelligence Branch at the beginning of 1886, the Branch was situated at 16 and 18 Queen Anne's Gate, where it had been moved from Adair House in December 1884.

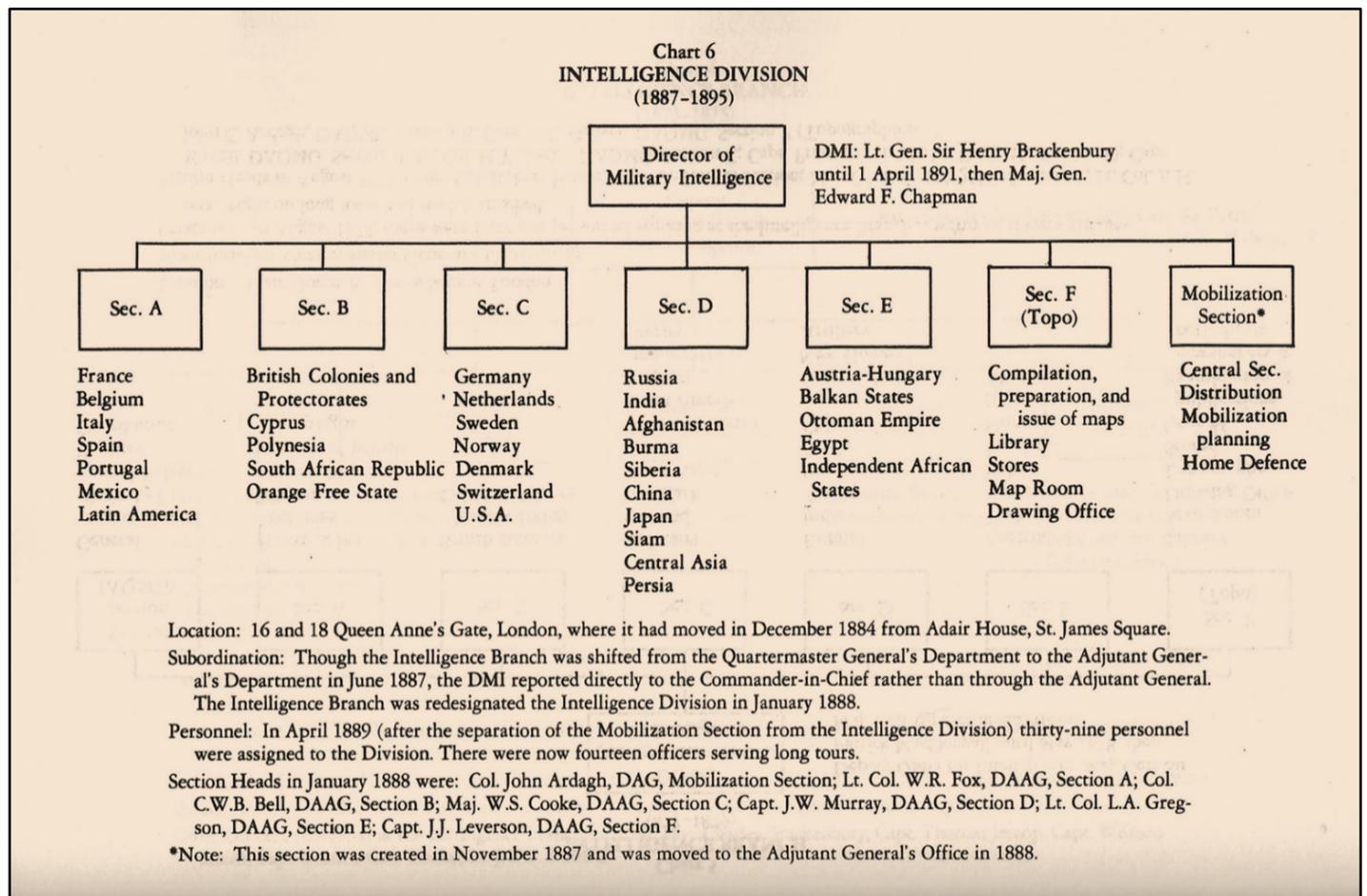
It was a pleasant location, but rather far removed from the environs of the War Office in Whitehall. There were certain advantages in this, although it may have contributed to the notion that the Intelligence Branch was in 1885 "a harmless but rather useless appendage to the War Office." The mere presence of a brilliant, dynamic general like Henry Brackenbury, after three years of stagnation and relative inactivity at the Branch, was bound to have had a catalytic effect. Ironically, Brackenbury's first major effort as head of War Office Intelligence dealt with defence planning instead of military intelligence. In 1885 neither the Intelligence Branch of the War Office, the Foreign Intelligence Committee of the Admiralty, the Colonial Defence Committee or any other branch of the British Government was responsible for strategic planning for the defence of Britain and her far flung empire.



16 & 18 Queen Anne's Gate (1884 – 1901)

Henry Brackenbury was one of the strongest advocates for the establishment of a British General Staff within the higher ranks of the army in the late 1880s. When he assumed his new post as deputy quartermaster general and head of the Intelligence Branch in 1886, he was appalled by the War Office's failure to have developed an up-to-date mobilisation plan, a defect he regarded as a consequence of the lack of a general staff. There was little hope of any immediate steps being taken by the War Office to set up a general staff, so Brackenbury, with encouragement and support from Lord Wolseley, personally undertook the demanding task of constructing a new mobilisation plan. It was not illogical to Brackenbury that he should perform such work while head of the Branch because he was convinced of the need to link the intelligence product with operational needs. In the absence of a general staff there was no more suitable place to attempt this than the Intelligence Branch.

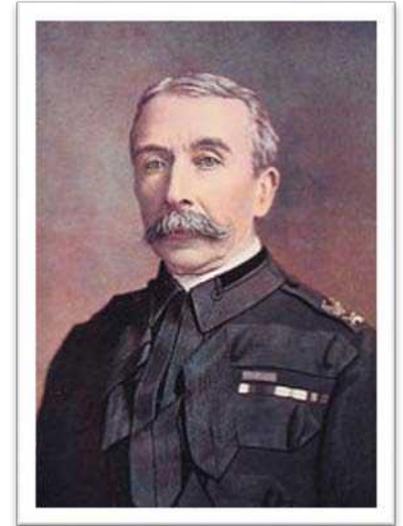
Brackenbury's initial efforts to come to grips with mobilization planning resulted in a series of reports dealing with the problems of home defence, the movement of an army corps overseas, and the condition of the army at home. One significant conclusion he reached after only three months was that "for want of the departmental services, we cannot place two complete Army Corps in the field, either for foreign service or for home defence."



The transfer of the Intelligence Branch back to the adjutant general on 1st June 1887, after nearly thirteen years in the less-prestigious Quartermaster General's Department, was another step upward. General Brackenbury's title was changed at this point to director of military intelligence (DMI) and, significantly, he was now to report directly to the commander-in-chief (rather than through the adjutant general). The additional power and autonomy gained by the Branch and its director in mid-1887 helped Brackenbury solve a problem which had plagued his predecessors and had annoyed him since his arrival at Queens Gate in 1886. The DMI was unhappy with his organisation's dependence upon highly transient "attached officers" who often left the Branch after serving there less than 6 months. In October 1887 he persuaded the War Office to reduce the number of "attached officers" assigned and to increase the permanent strength by seven staff captains. This was a crucial development, for its effect was to double the number of officers serving long tours (three to six year) at the Branch. The capstone of Henry Brackenbury's eventful first two years as head of the branch occurred in January 1888 when he was promoted to lieutenant general. Simultaneously, the Intelligence Branch was redesignated as the Intelligence Division in recognition of its higher status within the War Office.

The quality of the officers assembled a Queen Anne's Gate by Henry Brackenbury was impressive, and his accomplishment in finding them and getting them assigned to the Division was a critical ingredient in the revival of War Office Intelligence during his five years as DMI. Like MacDougall's reign in the 1870s, Brackenbury's act was tough to follow.

Major General Edward F Chapman (right), who became DMI on 1st April 1891, was an artilleryman whose entire career had been spent in India. He had been brought home from India (where he had served as quartermaster general from 1885 to 1889) in ill health and was chosen DMI apparently because of his vast experience in the Subcontinent and because of the fear of a Russian invasion through India. Chapman was “a most kind and considerate chief” and, according to Edward Gleichen, “We were all very fond of him personally.”



However, in many ways Chapman was like a fish out of water in his new position. Unfortunately for General Chapman, the major crises during his five years as DMI occurred in Europe and Africa, not in India. Certainly the Intelligence Division missed the strong leadership of Henry Brackenbury after his departure for India in 1891. Happily, though, there was no appreciable decline in the productivity and the efficiency of the Division under Edward Chapman.

What carried the Division through the 1891-95 period was the momentum established by Brackenbury. Talented officers like Callwell, Repington, Waters, Grierson and Gleichen, who had been brought in and developed by Brackenbury, also served under Chapman. The new channels for exchanging information opened up by “Brack” with the Admiralty, the Foreign Office, the Colonial Office, and the India Office continued to be used. The money he secured from the Treasury for official and “confidential” trips continued to be available, and the practice of sending officers from the Division abroad regularly was also continued. Lt General Henry Brackenbury’s impact upon British military intelligence at the War Office was both positive and enduring.

British prestige was shaken to its very foundations in the autumn of 1899 by a stunning series of British Army defeats during the opening months of the South African War. For the first time since the establishment of the Intelligence Branch in 1873, War Office Intelligence was subjected to the glare of public scrutiny. The experience was not a pleasant one for those serving in the Intelligence Division at the time, particularly for the director of military intelligence, Maj Gen Sir John Ardagh.

There is no branch of our military organisation which, during the present war, has come in for so much criticism and blame as the Intelligence Department.

The nation and the government had been unprepared for war in South Africa because the Intelligence Division had failed in its duty, or so some critics proclaimed.

Section F, the “Maps and printing Section,” also had responsibilities related to the preparation for the Boer War. With a staff of three officers and some twenty-three draftsmen, printers, and clerks, Section F was responsible for “the provision of maps required for military purposes throughout the Empire.” Obviously, the section was understaffed for the accomplishment of their duties.

Major General Sir John Ardagh (right) had succeeded Edward Chapman as director of military intelligence on 1st April 1896, following six years as private secretary to the viceroy of India (1888-94) and a year as commandant of the School of Military Engineering at Chatham.



Ardagh enjoyed a reputation as the “foremost politic-military officer” in the British Army as well as an authority on international law and an outstanding staff officer. He also had the advantage of close personal friendships with virtually all of the most important figures in Britain’s defence establishment at that time, including Lord Lansdowne, secretary of state for war, and Lord Wolseley, the commander-in-chief of the army. Lengthy experience in intelligence and diplomatic work made General Ardagh appear an ideal choice for the DMI post. Despite all the public criticism of Ardagh and his department during the South African War, he remained on as DMI until 1901, serving a full five-year term.

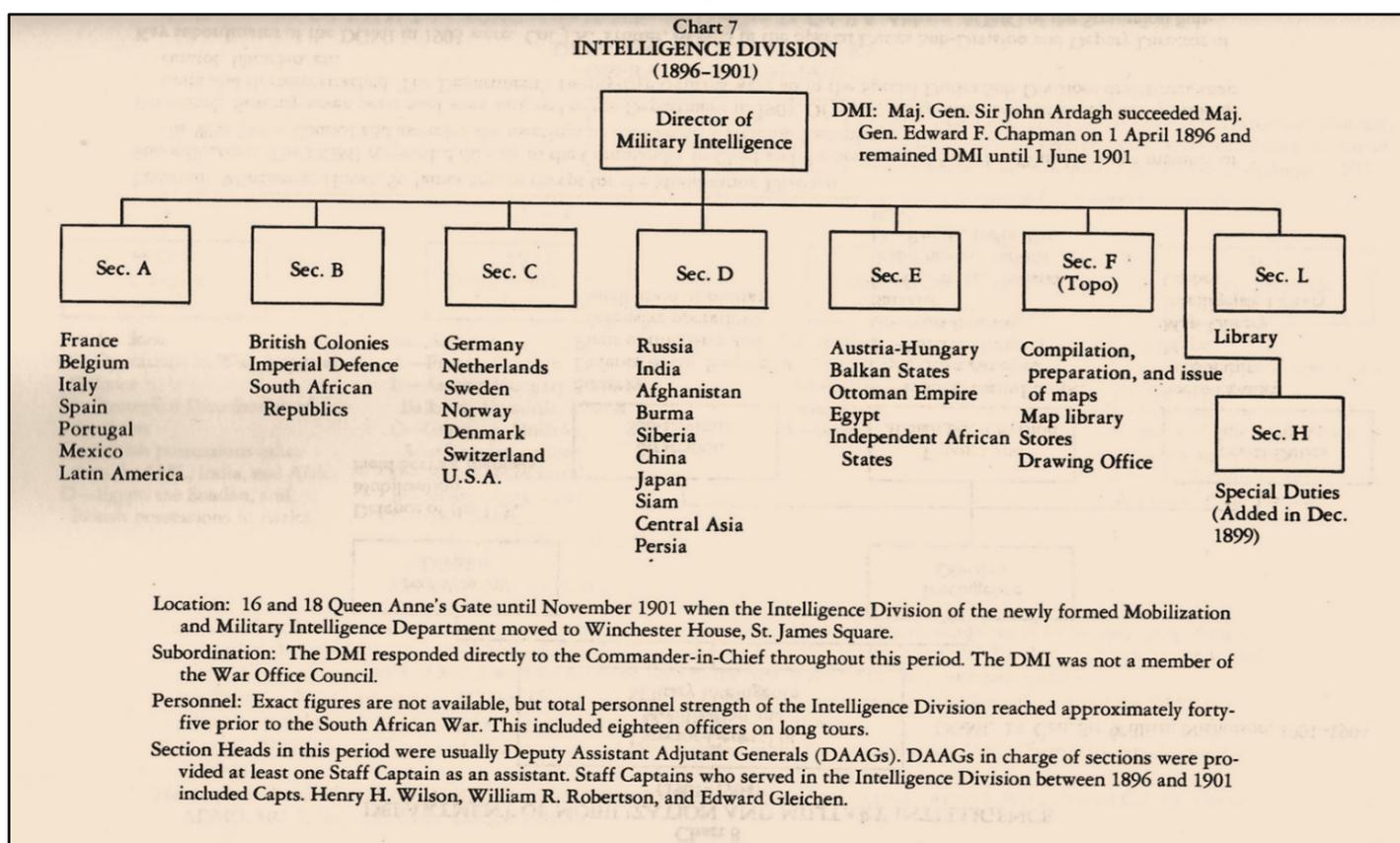
After his tour as DMI (1896-1901) and his retirement from military service in 1902, Sir John continued to work for the Foreign Office and to remain involved in public affairs until his death in 1907.

Yet the Intelligence Division was not asked to do such work in the 1896-99 period and the DMI was not included as a member of the War Office Consultative Council set up by the order in council of 21 November 1895. Sir John Ardagh's statement as a witness before the Royal Commission on the War in South Africa further amplified the position of the Intelligence Division in the years before the South African War.

I think the Intelligence Department ... has not now and has not for many years had, influence on the military policy of the country that it ought to have ... my position (as DMI) was very subordinate indeed to the influence exercised by the great military officers at the War Office – the Commander-in-Chief, the Adjutant-General, the Quartermaster-General, the Inspector-General of Fortifications; they were as a rule Lieutenant-Generals or higher rank while I was a Major-General and rank goes for a good deal in confabulations of military people

Given its lack of funds and its lack of power within the War Office, the Intelligence Division did its job amazingly well. It was consistently accurate in its estimates of the numerical strength of the Boer armies, the numbers and types of armaments they possessed, and the intentions of their leaders. In the opinion of the Royal Commission on the War in South Africa,

It was not the function of the Intelligence Division of the War Office to formulate from information it had collected an estimate of the force required to guard against the dangers which that information disclosed ... it becomes necessary to



look to some higher authority Obviously, this is to be found only in the Commander-in-Chief with whom, as already stated, rested the duty of preparing schemes of offensive and defensive operations.

Including the DMI, eighteen officers were assigned to the Intelligence Division during the period 1896-99. The internal organisation was virtually unchanged since the reign of Sir Henry Brackenbury (1886-91). There were now seven sections under the DMI rather than six; the library had been separated from Section F (formerly the topographic and library section) and a new section L had been formed.

The newly appointed director general, Lt Gen Sir William Nicholson, soon abolished the existing eight sections of the Intelligence Department and consolidated their functions under three subdivisions, each to be headed by a colonel: the Strategical Subdivision, the Foreign and Indian Subdivision, and the Special Duties Subdivision (including maps), of the three, the Foreign and Indian Subdivision was obviously the heart of War Office Intelligence.

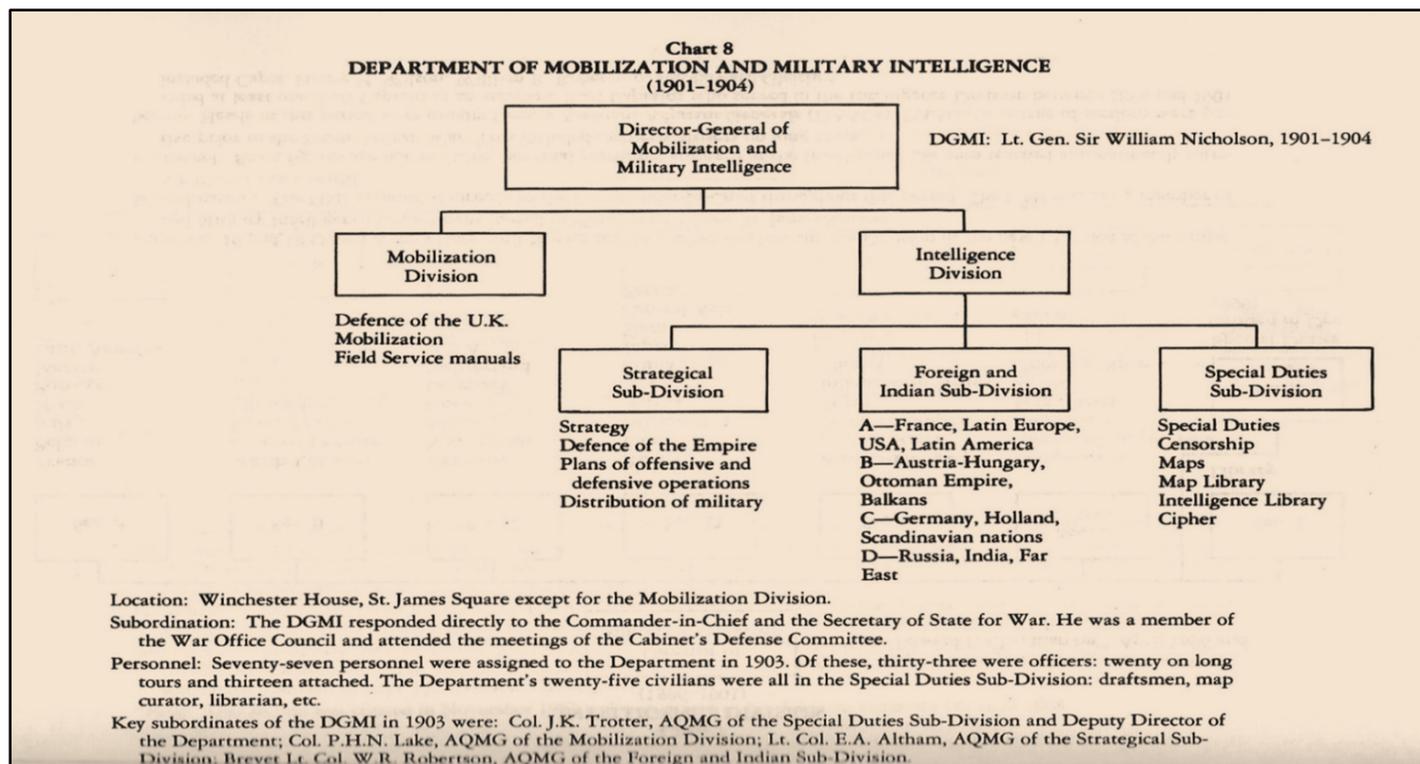
Lt General Sir William Nicholson (1901-04) (right) commissioned in the Royal Engineers in 1865, was appointed Director-General of Mobilisation and Military Intelligence at Headquarters on 1st May 1901, and was promoted to lieutenant general on 4th November 1901.



In August 1901 a committee under the Earl of Hardwicke had reviewed the “Permanent Establishment of the Mobilisation and Intelligence Department.” The initial objective of the Hardwicke Committee had been to evaluate Sir William Nicholson’s claim that more money and men were needed within the Department; the report, published in March 1903 recommended the officer strength of the Department be increased from twenty to twenty-nine.

While the committee agreed that Intelligence Officers should have equal opportunity for professional advancement with other staff officers, no real agreement was reached on the necessity of special training for intelligence officers. The greatest amount of controversy was generated over the degree of authority that should be accorded to the “head of intelligence.” Despite a strong protest by Sir William Nicholson, who felt that the committee had overstepped its bounds when it took up this question, the Hardwicke Committee expressed its conclusion that intelligence should remain only an “advisory department.” The Intelligence Department was prohibited from implementing its own recommendations; only the commander-in-chief could approve the plans or recommendations of the Department or act on the intelligence that it provided him.

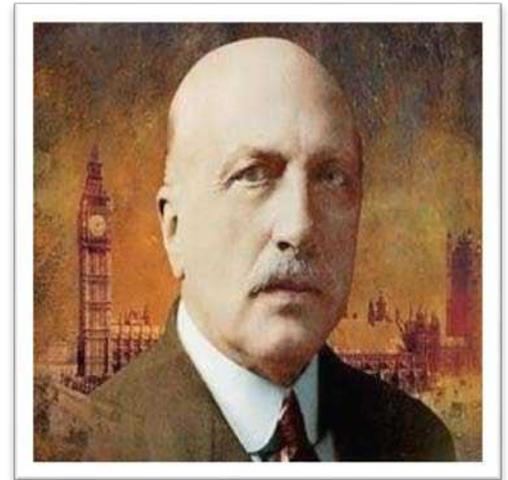
He was appointed as Chief of the General Staff on 2 April 1908, and advanced to the re-designated Chief of the Imperial General Staff (CIGS) (Field Marshall) on 22 November 1909.



By far the most important War Office reforms in the post-Boer War era were instituted by the War Office (Reconstitution) Committee. Lord Esher's dissenting memorandum attached to the report of the Royal Commission on the War in South Africa proved to be the seed of this new committee. In 1903 following the publication of the Elgin report the Balfour government broke up. When Balfour formed a new government he asked Lord Esher to become his Secretary of State for War. Lord Esher reluctant to sacrifice his independence turned down the offer. Nevertheless Lord Esher persuaded the prime minister to appoint a three-man committee to investigate the structure of the War Office.

The War Office (Reconstitution) Committee was appointed in early November 1903 with Lord Esher (right) as chairman. Also named to the committee were Admiral Sir John Fisher and Sir George Sydenham Clarke, with Major Gerald F Ellison picked by Esher as the secretary. They worked with great dispatch deciding not to take formal evidence owing to the enormous amount gathered by the Royal Commission. High military and civilian officials were consulted but their comments would not be recorded as evidence.

Esher issued the report as soon as each part was finished with the third and final section appearing in March 1904. In the actual writing of the report, Fisher contributed little, and Clarke wrote only those portions dealing with military finance and decentralization.



The famous report was, in its fullest aspect, the work of two men, Esher and Ellison..... Contemplating the great changes wrought by this small group (the Esher Committee), wrought indeed for the most part by one public-minded peer and one Lieutenant-Colonel on the staff, the mind is tempted to regard the whole history of the Esher Commissions Report as somewhat miraculous in nature.

Lord Esher wrote the first sections dealing with the Committee of Imperial Defence and the Army Board while Ellison contributed those on the general staff and the organisation of the staff in the field.

The report of the Esher Committee is best known for several proposals:

- 1) That a permanent nucleus of the committee of Imperial Defence be established
- 2) That the office of Commander-in-Chief be abolished and an Army Council be constituted to conduct the business of the War Office.
- 3) That a general staff be established at the War Office. Only by means of a highly trained general staff, concluded the Esher Committee "can the standard of training and of preparations of the military forces of the Crown be made to correspond with modern requirements". Great emphasis was placed on the need to carry out the recommended reforms immediately, before oppositions could be mounted in Parliament and in the army.

The Army Council was created on 6th February 1904 and the Commander-in-Chiefs office and the War Office Council were abolished. In May 1904 Balfour also set up the Committee of Imperial Defence on a permanent basis and gave it a secretariat. The Esher Committee was able to bring about the replacement of virtually all the high-ranking officers in the War Office. Lt Gen Sir Neville Lytton was the first Chief of the General Staff.

Besides witnessing the beginning of the Russo-Japanese war, February 1904 brought significant changes to the Intelligence Department at the War Office; several steps were taken that month to implement the Esher committee's recommendation to establish a General Staff. The Mobilisation Division of the Intelligence Department was transferred to the Directorate of Military Training, one of the three directorates of the General Staff. The Intelligence Department, less the Mobilisation Division, was renamed the Directorate of Military Operations. This change was effected rather rudely on 11th February, when Lt Gen Sir William Nicholson, the director general of mobilisation and military intelligent, was replaced abruptly by Maj Gen James M Grierson, selected by Esher as the first director of military operations (DMO). Col (later Field Marshall Sir) Henry Wilson, who was in Nicholson's office discussing the chaotic atmosphere at the War Office when Grierson suddenly appeared, described the occasion in his diary.

The Triumvirate (Lord Esher, Admiral Sir John Fisher, and Sir George S Clarke) are carrying on like madman. This morning I was in Nick's room talking over things with him when in walked Jimmy Grierson and said Esher had ordered him up from Salisbury to take over Nick's office. Nick himself had not been informed, not had he been told to hand over This is most scandalous work.

Apparently Esher was convinced that only if he and his colleagues moved swiftly and without warning to replace the senior military officers at the war Office was there any chance for rapid implementation of their controversial recommendations.



Lieutenant-General Sir James Moncrieff Grierson (1904-06)

Lieutenant-General Sir James Moncrieff Grierson was commissioned into the Royal Artillery in 1877. He served in the Egyptian War including the actions at Kassassin and Tel el Kebir, as Deputy Assistant Quartermaster General with the Indian contingent in 1882. He was Deputy Assistant Adjutant and Quartermaster General for the Sudan expedition and was involved in actions at Suakin, Hasheen and Tamai in 1885. He was Deputy Assistant Quartermaster General for 2nd Brigade during the Hazara expedition in 1888.

He was appointed Deputy Assistant Adjutant General, Intelligence, at Army Headquarters in 1890 and then became Brigade Major for the Royal Artillery at Aldershot from 1895 to 1896 when he became Military Attaché in Berlin acquiring what Sir John French later described as "an intimate knowledge of the German army."

Grierson was appointed Director of Military Operations at Army Headquarters in 1904. He became involved in simulating potential conflicts, umpiring the Strategic War Game of 1905. In January 1906, during the First Moroccan Crisis, Grierson (DMO) was tasked with drawing up detailed plans for deployment of an expeditionary force to Le Havre in the event of war. He and his deputy Robertson organised a "strategic war game" to explore the options, which persuaded them that British intervention was necessary to avoid French defeat. They began talks with the French General Staff and with the French military attaché Colonel Victor Huguet, and that same year Grierson, Robertson and Huguet toured the Charleroi to Namur area. However, little further progress was made until after Wilson became DMO in 1910.

Initially, this directorate contained four subdivisions: MO1 – Imperial Defence and Strategical Distribution of the Army; MO2 – Foreign Intelligence; MO3 – Administration and Special Duties; MO4 – Topographical Section. At first glance, the general staff seemed to impose an additional administrative level (the chief of the general staff) between the director of military operations, who was on the same level as the DGMI had been, and the secretary of state for war. However, the Esher Committee provided the following guidance:

It is essential to prevent the members of the council from becoming immersed in detailed administration.... The main administrative work of the military branches will, therefore, be carried out by Directors under the members of Council.

Thus, the director of military operations, not the chief of the general staff, would have large administrative powers. Furthermore, the director would be the real "expert" on matters of military intelligence and strategical planning. The incentives provided for general staff duty were helpful in attracting the most talented officers to War Office intelligence jobs.

What was attractive was the provision that continuous employment in the War Office was restricted to four years, and should in all cases qualify an officer for accelerated promotion.

Of the thirty-seven personnel authorised in the Topographical Section (MO 4) of 1904, twenty-four were civilians: fifteen draughtsmen, six printers, two map curators and a photographer. MO 3 and MO 4, whose combined functions were identical to those of the Special Duties Section prior to February 1904, had a total strength of forty-five personnel, compared to forty-three in the old Special Duties Section. The net gain of two is attributed to the addition of two officers, raising officer strength from nine to eleven.

At this point Head of Section for MO 4 was **Major Charles Frederick Close RE** who served as DAQMG from 1904 until 1911. Close received a commission in the Royal Engineers on July 5th 1884 and after completing his training at Chatham was posted to Gibraltar. After a year there he was posted to the Balloon detachment in England. In 1888 he was ordered to India, first to Calcutta where on the advice of his chief he applied for service on the survey. In 1889 he was transferred to the Survey of India completing four years' service and gaining a varied experience of practical surveying mostly in Burma. In 1893 Close returned to England having been promoted Captain and was sent to Chatham.



Colonel Sir Charles F Close RE (1904-1911)

Two years later he was offered and accepted the charge of the survey of the Nigeria-Kamerun boundary. Following the completion of the task he returned to England and was appointed to the staff of the Ordnance Survey at Southampton. In 1900 and now back with the Ordnance Survey Close was ordered to proceed to South Africa in charge of a small R.E. Survey detachment, to try and supply maps to the forces struggling to carry on a war ranging over some 800,000 square miles in a completely unknown country without any maps at all. After a bout of enteric fever he re-joined the Ordnance Survey.

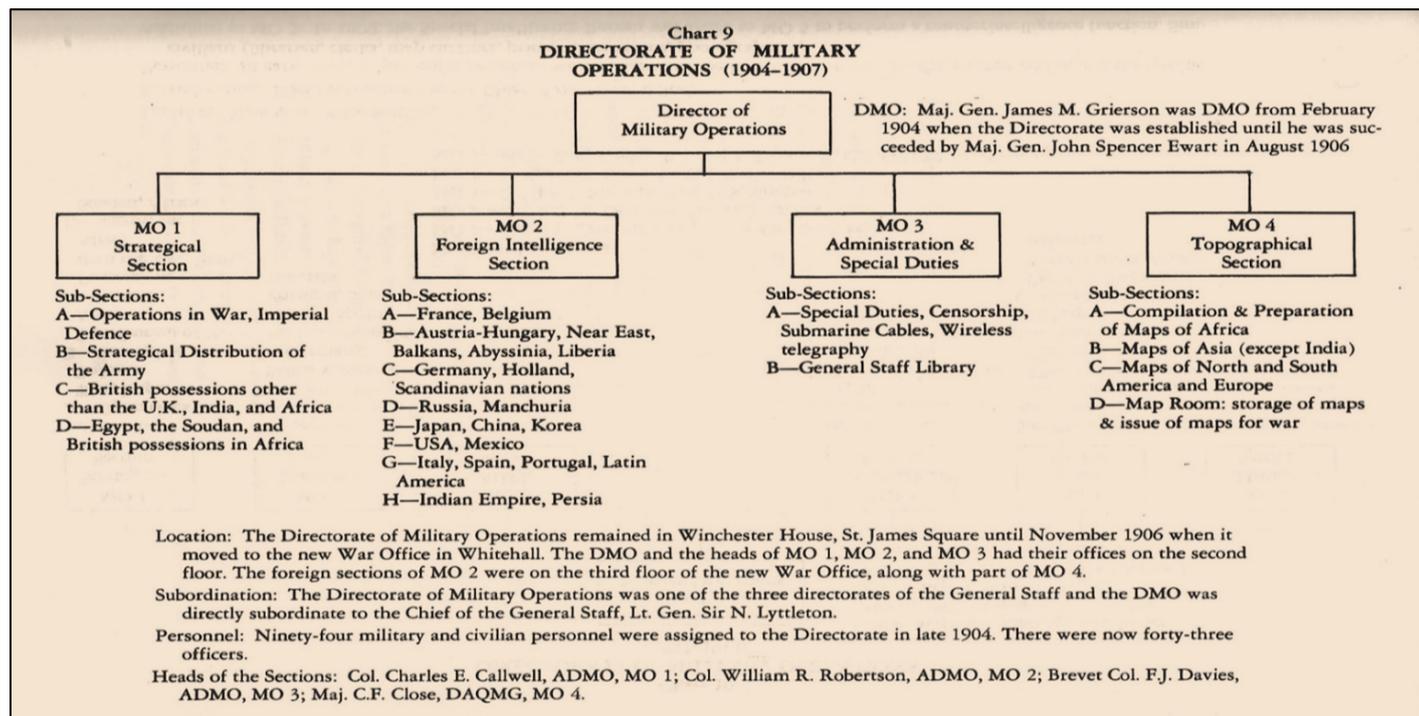
Close was promoted major in 1901 and then in 1902 appointed Chief Instructor in Surveying at the School of Military Engineering and was asked by the War Office to prepare another edition of the text book of Military Topography, which he had written in 1897. He took the opportunity to re-cast the book and produced his well-known "Text Book of Topographical Surveying" which quickly became the standard work on the subject throughout the British Commonwealth. He then became chief of the Geographical Section at the War Office in 1904 and then advanced to Lieutenant-Colonel in 1908.

Close was responsible for setting up the Colonial Survey Committee and at a conference held in London in 1909, the project was translated from an aspiration into a practical working proposition. In 1911 Close now enjoying an international reputation, was appointed Director-General of the Ordnance Survey and the following year promoted to full Colonel. At this point he had left the Geographic Section at the War Office and handed over to Lieutenant-Colonel Walter Coote Hedley RE.



The Director of Military Operations at the time was **Lieutenant General Sir John Spencer Ewart** (1906 to 1910) (right), was educated at Marlborough College and the Royal Military College, Sandhurst, and was commissioned into the Queen's Own Cameron Highlanders. In 1904 he was appointed as Military Secretary and in 1906 moved on to be Director of Military Operations at the War Office. In 1910 he was appointed Adjutant-General to the Forces: he resigned in March 1914 over the Curragh Incident when British officers stationed at the Curragh Camp near Dublin made it clear that they would not want to march against Ulstermen in the north.

He was appointed General Officer Commanding Scottish Command in 1914, a post he held until 1918: he retired in 1920. He was an Aide-de-Camp General to King George V from 1910 to 1914.



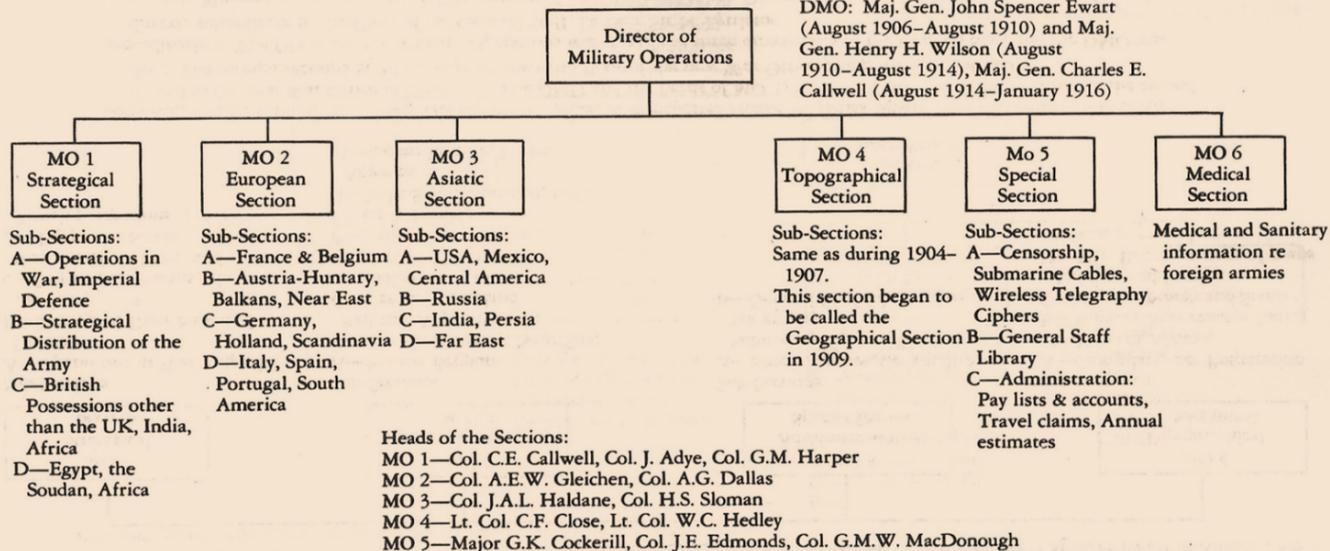
In August 1910 **Major General Sir Henry Hughes Wilson** (right) was appointed the Director of Military Operations. He was one of the most senior British Army staff officers of the First World War and was briefly an Irish unionist politician. He was commissioned into the Royal Irish Regiment in July 1884, but soon transferred into the more prestigious Rifle Brigade. Wilson served as Commandant of the Staff College, Camberley, and then as Director of Military Operations at the War Office, in which post he played a vital role in drawing up plans to deploy an Expeditionary Force to France in the event of war. In 1915 Wilson served as Chief of the Imperial General Staff (the professional head of the British Army). He continued to hold this position after the war, a time when the Army was being sharply reduced in size whilst attempting to contain industrial unrest in the UK and nationalist unrest in Mesopotamia, Iraq and Egypt. He also played an important role in the Irish War of Independence.



Old War Office Building Whitehall

Chart 10
DIRECTORATE OF MILITARY OPERATIONS
(1907-1914)

DMO: Maj. Gen. John Spencer Ewart (August 1906–August 1910) and Maj. Gen. Henry H. Wilson (August 1910–August 1914), Maj. Gen. Charles E. Callwell (August 1914–January 1916)



Location: New War Office building.

Subordination: DMO subordinate to the Chief of the General Staff.

Personnel: In early 1910, ninety-eight personnel were assigned to the DMO: forty-three officers, sixteen NCOs, and thirty-nine civilians (librarian, clerks, map curators, printers, draftsmen, photographers).

Additions to MO 5: In 1909, the Special Intelligence Bureau was added to MO 5 to perform a counterintelligence function. Similarly, the Special Intelligence Section was created in 1912 to coordinate British covert intelligence operations overseas.



Colonel Sir Walter Coote Hedley RE (1911-1920)

In 1909 the **Topographical Section – MO 4** began to be called the **Geographical Section** and the head of the section from 1911 to 1920 was **Lt Col Walter Coote Hedley RE**.

Colonel Sir Walter Coote Hedley KBE CB CMG (12 December 1865 – 27 December 1937) was a British Army officer who began his career in the Royal Engineers and later moved into military intelligence.

Hedley was commissioned into the Royal Engineers in 1884. He became a surveyor in the 1890s and was attached to the Ordnance Survey. This work was interrupted by service in South Africa throughout the Second Boer War, and from 1906–1908 by his appointment as an advisor to the Survey of India.

In 1911 he was appointed to command MO 4, also known as the Geographical Section of the General Staff. During the First World War this organisation was responsible for producing all the maps required by British Empire forces around the world, and in particular mapping the ever-changing trench system on the Western Front. Following the end of the war, he retired from the army in 1920. He was also a Fellow of the Royal Geographical Society and served on the society's council.

He was also a gifted amateur sportsman who played first-class cricket for several County Championship sides and competed to a high level in rackets and golf. Hedley's first-class cricket career began in 1888 with the Gentlemen of England and Kent County Cricket Club. The majority of his county matches were for Somerset County Cricket Club whom he first represented in 1886 in non-first-class games. His first County Championship games for them were in 1892, and he had a regular place in the side from June of that year.

Hedley was also a useful rackets player—reaching the final of the amateur championships, held at the Queen's Club, in 1890. In later life he turned to golf, playing off a scratch handicap.



Major-General Sir Charles Edward Callwell (1844 – 1916) (left) was an Anglo-Irish officer of the British Army, who served in the artillery, as an intelligence officer, and as a staff officer and commander during the Second Boer War and as Director of Military Operations & Intelligence during World War I (1914 – 1916). He was also a noted writer of military biography, history, and theory.

On 1 October 1887 Callwell was seconded for service as a Staff Captain in the Intelligence Branch (Section E) at Army Headquarters. On 13 July 1891 he was appointed Deputy Assistant Adjutant-General, serving until September 1892, when he returned to the Royal Artillery as a captain. He later served as Head of MO 1 (Strategic Section) from 1904-1907 with the substantive rank of Colonel. In June 1907 Callwell was made a Companion of the Bath, at which time he was General Staff Officer, 1st Grade, at Army Headquarters. In October 1907 his appointment to the Staff came to an end and he was placed on half-pay. Having seen several of his contemporaries promoted to general officer rank over his head, Callwell eventually quit the army in June 1909, to devote himself to writing.

On the outbreak of the First World War in August 1914, Callwell was recalled to active service, being appointed Director of Military Operations at the War Office with the temporary rank of major-general. He carried out much important work successfully, not least the preparation of various plans for the organization of the Dardanelles campaign, an operation which he personally opposed. In December 1915, following on the appointment of Sir William Robertson as Chief of the Imperial General Staff, a reorganization took place at the War Office. Operations and intelligence were divided into two independent branches, with Callwell as Director of Military Intelligence from 23 December until 3 January 1916, when Lieutenant General Sir George Macdonogh (RE) took over. He was then sent on a special mission to Russia in connection with the supply of munitions to that country and with the general question of Russian co-operation in the War. In April 1916 Callwell was made a Commandeur of the Légion d'honneur by the French, and in June 1916 was awarded the honorary rank of major-general. On his return to England late in 1916 he was given a position in the Ministry of Munitions as an adviser on questions affecting the supplies of ammunition to the various armies. In June 1917 he was created a Knight Commander of the Bath for his wartime services and eventually relinquished his position in October 1918, to return to literature and journalism.

On 29 December 1915, **Brig General Frederick B Maurice** assumed duty as DMO, replacing Major-General Sir Charles Edward Callwell, who had served as DMO since the beginning of the war in August 1914. Significantly, however Maurice was charged only with responsibility for directing MO 1 (Strategy, Plans, Operations), leaving the intelligence sections, which had been under the DMO since 1904, temporarily without an overall director. The separation of the intelligence and operations branches of the War Office General Staff was confirmed on 3 January 1916, when Major General George M W Macdonogh assumed duty as DMI. The reestablishment of a separate Directorate of Military Intelligence, which continued through the rest of the war and into the post-war era as an independent directorate, occurred immediately following **Field-Marshal Sir William Robertson's** arrival as Chief of the Imperial General Staff in December 1915.

Sources:

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McCarthy H Major RE – *Cometh the Hour Cometh the Map! Lieutenant Colonel T B Jervis Bombay Engineers. The Crimea and the Birth of the British Defence Intelligence Staff*. Published in *The Ranger* - Summer 2006

Note: The Editor has relied heavily on the work of Lieutenant Colonel Thomas Fergusson (Retired) US Army in compiling this article.

News from the Geographic Community

Notification of Deaths

David Cleall-Harding



David Cleall-Harding - Died suddenly at home on 27th March 2018. David was a 3-year National Serviceman and a member of 89 Field Survey Squadron RE and served in East Africa. The funeral was held at City of London Crematorium at Aldersbrook, Traditional Chapel, on Friday 25th May 2018. A reception for family and friends was held afterwards at Chigwell Hall, Chigwell, Essex.

We were notified by his daughter *Catherine Cleall-Harding* through *Maurice Friend*.

David is standing second from the left, with Dave Stockbridge to his right. Maurice Friend is standing on the right.

Jim Prosser

Jim Prosser - Died suddenly on 25th April. The funeral was held on Friday 18th May 2018 at Capel in the Graveyard, Rintelner Strasse, Lemgo, Germany. We were notified by *Tom Jackson*.

Robin Lea Waller

29th June 1934 – 28th Jan 2018



Although Rob Waller was born in the London area he grew up as a teenager in Kenya and became fluent in the Kikuyu language of East Africa. Serving in the Kenya Regiment No KR4151, his language skills meant that he was often first on the scene of the atrocities during the Mau Mau conflict which had a profound effect on him. He was awarded the Africa G.S.M.

On returning to the U.K. he joined RE Survey No 23736557 as a Topographic Surveyor, spending time at RAF Wyton followed by a posting to 2 Troop, 19 Topographic Sqn at Ibri in the Persian Gulf then moving to squadron HQ on Bahrain Island in 1961

Rob married his wife Margaret there. In 1963 whilst at 13 Field Survey Sqn at Fernhurst, Sussex, Rob was sent on detachment to Survey Production Centre Feltham as part of a team who were trained to operate the newly developed Thompson Watts and Wild stereo plotters, prior to completing project mapping of the colonies. Rob served from 20th October 1959 to 21st October 1965.

On leaving the army Rob trained as a mathematics teacher and taught for several years in South Africa. He, along with his young family then moved to Perth in Western Australia where Rob continued his High School teaching into the 1980's. Rob's dry wit and comical bursting into a foreign language will be remembered by many. He was an active member of the local Kalamunda Lions and Rotary clubs and was still attending classes in Arabic up to his last days. We were notified by *Maurice Friend*

General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)

Dear Members,

I am very sure that most of you will be aware from the plethora of emails etc. you have been receiving recently from all manner of organisations, institutions and firms, that there are new regulations related to the control of personal data coming into law on 25 May 2018. A new EU law called the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) will apply to any organisation that holds and processes your personal data and there are certain rules, such as having to ensure that all persons have 'opted-in' to their personal data being held and used by any organisation.

I believe that our Branch members have already done this but I therefore attach the current Branch Membership Application form which I hope is the same, or very similar, to the form you completed when you became a member. At the bottom of the form are the following words:

Under no circumstances will details from the membership database be released to non-members. Details of members not agreeing to its release will be held solely for branch record purposes.

I agree/do not agree* to the release of this data to other branch members:

* Delete as applicable

There is NO CHANGE to that policy as far as the Branch is concerned – the only other information we hold on you is that held by the Branch Treasurer, ensuring you have paid your subs.

You know we use your basic details in order to contact you to: send the newsletters; inform you of the deaths of comrades, colleagues and friends together, if time permits, funeral arrangements so you might attend; and various notices that we believe the majority of members will be interested in. This is called "Legitimate interest". We will not share your information with any third parties.

We have put in place reasonable security measures against any unauthorised access or damage to, or disclosure or loss of your information.

So as long as you are still happy to hear from us, there is nothing you need to do. However, if you have never signed that application form please fill in the current application form and return it to me or if you would like to be taken off our emailing or mailing list, which means you will not get any further correspondence of any kind from us, please email me rod.siggs@ntlworld.com or if you have any thoughts or questions please call me: 01252 660144.

Regards,

Rod

MILITARY SURVEY (GEO) Branch

A Member of the ROYAL ENGINEERS ASSOCIATION
BRANCH MEMBERSHIP (REA/NON-REA*) DETAILS

Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms* Initials Surname

Address Known Name

*REA Membership Category: Full/Life/
 Associate/Over 70*/non-member (strike through
 those not applicable if known)

Professional Qualifications

email Tel:

Service No. D.O.B.

Serving or Retired* Current or Retired Rank/Grade Trade/Technical Specialty

Induction Course Start Service Date Service Date

Details

Army Survey Course Decorations

Boy Service Group

Basic/Intro Course

Main Unit Postings/Departments:	Location	Date From	Date To

Under no circumstances will details from the membership database be released to non-members. Details of members not agreeing to its release will be held solely for branch record purposes.

I agree/do not agree* to the release of this data to other branch members:

* Delete as applicable

MINUTES OF THE 19th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
held at the
WOs' & Sgts' Mess, Denison Barracks, Hermitage
on
Friday 13th April 2018, at 1700hrs

In Attendance:

Chairman:	Mark Burrows
Secretary:	Rod Siggs
Treasurer:	Ted Davies
Military Representative:	WO1 (SMI) Jon Willey RE
Function Co-ordinator:	Mick Perry
Editor:	Noel Grimmett

A further 40 Members were present (and 12 wives accompanied them).

ITEM 1 – CHAIRMAN’S OPENING REMARKS

The Chairman welcomed those members present at the meeting and thanked the Station RSM for the Branch’s continued use of the Mess facilities; he requested the Mil Rep, WO1 Jon Willey, pass on the Branch’s sincere thanks. He also paid tribute to Jon Willey and Mick Perry for the work they had put in and said it was good to see that their work and Mick’s attempts to rally support had been quite successful. He praised and thanked the Committee also for their continued work in keeping the Branch going. He said he would try and maintain the recent traditions of keeping the meeting as brief as possible in order all could enjoy the Regimental Military Update and have more time for the reunion and curry supper.

ITEM 2 – APOLOGIES

The Chairman said the names of those members who had tendered their apologies were listed on the notice board and are now attached to these minutes.

ITEM 3 – MINUTES OF THE 18th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (AGM) 2017

The Chairman asked Rod if there were any matters arising from the previous AGM and Rod said that there were no action points but he highlighted two salient points which had been raised:-

Website & Historical Photo Project – Alan Gordon and Dave Johnson, neither of who could make it to this year’s AGM, had both worked extremely hard and, apart from the continuing arrival of new photos, all the historical photos, some 6000+ were now mounted on the website.

Rod also highlighted the continuing AGM pleas for new **blood** on the Branch’s committee, and said that Mark, having replaced Angus as Chairman, had his feet now firmly under the table and was taking active steps to recruit new branch members and also had ideas for committee succession plans.

Rod then asked if there were any comments, errors or omissions from the minutes that the floor wished to raise and as there were none, he asked for a proposer that they be accepted as a true record of that meeting.

Proposed: Chris Cleeton
Seconded by: Ian Parr
Carried unanimously.

ITEM 4 – ANNUAL REPORT ON 2017/2018 – Chairman

The Chairman, Mark, reported on the following:

- a. **Deceased** - It was not our practice to read the names of members, friends and colleagues that had died since the previous AGM, Mark said, but their names were on the notice board for information. He asked if anyone knew of others that had died to please inform Rod and to remember to do so through the year as this was often the only way we got to hear of someone passing away.
- b. On a happier note we have gained **9 new members** and the average age is very slowly coming down.
- c. He said that through **contact and support** to the serving community with sponsorship for charitable events like the “Dragon Boat Race”, which our lads won and were then invited to attend the national level event; the Branch was gaining good exposure.

d. Mark spoke about the continuing Branch awards such as the **Graduation Awards** the Branch makes to the “Soldier’s Soldier” of each Class two technician’s course at RSMS. Each recipient is awarded a £50 Sapper Shop voucher at the graduation thus ensuring another group of young Geo soldiers are aware of our presence. And here at the AGM the Branch’s **Annual Award** all contribute to our Branch’s exposure to our Geo soldiers.

e. He spoke of the continuing success of the **Newsletters** and thanked Noel, our editor, for his hard work in producing these. He also thanked the many contributors of articles and photos and asked that the members keep them coming.

ITEM 5 – FINANCIAL STATUS

The Treasurer, Ted Davies, was then invited to give a résumé of the Audited Accounts of the Branch that had been examined by our two independent auditors, Tony Keeley and Mike Gowlett. Ted said that both had been displayed on the noticeboard, prior to the meeting but he highlighted:

a. 255 members had so far paid subscriptions for 2018 which amounted to some £2000+ Income for the year.

b. More than £600 had been donated to the Geo Soldiers fund mainly through Mick’s continuing efforts

c. Ties – Ted said he was holding only 12 Branch ties which would be so expensive to replicate that it was doubtful they would ever be reproduced. Therefore, these very collectable items should be grabbed now.

d. By far the biggest Expenditure included the newsletters but the cost of these had been mitigated by producing the hard copy versions in monochrome only.

e. As previously mentioned the other form of expenditure was for the various Branch awards of £150 for the Annual Award and £50 for each Graduation Award of which there is normally 3 per year.

f. During last year there was of course the one off award to Dave Johnson of £500 for his hard, and continuing, work for the Historic Photo Archiving.

Ted asked if there were any questions pertaining to his report and as there were none they were proposed as being an accurate reflection of the accounts. (The actual Income and Expenditure Summary is attached to these minutes.)

Proposed by: Chris Nash
Seconded by: Charlie Marks
Carried unanimously

ITEM 6 - ELECTION OF INDEPENDENT AUDITORS/EXAMINERS 2017/2018

The Chairman said that the two auditors of the Branch’s accounts, Tony Keeley and Mike Gowlett, were still willing to support the Branch, as is in the role of independent examiners of the accounts for FY 2018/19, and he therefore asked that they be proposed to continue.

Proposed by: Mick Perry
Seconded by: Dave Griffin
Carried unanimously

ITEM 7 –WEBSITE & HISTORIC PHOTO PROJECT & FACEBOOK GROUP

Unfortunately, Dave Johnson – Webmaster had tendered his apologies so Rod gave an oversight to the continued popularity of the website which Dave had produced in a schematic form that Rod would put on the noticeboard directly following the meeting.

The Chairman then asked Colin Gardiner, our Facebook coordinator to tell the members about our new venture – a Facebook group.

Colin explained about security of the group to the members and said that all postings were undertaken by him. Membership of the group was scrutinised by an admin team of current and ex serving Geo members. He said that currently there were more than 225 in the group and that the notification of Alan Gatley’s stroke had prompted more than 250 hits and messages of good wishes which were all passed to him in hospital. Colin said that these messages alone had prompted another 12 to join the group. He had arranged that the Regiment would soon be passing information that would be uploaded onto the pages which it is hoped will encourage even more youngsters to join the group. He asked if there were any questions from the floor but there were not.

ITEM 8 – ELECTION OF COMMITTEE OFFICERS

Mark informed the meeting that it was an REA necessity to vote in the committee officers each year. The officers being the posts of Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer and all the current holders of the posts had agreed to continue but if there were any nominations or volunteers from the floor, for any post, then they should stand for election. There were none so he asked for a proposer that Rod be re-elected as secretary.

Proposed by: Noel Grimmett
Seconded by: Dave Griffin
Carried unanimously

Ted was then proposed as Treasurer

Proposed by: Angus Cross
Seconded by: Graham Abernethy
Carried unanimously

Mark was then re-elected as Chairmen:

Proposed by: Colin Price
Seconded by: Mike Payne
Carried unanimously

ITEM 9 – STANDARD BEARERS REPORT

Mike Payne was then asked to give his standard bearers report which is attached to these minutes.

ITEM 10 – AOB

a. Mike Payne implored members to go and join their local Branch of the REA saying that currently there was a general apathy in doing so and yet there had been many changes as a result of the recent study. He said that members would find a general relaxation in the branches and they would be enjoyed. He also said that HQ REA had produced more than 5000 sets of a special printed Sapper monopoly which could be applied for.

b. Mick then addressed the meeting with a few admin points for the evening and asked for thoughts on where the next AGM could be held. He said he had thought on revisiting 135 Sqn again but they have real problems with catering at the moment and until that could be resolved it was likely to be back at Hermitage or at Wyton. He would follow this up with something in the newsletter.

DATE AND VENUE OF NEXT MEETING

No date or venue had therefore been fixed at the moment but Mark said that the next AGM is expected to take place in spring, 2019.

ITEM 10 – CLOSING REMARKS

The Chairman thanked all for attending and hoped they would all enjoy their Reunion and curry buffet and said that depending on where the AGM was to be held there was certainly growing interest in another visit to Wyton which he hoped would be announced shortly.

The meeting closed at approximately 1800 hrs.

Rod Siggs

Honorary Secretary
Military Survey (Geographic) Branch

The presentation of the **Branch's Annual Award** was then made by the Chairman to **Maj Aulde RE**, as unfortunately the recipient **Cpl S. Pope RE** had a very pressing personal domestic engagement for not attending.

The annual presentation of the **Military Geographic update** was given by the OC of 13 Geo Sqn, 42 Engr Regt (Geo), **Maj Jon Aulde RE**. He went through all the staff branches, from one to seven, in a most relaxed, knowledgeable, professional and entertaining manner which was very well received by the members and their wives.

Citation of the 2018 Annual Award of the
MILITARY SURVEY (GEOGRAPHIC) BRANCH

**A member of the
ROYAL ENGINEERS ASSOCIATION**

**To
CORPORAL S. POPE. ROYAL ENGINEERS**

"Spirit of Good Fellowship Beyond Normal Expectations"

Corporal Pope represents everything expected of a professional and dedicated Junior NCO. Often acting within the Pathfinder troop working at "Above Secret" level on products and projects that are sometimes briefed at Ministerial level. He has most recently been working on capability development where he has worked on a range of projects at the cutting edge of geospatial intelligence, often in direct support of operations. He works tirelessly with little supervision and mentors subordinates effectively when under his command. His work involves dealing with a wide variety of people including senior officers, civilians, contractors, different departments and other nations – with his personality and manor he achieves this superbly. In addition he runs swimming and water polo for the Regiment as well as representing the Corps.

Cpl Pope has also acted as the President of the RAF Wyton JNCOs' Club, otherwise known as the Corporals' Mess. The implementation of a Tri-Service JNCOs' Club at RAF Wyton has proved to be a very challenging undertaking, with very limited resources and a lack of understanding from the other services, Cpl Pope has delivered and driven forward the Club for a seven month period. In Cpl Pope's tenure not only has he overseen and directed a successful Summer and Winter Ball he has also been instrumental in acquiring a building for the Club and securing a grant from the Royal Engineer Association to refurbish the building. With unflagging enthusiasm, he has regularly put in long hours extolling the importance of the JNCOs' Club and the ethos it engenders, providing functions and development on and off camp including a visit the Royal Hospital Chelsea, he is an inspiration to his peers. His direction and leadership within the committee has shone through, being relentless in the face of sometimes apathy in driving and enthusing others. His quiet style of competent leadership and management clearly marks him out as a very strong contender for the very near future.

The experience of the JNCOs' Club has set him on the right path to becoming a seamless member of the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess, in which he will thrive.

For his unfaltering drive, enthusiasm and professionalism and in recognition of his efforts to develop JNCOs' not only of the Regiment but also the Station, he is presented with the Military Survey (Geographic) Branch's Annual Award.

The Branch Award is presented annually, to the individual who has given outstanding and loyal support to the Regiment; whilst participating and contributing in a variety of activities throughout the training year. The fact that Cpl Pope has been selected for this honour, demonstrates the significance of his outstanding contribution to unit life, during this period.



*Colour-Sergeant Joseph John Stanton, Colour-Sergeant Kester Knight, Private William Bruce
Royal Sappers & Miners c1850*

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Survey Historical Archive

A further tranche of historical photographs have been added to the archive.

Visit www.militarysurvey.org.uk

The Branch FaceBook Group membership has now reached 231 but I am sure that there are many ex-survey/geo colleagues out there who need to be reminded that they are most welcome to join!!

HISTORICAL NOTE

The formation of the Royal Air Force on 1st April 1918

On 1st April 2018 the 100th Anniversary of the formation of the Royal Air Force was commemorated.

Parliament debated and passed the Air Force (Constitution) Act 1917, which was given Royal Assent by King George V on the 29th November 1917. A few months later on the 1st April 1918, the Royal Naval Air Service and the Royal Flying Corps were merged to create, the world's first independent air force, the Royal Air Force.