

Solomon Bond Louis, WWI Code Talker

Solomon Bond Louis (sometimes spelled Lewis) was born April 22 1898 at Hochatown, Eagle County, Choctaw Nation, Indian Territory. He later moved to Bryan County. He was a Corporal in the 142nd Infantry, Company E.

Louis, a full blood Choctaw who is credited with being the leader of the Choctaw Code Talkers in WWI during a fierce battle in France against the German Army, was actually underage when he entered the armed services to fight for his country.

Louis, a proud young Choctaw man from Bryan County, Oklahoma, attended Armstrong Academy and when his older friends enlisted, Louis pretended to be 18 so that he, too, could join the service.

Solomon Louis received his basic training at Ft. Sill, Oklahoma and was then sent to Ft. Worth where he joined an all-Indian Company. He was a Corporal in Co E, 142nd Infantry, 36th Division. The 36th sailed for France July 11, 1918.

Arriving at Lizarre, France, they rested a few days and went into intensive training. On October 7, 1918, they arrived at the front lines and the following day went over the top for the first time. The first battle and those following were brutal.

The officers of the Allied Forces had become aware that the Germans were tapping their telephone lines. Certain Choctaw soldiers were asked to talk over the telephone in Choctaw, so that Germans could not understand the orders. Reports say that Louis was stationed at Division Headquarters, with Choctaw James Edwards on the other end of the telephone line out on the field at the front line.

The others were stationed along the line. Ben Carterby's message came in "Go quick and tell Col. Brewer it is hell down here where I am. The Kaiser's crack troops are getting ready to go over the top tomorrow. They are the Prussian guards!"

Orders were sent in Choctaw to go over the top at 6 am, ahead of the Germans, and a message to the field artillery to send a barrage over at 5:55 am. Over five hundred prisoners were captured in about 30 minutes that morning.