

American Military Geology in World War I 1917-1918

OUTLINE

- **Background**
- **Americans in Theater**
- **On the American Front**
- **Questions**
- **Conclusion**

BACKGROUND

- **No early involvement by allies**
- **Germans use geologists**
- **Mid 1915 allies think about geology**
 - **water supplies**
 - **mine/countermine operations**
 - **hydro mapping**

Americans in Theater

(1 of 3)

- **Mine warfare mostly over**
- **American Expeditionary Force**
 - **Assigned 10 geologists**
 - **27th Engr Spec Mining Regiment**
 - **26th Engr (water supply)**

Americans in Theater

(2 of 3)

■ LTC Alfred H Brooks

- USGS worker
- Organized geological effort
- Office of Chief Engineers, Trans
- Engineering Intelligence

■ Staff Impacts

- Topo maps, 5mm maps in 5 months
- First US use of aerial photo maps
- Annex for Meuse-Argonne Offensice

Americans in Theater

(3 of 3)

- **27th Engr Spec Mining Regt**
 - 6 x 250 man companies
 - Western “hard rock” miners preferred
 - Horizontal construction, bridging, quarrying
- **26th Engineers**
 - 1500 troops in 7 companies
 - Oil Drillers
 - Artesian well (4mil gpd) at Bordeaux

On the American Front

(1 of 2)

- **National Research Council**
 - R.A.F. Penrose “*What a geologist can do in the War*”
 - 43% of Army Training Corps schools had no geology courses
 - Only 12% beyond introductory
 - Incorporated as an elective

On the American Front

(2 of 2)

- **U.S Geological Survey**
 - **Locating and developing everygy**
 - **Oil in Oklahoma**
 - **Natural gas in W. Virginia**
 - **Worked with U.S. Bureau of Mines**
 - **War Industries Board**
 - **War Finance Committee**

CONCLUSION

“I did not realize that geology had anything to do with military mining.”

BGEN R.N. Harvey

Inspector of Mines (English)

19 May 1919