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“A survey party pose(r)”
Richard T Porter

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The Charles Close Society was founded in 1980 to bring together all those with an interest in the maps and history of the Ordnance Survey of Great Britain and its counterparts in the island of Ireland. The Society takes its name from Colonel Sir Charles Arden-Close, OS Director General from 1911 to 1922, and initiator of many of the maps now sought after by collectors.

The Society publishes a wide range of books and booklets on historic OS map series and its journal, Sheetlines, is recognised internationally for its specialist articles on Ordnance Survey-related topics.
A survey party pose(r)

Richard T Porter

Richard Oliver\(^1\) asks what became of the members of a field section whose photograph appeared in *The national plans* (1934).

Clem Gay and Peter Lasbury do not appear in the complete OS staff lists for 1952 and subsequently. The others named below were ‘ex-regular RE’ when they joined OS after the war.

Ernie Morande is probably E C Marande (sic), a surname still extant in Southampton: born 9 July 1906; joined OS 15 April 1947; became a draughtsman grade III 27 July 1950. From at least 1951 until 1971 he was in Large Scale Examination and then presumably retired at 65.

Bert Landon must be A[lbert] H Landon: born 20 April 1910; joined OS 9 May 1949 as a surveyor grade III based in the field division, Bristol. Unlike Marande he was disestablished soon after reaching 60 (1 December 1970) and continued as a surveyor grade 4 until 1972.

Leonard C Guilder: born 4 November 1907; joined OS 11 June 1947 as a surveyor grade II in the field division, Nottingham; disestablished as a surveyor grade IV by 1 January 1968 and had left OS by January 1970.

Jock Stewart is more difficult as ‘Jock’ is presumably a nickname and not probative of his initial. There were half-a-dozen possible candidates above the basic grade in 1951 and three more qualify by birth date in the first complete staff list, 1952, but eliminating (perhaps unjustifiably in the light of others’ regradings to draughtsman) all the 1952 non-surveyors and those born after 1916 we are left with:

George E Stewart: born 10 August 1908; joined OS 20 November 1945; became a surveyor grade II in the field division, Edinburgh, 21 March 1946; promoted surveyor grade I 25 February 1958; Assistant Divisional Officer, Field (HQ) 22 August 1960; Divisional Officer (Training and Information) 5 September 1966 – 1970.

or

J Stewart: born 13 December 1911; joined OS 25 April 1949 as a surveyor grade III, Trig. and Levelling Division; moved to Geodetic Control 1953/4; became a draughtsman grade III in 1960 and so continued until 1976.

Oh, but are there not two bicycles in the photo? One for the lance corporal, and perhaps one for the lower-arm chevron wearer: is this a service stripe, or was there a special RE rank of ‘second corporal’? But we cannot see all their forearms …

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\(^1\) *Sheetlines* 75, 26-27.