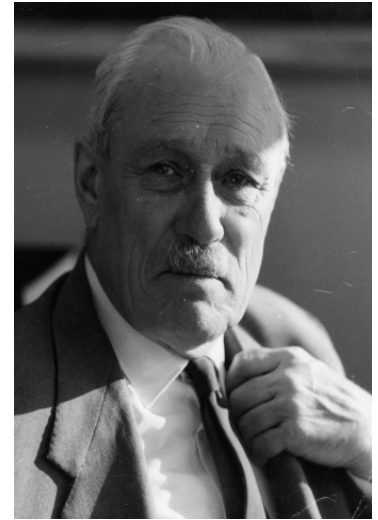


## Brigadier Martin Hotine CMG CBE 1898 - 1968

**Hotine was a superb, innovative surveyor of international renown who devised new techniques that became the standard professional practice. He was the first Director of Military Survey and, the first Director of Overseas Survey.**

Born on 17th June 1898, Hotine was commissioned in 1917 and immediately saw active service in Persia, Iraq, and India.

After the First World War he studied at Cambridge University and was then appointed as Research Officer of the Air Survey Committee. His exceptional mathematical ability, coupled with an innovative mind and great energy, led to him devising new, practical methods of surveying from air photographs. In particular, the Arundel Method, that was extremely well suited to use by soldiers in situations where complex instruments that were being developed at that time, could not be used. This method became the standard method of surveying from air photographs in all Military Survey units throughout the Second World War.



After a spell in the War Office, he went to Malta and then to Africa where he was engaged in the measurement of a section of the Arc of the 30th Meridian, the major geodetic research of the day. During this work he devised new procedures for geodetic observation and precise baseline measurement.

From 1933 until the start of the war, Hotine was with the Ordnance Survey where, through his far-sightedness and powers of advocacy, he was responsible for commissioning the Retriangulation of Great Britain. This task was started in 1935, using techniques and procedures devised by Hotine, and finally completed in 1962.

He went to France in 1939 as Deputy Director, Survey, and returned through Dunkirk. Back in England, he was involved in the design and introduction of the new mobile printing equipment, to replace the old systems lost on the beaches of Dunkirk.

Hotine was then made Director Survey in East Africa for the brief campaign there in 1941 and returned to England to take up the new appointment of Director of Military Survey. Because of the ever-increasing need for vast numbers of air charts, he was 'double-hatted' being, uniquely, a Director in the Air Ministry as well as at the War Office.

He was noted for the close working relationship that he forged with the US Army Map Service which formed the basis of the excellent relationship that still exists today.

Martin Hotine retired in 1946 and became the first Director of Colonial Surveys, later the Directorate of Overseas Survey. He steered this directorate through the years of colonial independence, ensuring that many new countries started with excellent topographical mapping.

Throughout this period, he continued to publish many learned papers on geodesy gaining a worldwide reputation.

Leaving the Overseas Survey in 1963, he spent five years in the USA on earth science research and finally retired the recipient of numerous academic accolades, in 1968.

He died on 12 November 1968, his memorial being the thousands of Ordnance Survey triangulation pillars spread throughout the land as a result of his initiative, the Retriangulation of Great Britain.