

# INTRODUCTION, TYPES OF MAPS, RELIABILITY AND CARE

## Types of Map

A map is a plan of an area showing roads and local landmarks to enable people to find their way about.

There are many different types of maps that are important for different uses. A simple street plan to find your way round the local area, Ordnance Survey maps at different scales for longer distance travel and military maps showing training areas, etc.

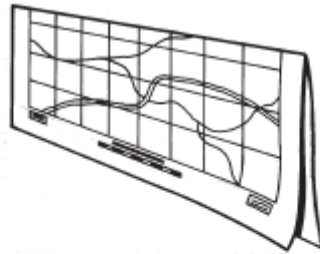
## Reliability

A map is like a 'bird's eye view'. It is absolutely accurate only at the time it is drawn. If it is old, much may have changed — towns and villages grow, roads and railways are added and buildings such as churches get demolished or built. For practical map reading purposes in the cadet forces, however, the accuracy of any map provided may be relied upon unless specifically stated otherwise.

## Care of Maps

Maps must be treated with care, otherwise they soon become torn, dirty and creased so they are unusable. Constant folding and unfolding is the surest way of wearing them out. The correct way of folding an OS map is as follows.

First the map is folded lengthwise with the map outwards; then it is folded like a concertina. This method reduces the map to a convenient size for carrying and ensures that there is a large area for study when any two folds are opened (see below).



A map should be protected by either being kept folded in a plastic bag when not in use or by being placed on a piece of hardboard and covered with a transparent fablon-type sheet. If it has to be marked, this should be done either on the fablon type sheet with a chinagraph pencil or the equivalent, or lightly on the map itself with an ordinary soft pencil, although this latter method is to be avoided if possible because the use of a rubber over a period of time to eradicate such marks will spoil the surface.