Meanwhile the inner bloke continued to be assuaged: in further deployment of plan ‘B’
Gerry prepared two curries for Saturday lunch, one steak, one vegetable (with the proper
herbs and spices: no packets for him), followed by fruit and cheese. Having eaten up
everything we therefore took him to dinner at the pub that evening (where they had resumed
normal service, and very good too). At Sunday lunch, lo and behold, this same master
victualler produced cold cuts, salad in abundance, and wine, and offered leftovers to
accompany our home journeys. At each breakfast Gerry subcontracted that meal: on the first
day to Tim and on the second to John Davies, with provisions for the full ‘English’. Both
gentlemen showed their culinary aptitude for mass catering to entire satisfaction.

At some point, to keep us moving, Rob conducted a walking tour of Harmston (his home
village), whence we had a view from clifftop of the entire Trent Valley, including the cooling
towers of its five power stations, all visible, and the two premier railway routes north. If we
craned our necks round to the northeast, Lincoln was visible and nearer to us, RAF
Waddington, from where the mighty AWACS birds fly.

On departure we again looked at the special items which had been brought: the secret
WO euromap handbook, which it would be so nice to browse over again more fully, and
Frank’s educational material from the 1960s with properly-printed copious map extracts.
This was a workshop with plenty of instruction, gorgeous maps, minimal expense and no
exam. Thank you CCS, Rob and Gerry. More please!

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The French ‘Type 1922’ series

R C Wheeler

Introduction

What follows is not the result of long and painstaking study but rather a summary of the
group’s conclusions following the Harmston workshop on the French type 1922 1:50,000
series. It is based on limited documentary evidence and the inspection of several hundred
sheets of the series. As rapporteur, I can claim credit for little except the style and must take
the blame for any distortion or omission of the findings of others.

An official report\(^1\) of 1948 was found to provide an invaluable account of the origins and
early years of the series. It would be quite impossible to summarize it in the space of this
article. Rather, I shall attempt to present a view of the series through English eyes, adding
more detail for the period after 1948 for which the maps themselves are practically the only
evidence.

France is big, and less densely populated that England. In consequence, map series have
always taken a long time to produce. On the other hand, the French did make an early start,
Cassini’s Map of Triangles being started in 1756 and covering the entire country by the end
of the First Empire. This was a rather skeletal map. The filling-in of detail which followed

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\(^1\) M Huguenin, Historique de la cartographie de la nouvelle carte de France, Paris: IGN, 1948. There are copies at RGS
and at Cambridge. Also recommended is Marc Duranthon La carte de France, son histoire 1678 - 1978, IGN, 1978.
drew on a variety of sources but led to France by 1880 having complete coverage by a monochrome hachured map, the *Carte de l’État-majeur*, broadly comparable to our Old Series. There were aspirations for a better product, experiments took place, a committee sat, 2 and the result, after a period of experiments, was the *type 1900* series at 1:50,000. This was a gorgeous piece of cartography (*Figure 1*), lithographed from up to fourteen plates. It was to be the inspiration for the OS Relief Edition but, like that edition, it was slow to emerge. By 1914, some 43 sheets had been issued and it was calculated that it would take some 250 years before the series was finished – which makes the publication of our own Relief Edition seem positively hasty. In consequence, students of First World War cartography will be aware that all along the Western Front the basic map available at first was the 1:80,000 *Carte de l’État-majeur*, out of date and unsuited to modern warfare.

After 1918, there was an urgent need to map Alsace-Lorraine and to do it quickly. A simplified version of the *type 1900* was adopted and, after that task was completed, it served as the model for a new national map, the *type 1922*. Like the *type 1900*, this had hill-shading, but in one colour only. Many of the subtleties of the *type 1900*, such as distinctions between bridges of different construction, were dropped, and most sheets were produced in just five colours. Two additional plates were used when required, a blue shade for a sea tint and a grey when much rock-drawing was needed or, initially, much drawing of hedges. The *type 1922* also used a projection that made it easier to mount multiple sheets together.

By 1934, a belt of country some 100km deep was published along the eastern frontier (except adjoining Switzerland) together with a block round Paris (largely *type 1900*) and Cherbourg. Progress continued steadily, albeit more slowly, during the Second World War, as a result of the opportune transfer of functions, staff and equipment just before the fall of France, from the military *Service Géographique de l’Armée* to the civilian *Institut Géographique Nationale*. After the war, complete coverage at 1:50,000 was obtained by converting the old *Carte de l’État-majeur* material to the new sheet lines. The final *type 1922* sheet was published in 1980 or 1981. However, the ‘*Type 1922*’ had been dropped from the heading in 1972 – perhaps after fifty years it was thought to make the maps seem out of date. Rather than seeing this as a great achievement, in 1991, the IGN withdrew the series from normal sales outlets.

*The ‘type spécial’*

Just as blue was (and is) used almost solely to indicate water, so carmine has had its own cartographic significance, complicated by there being two separate traditions: a military one which used it for stone or brick buildings and a civil one, which used it for dwelling houses as opposed to non-residential structures. The Ordnance Survey continued the military tradition in the hand-coloured version of the first edition 1:2500 plans. The *type 1900* represents a still later survival in that carmine (or at least a shade of red very close to it) is used to indicate bridges of masonry, as opposed to wood (black) or iron (blue). The same red is used for buildings, apparently without regard to their material. Now your *rapporteur* had long been aware that a few sheets of the *type 1922* continued to use carmine: do these represent a continuation of the tradition almost to the present day?

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2 *Comité centrale des travaux géographiques.*
Figure 1: ‘Type 1900’ sheet XXIII-13 (7-37 printing), very slightly reduced. The purple indicates vines.
Figure 2: ‘Type 1922 Normal’ sheet XXV-4 (10-43), about 85% full size

Figure 3: ‘Type 1922 Spécial’ sheet XXV-4 (2-40), about 85% full size
On this point, Huguenin’s history provides a clear negative. Carmine was not envisaged as part of the specification and the *type 1922* managed without it until 1934. Then Versailles and Rambouillet were converted from *type 1900* to *type 1922*. The influential citizens of the Paris region were to have their maps in the style of *Figure 1* replaced by something in the manner of *Figure 2*, an unappealing and illegible mass of black. Huguenin does not say at what point the process was stopped but it is clear that cartographic regularity had to yield to political influence. A *type spécial* was created with an extra red plate for the nine Paris sheets and for ‘landscapes with much planimetric detail’ (such as Lille). *Figure 3* shows how great the improvement was.

It would seem therefore that the *type spécial* should contain no more information than the ordinary sheets: the erstwhile black plate has simply been separated into two separate plates. And yet, some of the sheets (e.g. XXII.13) make a clear distinction between red and black bridges. Likewise, many of the sheets mark walls in villages; in particular, one side of a major road will change from black to red as the road is flanked by such a wall instead of a hedge. So the *type spécial* sheets really do contain information not on the ordinary ones. This seems to imply that they were subject to special survey, or special revision, and the military tradition for the use of carmine did indeed survive in France in these privileged areas.

*Other specification changes*

The earliest sheets (those published up to 1940) have keys showing six vegetation types. The particular types shown vary from sheet to sheet and the selection probably depends on their prevalence rather than reflecting any change in map specification. At the very start of the period the legend was arranged with vegetation types to the right; subsequently they appeared beneath the scale bar. What enables these early states to be recognized, even on emarginate sheets, is the complexity of the system used up to 1939, with vines requiring overprinting of green and black.

Sheets published thereafter, up to about 1953, show vines in black only, with broken rising-diagonal lines (used in other circumstances to depict heavy rain!). The key now has just five vegetation types. From 1953, vines are depicted in green alone, initially with dots, but soon a green lattice pattern was adopted.

Sheets printed from 1956 saw changes to the hill-shading, with a brown screen being replaced by a grey one.

The next really big change came in 1972, when the brown contours were changed to orange and the new shade was used also for the fills of major roads. Perhaps this was the formal reason for dropping the ‘*Type 1922*’. The vegetation symbols were changed, deciduous and coniferous woods now being distinguished. Vines were now shown by broken vertical green lines.

About 1979, a major change took place in the presentation of the maps, though not in the specification within the neat lines. They became the *Sérries Orange*, with integral cover.

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3 This is literally true: to ensure registration, a combined red and black plate was produced, from which, by deletion, the individual red and black plates were derived.

4 Comparison with the 1925 printing of this sheet, in *Type 1900* style, shows that bridge classification was not derived from the earlier edition: some bridges had clearly been rebuilt in the intervening period.

5 For the complete range of vegetation types, some ten in total, see Huguenin.
Revision

Revision information appears to include any full revision but does not mention minor corrections, or changes to major roads and the like. Thus when a printing date (usually printed sideways on the right-hand border) is significantly later than the revision date, it is difficult to know whether the map represents a consistent picture of the landscape at any one date or whether certain features are later than the declared revision date.

Certain sheets in 1940 were printed ‘before correction’; the instance it has been possible to check showed no corrections prior to a later reprint. Perhaps the correction process was dispensed with altogether.

Oddities

Some sheets lack hill-shading, e.g. XXII.12 of December 1940, XXII.18 of December 1958.

The published diagrams of sheet lines only show sheets which contain at least some French territory. The series actually extended a little further into Germany and Belgium than is shown on those diagrams, being based on maps produced by the countries concerned. There was a similar phenomenon in Italy, where sheet XXXVIII.40, at least, was produced at a time when it contained no French territory. After 1945, frontier adjustments led to French territory extending into it, and so the sheet line diagrams were able to acknowledge its existence.

An early state of the Strasbourg sheet (XXXVIII.18 of January 1930) in contrast has only a sketchy representation of German territory, except for such parts close to the frontier as might have been surveyed from the French side of the Rhine. No doubt the history of the frontier sheets would make a study in its own right.

Quite a few early sheets lack a magnetic deviation diagram. However, there is no tidy changeover: the presence of a 1.28 magnetic deviation diagram (albeit on a 12-36 printing – sheet XXXVII.17) seems to imply that such diagrams were drawn as early as 1928; however, sheets are published as late as 1931 without one (XXXVI.37 – printed 8-31). Sheet XXXVI.38, published 1930, may be instructive: a 3-31 printing lacks magnetic deviation; a 12-40 printing carries a Jan 1930 magnetic deviation. Perhaps there were parallel gridded and non-gridded versions. Huguenin describes a separate military edition, published up to 1937, that omitted hill shading and landscape detail, being printed from just three plates; however we did not encounter any of these.

A couple of wartime sheets carry printing directions in German (Ziehkante and Grieferkante). Some sheets of 1939-40 have initials with the print code. By analogy with contemporary OS practice, we speculated that these may refer to printing establishments.

However, an enumeration of oddities soon becomes tedious; besides, time did not permit much exploration of that sort. What was apparent was that a group of eight, in the course of a day and a half, were able to learn a great deal about a previously unfamiliar series.