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## GERMAN SYSTEM OF SQUARING MAPS.

A recently captured German document, issued by the C.G.S. of the Field Army, Nr. II. 55,858, dated 10.5.17, is the first (of which there is any evidence) to lay down a uniform system for the use of map squares, for conventional signs and for scales, in connection with maps issued by German Armies. This system may be described as follows:—

### A.—USE OF MAP SQUARES.

1. **Designation of square.**—German squared maps are divided into kilometre squares; each of these is identified by a 4-figure number, of which the two first figures denote its position in the vertical sense, and the two last in the horizontal sense.

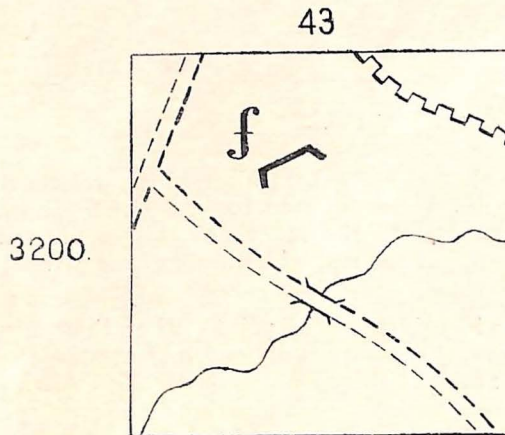


FIG. 1.

Thus, in Fig. 1, the square is called 3243; 32 is called its vertical number and 43 its horizontal number.

For wireless messages, this 4-figure number may be abbreviated to 2 figures, in which case the square is known as 23, the 2nd and 4th figures being taken.

2. **Identification of points.**—There are three authorized methods of identifying points within the square. These methods are respectively employed for the identification of:

- (a) Enemy batteries.
- (b) "Reference points" in German or in enemy trenches.
- (c) Other points.

(a) **Enemy batteries.**—Batteries, which have been confirmed by aeroplane photographs and have been noted by the Germans as active, are allotted a letter. Within each map square, letters are used in alphabetical order, but, in order to avoid confusion, the letters a, b, c, d, e, s and u are not used. If there are more than 18 batteries in a square,  $f_1$ ,  $g_1$ , etc., are used.

Batteries are identified by the square number, followed by the letter allotted, as stated above. Thus, in Fig. 1, the battery would be known as 3243f, or, abbreviated for wireless, as 23f.

This method gives no indication of the position of the battery within the square, but presupposes the possession of a map on which the battery letters are marked.

(b) **"Reference points" in German or in enemy trenches.**—Each "reference point" is identified by a 4-figure number, which denotes its position in the square. This number is based on a rough co-ordinate system similar to our own, but the co-ordinates are measured from the N.W. corner, east and south.

The method can be understood best by studying Fig. 2.

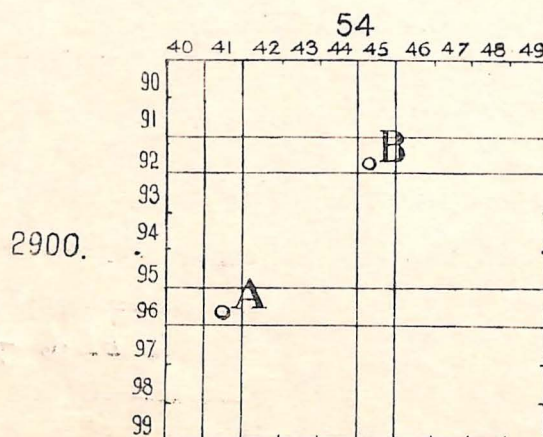


FIG. 2.



Point A is called 4196; point B 4592. The 4 in the horizontal row of numbers 40, 41, 42 . . . is the 2nd figure of the horizontal number, 54, of the square. The 9 in the vertical row of numbers is the 2nd figure of the vertical number 2900.

To find the position of a point, reconstruct the square in imagination, thus :—

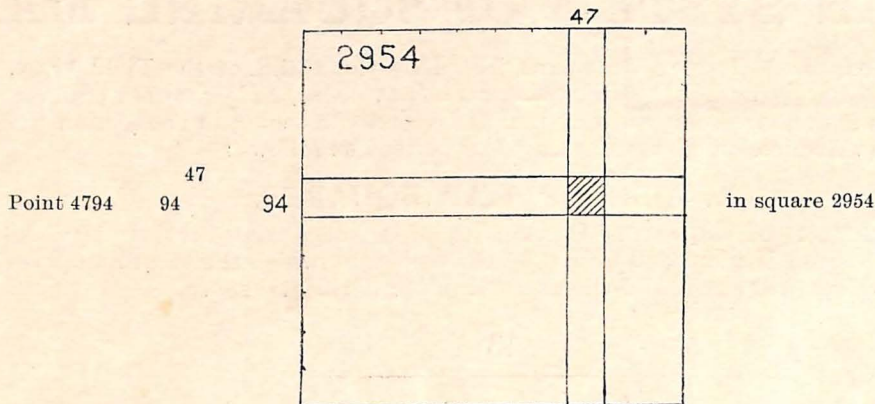


FIG. 3.

The German instructions are that the numbers allotted to "reference points" in German trenches should be printed in red and those allotted to "reference points" in enemy trenches should be printed in blue (*Blaupunkte*). "Reference points" should not be shown in such quantities as to obscure the clearness of the map. A number once given to a point should not be changed.

(c) **Other points.**—For the identification of points other than enemy batteries or the "reference points" described above, the square is divided (in imagination or by a tracing) into 25 small squares numbered 1 to 25; each of these small squares is sub-divided into four quarters, lettered a, b, c, d.

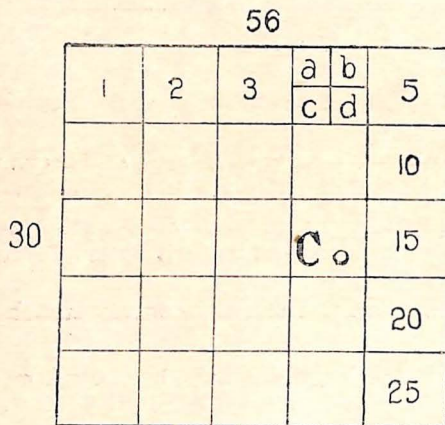


FIG. 4.

Thus, in Fig. 4, point C would be denoted within the square by 14.d. To identify it absolutely, the number of the square would have to be given too, thus, 3056.14.d.

## B.—CONVENTIONAL SIGNS.

A reproduction of the universal conventional signs laid down for use on maps issued by German Armies is being issued separately as S.S.618a, "German Conventional Signs, No. 2."

The conventional signs for units and the various types of guns are given in S.S.618, "German Conventional Signs."

## C.—SCALES.

It is laid down that the following scales, from 1/25,000 upwards, will be employed in German Armies in future :—

- 1/25,000 (in the 4th Army, 1/20,000).
- 1/10,000.
- 1/5,000.

In exceptional cases, scales of over 1/5,000 may be sanctioned.

GENERAL STAFF (INTELLIGENCE),  
GENERAL HEADQUARTERS,

1st June, 1918.