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“Black work at Counter Drain”

*Rob Wheeler*

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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.

## ***Black work at Counter Drain***

***Rob Wheeler***

The Second World War saw unprecedented traffic demands on some railway lines and extra sidings and loops were put in place on some of the most heavily stretched lines. I had not thought of the Midland & Great Northern Joint as one of those lines, so I was interested to see a section of double track near Counter Drain station (TF 178208, about three miles west of Spalding, Lincs) on Second War Revision of the one-inch map of England & Wales (GSGS 3907) sheet 64 (*figure 2*) where it had previously been single (*figure 1*).



*Figure 1. 50,000/9/41LR*

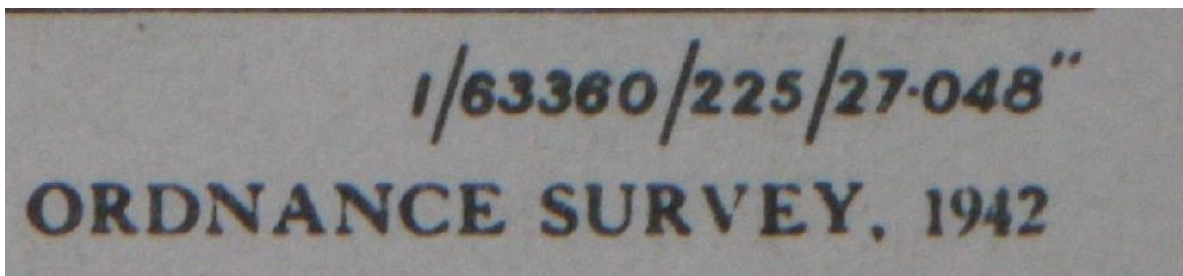


*Figure 2. 30,000/4/42F*

The change appears to take place between two states of this map, which is a series not normally updated with that sort of change. Yet more surprising, the post-war one-inch shows the railway as single track.

The answer, I suspect, is that the railway had not been doubled at all. All that had happened was that my copy of the 30,000/4/42F printing had benefited from an over-generous supply of black ink. Note how the minor road at the lower left of *figure 2* has become a solid black line. In just the same way, the white chequers of the railway have filled with ink, to such an extent that the line is indistinguishable from solid black.

Assiduous readers of *Military maps*<sup>1</sup> will be aware that this state carries an additional print code (or order code) bottom right (*figure 3*).



*Figure 3. Additional code on 30,000/4/42F*

<sup>1</sup> Roger Hellyer and Richard Oliver, *Military maps*, Charles Close Society, 2004.