

December 7, 1932; Morgan-Jones Mine, Madrid, N. Mex.; 14 Killed

(From Bureau of Mines report, by G. M. Kintz)

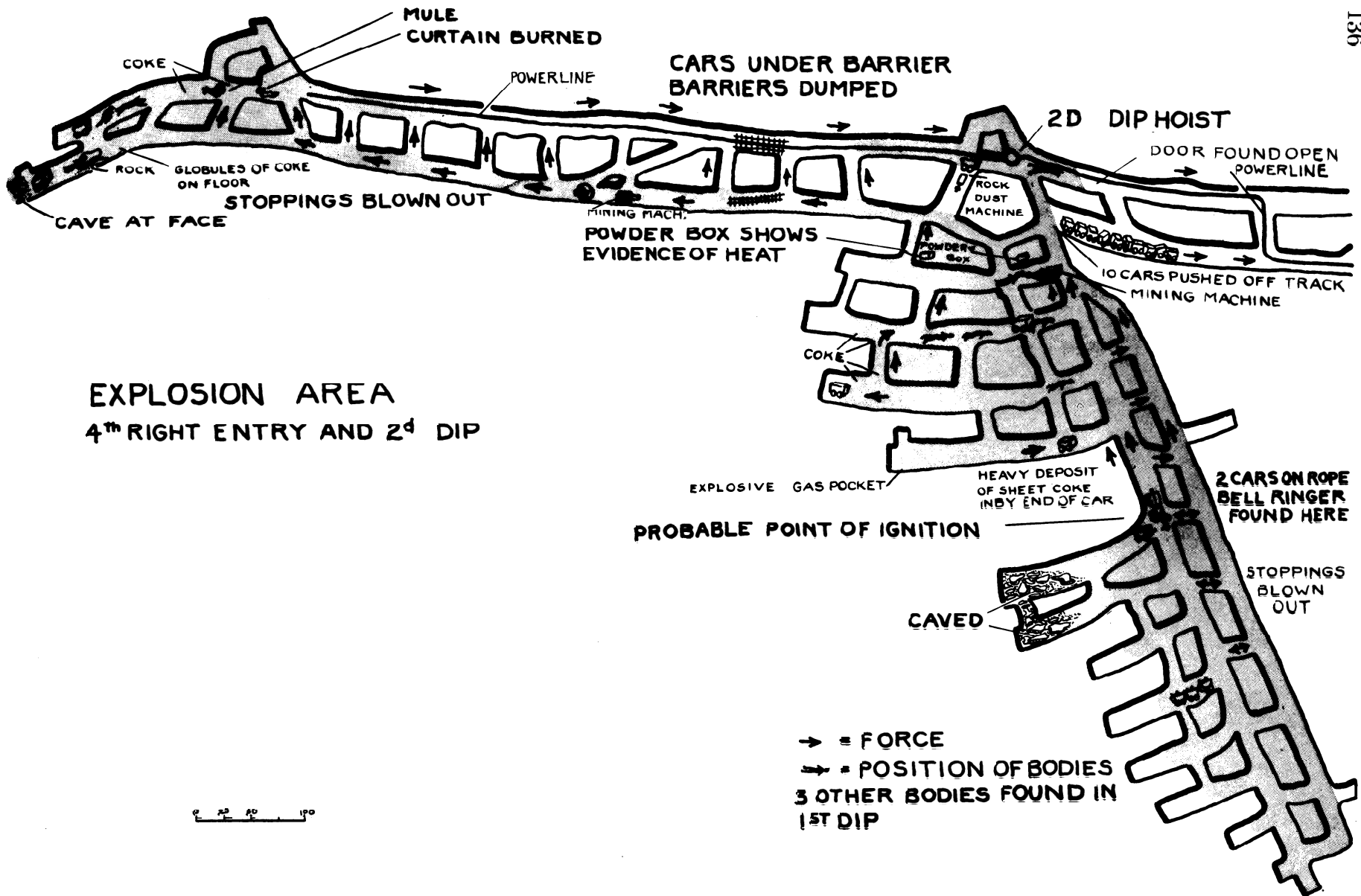
At 7:43 a.m. a gas explosion caused the death of 14 of the 51 men in the mine. Two others were overcome but revived as soon as fresh air reached them; 35 others were uninjured and escaped unassisted.

The fireboss examined only the working places, came out, and checked the men into the mine. They reached their working places between 7 and 7:30 a.m. Cars had been loaded by miners in idle days; and a contractor in 2d dip, 4th right main, had 16 cars to change. In taking out the loaded cars, bringing in the empties, and distributing them, he left 1 or 2 ventilating doors open for over half an hour.

Gas accumulated in 2d dip and was ignited by an arc when a signal was given on the bare 60-volt a. c. signal wires by shorting them with a metal rod. One of the miners who escaped from the affected section telephoned the mine office from inside the mine, and officials promptly started rescue and recovery work.

No apparatus was needed, although it was available at the mine; some blown out stoppings were replaced with canvas, and line curtains were hung to clear the rooms.

Rock dust placed on the 4th right entry and the dumping of several rock-dust barriers localized the explosion (fig. 90). Some coal dust was ignited in the affected area, but the explosion did not propagate through the protected entries. Underlying causes of this disaster were the dependence on doors for maintaining ventilation and the unsupervised activities of the section contractor.



EXPLOSION AREA
4th RIGHT ENTRY AND 2^d DIP

0 20 40 100

→ = FORCE
 - - - - - = POSITION OF BODIES
 3 OTHER BODIES FOUND IN 1ST DIP

FIGURE 90.—Map of explosion area, Morgan-Jones mine, Madrid, N. Mex., December 7, 1932.