

# Premature Detonation Of Permissible Explosives Given As Cause Of Providence Mining Disaster

**John F. Daniel, Chief of State Bureau of Mines, Issues Statement After Investigation**

John F. Daniel, Lexington, chief of the Kentucky mines and minerals division, Monday night issued the following statement following an investigation of the Duvin mine explosion July 14 in which twenty-eight miners were killed:

"Final investigation of the mine explosion, which occurred at the Duvin mine, Providence, July 14, was completed late today.

"A premature detonation of unconfined permissible explosives caused by a stray electric current was the cause. The detonation of the explosives resulted in the coal dust being raised into the air and ignited by the flame from the explosives.

"The investigation was conducted by the state, federal and local

mine officials."

Mr. Daniel and W. E. Wheeler, Pikeville, senior district mine inspector for the state, left Monday night for their homes after completing investigation and compiling their findings for filing in Frankfort.

Daniel's announcement came after an investigation by state and federal officials. The finding is final, Daniel said.

Those who assisted Daniel in the investigation are: James Fugate of Madisonville, and W. E. Wheeler of Pikeville, assistant state mine inspectors; S. Tomlinson, Vincennes, Indiana mine inspector, and G. T. Powell, Norton, Va., U. S. mine inspector.

The group has not decided when to allow the mine to reopen.

1939 Duvin Mine explosion NEWS

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