CAMP UPTON - WORLD WAR I

TRAINING TRENCHES



Trench Warfare reached its peak during Work War I and for the thousands of soldiers that passed through Camp Upton between 1917 and 1919, learning the techniques to construct and fight in the trenches of Europe would be crucial to their military success, as well as survival.

Brookhaven National Laboratory is home to several networks of trenches used in training the soldiers at Camp Upton between 1917-1919. As the U.S. was preparing to enter WWI, the army had officers from France and Great Britain come over America to instruct the men at Camp Upton. The camp's population of 30,000+ soldiers drilled in hand-to-hand combat, hand grenade and gas-warfare techniques, in addition to traditional weaponry training.









British Field Manual 1917

Postcards sent from Camp Upton soldiers to their families (Courtesy of Longwood Public Library)

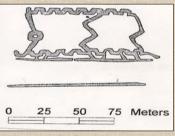


Remnants of the World War I training trenches are still visible around the BNL site and are some of only a few surviving WWI earthwork features in US.

The BNL trenches have been determined to be eligible for listing on the National Register of **Historic Places**

As stewards of this historic resource BNL is responsible to ensure they are available for public interpretation or study by military historians





BNL Trench #6

One of the BNL trenches represents an intricate network, closely resembling the Army Field Manual diagrams of 1917 & 1918.



US Army Engineer Field Manual 1918



BNL Trench - Today



BNL Trench - circa 1917







