

FURTHER READING

GEOLOGY AND WARFARE: EXAMPLES OF THE INFLUENCE OF TERRAIN AND GEOLOGISTS ON MILITARY OPERATIONS.

LONDON: GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY, 2000.

MILITARY ASPECTS OF HYDROGEOLOGY.

LONDON: GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY. (GSSP 362), 2012.

GEOLOGY OF THE D-DAY LANDINGS IN NORMANDY, 1944.

LONDON: GEOLOGISTS' ASSOCIATION (GEOLOGISTS' ASSOCIATION GUIDE, 64), 2003.

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CROSS CHANNEL INVASION

MILITARY GEOLOGY

IN

1940 AND 1944

A lecture prepared under the direction of

Col. E.P.F. Rose

GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

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CROSS CHANNEL INVASION!

INTRODUCTION

During World War II, in the summer of 1940, German Army geologists helped to prepare for an invasion of England from France - the invasion (code named Operation Sea Lion) was cancelled following RAF victory in the aerial Battle of Britain. Later, British Army geologists helped to prepare for the Normandy Landings of June 1944 – arguably the greatest amphibious invasion in history, and the start of an 11-month campaign that culminated in Allied Victory in Europe.

The talk will describe how geologists on opposing sides contributed to military planning and operations, notably the preparation of specialist maps interpreting beach terrain, groundwater resources, construction materials, and sites for rapid construction of temporary airfields.

ABOUT THE SPEAKER

Dr Ted Rose began his academic geological career working on fossil echinoids from Libya for his DPhil at Oxford, and researched through the 1970s and 80s primarily on other post-Palaeozoic carbonate successions of the Mediterranean region.

However another strand to his life, the Territorial Army (from which he retired in 1990, with the rank of Colonel), led him towards Military Geology. From 1978 his interest broadened into the history of the subject, from Napoleonic origins and 19th Century role in officer training to its influence on the British Geological Survey's foundation. A close association with Austrian and German military geologists has given him unique insight into the experiences of both sides during our two major 20th Century conflicts.

Since retiring from lecturing at Royal Holloway in 2003, his research output has increased - firmly establishing him throughout Europe and North America as the doyen of military geology historians.
