

«I'm an explosives expert. I make things that can be used, when it comes down to it, for sieges, wars, destruction. I'm not favour of destruction, but I'm favour of being able to push through; to move forward; to bring down walls.

An explosives expert's first of all a geologist. He looks at layers of terrain, folds, fault lines. What sort of ground will be easy to dig into? What sort may prove hard? He observes how fortresses have been built. He identifies the features of the relief that could be used for concealment or launching attacks.

Having done that, he goes on to the experimental, trial-and-error stage. He carries out reconnaissance, he posts sentries, he orders reports. Then he works out his tactic. Sapping? A siege? Explosives, or direct assault? The method, in the end, is nothing other than this strategy.»

Michel Foucault, «I'm an explosives expert» («Je suis un artificier» [1975], in Roger-Pol Droit, Michel Foucault, entretiens).