

July 28, 1944; Brilliant No. 2 Mine, Brilliant, N. Mex.; 6 Killed

(From Bureau of Mines report, by L. L. Naus, E. A. Morgan, and H. L. Scott)

About 11:00 a.m. the superintendent visited two men working on an overcast about 1,040 feet from the face of No. 5 south entry. A few minutes later he was with the assistant mine foreman in No. 7 east entry when the explosion was felt.

They called the surface by telephone, and recovery operations were started immediately. Canvas was used to replace broken cinder block stoppings and doors. Bodies of the 2 men at the overcast and of 2 electricians, a timberman, and a track layer were recovered in less than 3 hours. The first 2 bodies were at the overcast, and the 4 others were near a storage-battery locomotive at the top of a rise about 820 feet inby.

A stopping in the crosscut where the overcast was being erected had been removed that day, short circuiting the ventilation in No. 5 south entry and aircourse. Gas accumulated and was ignited by an arc from the controller of the locomotive when it was moved to the "off" position. The force of the explosion extended from the faces of the entry and aircourse to about 300 feet outby the overcast (fig. 139). Rock dust had been applied, and coal dust was not involved.

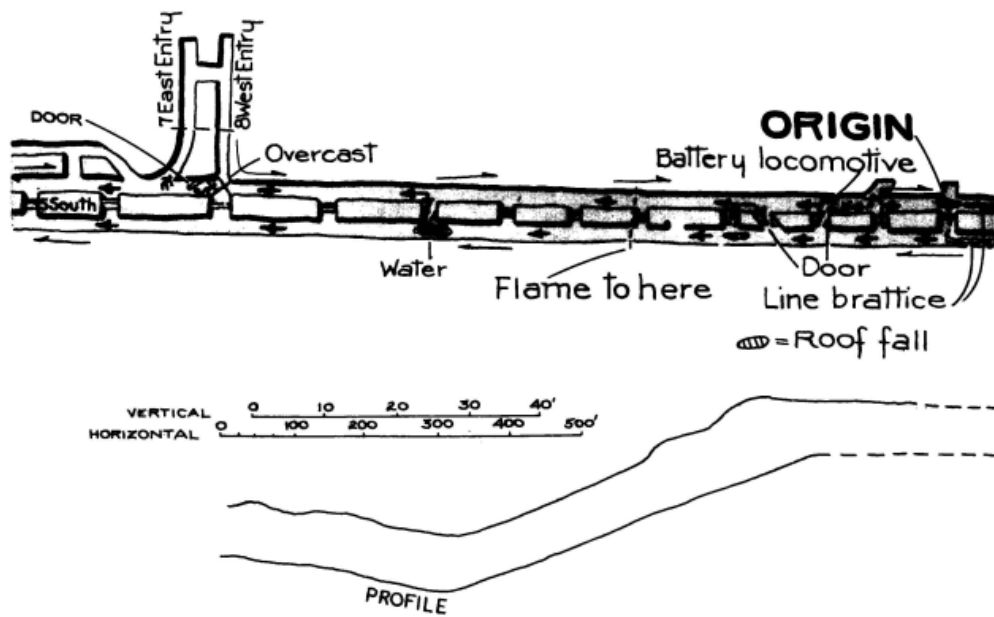


FIGURE 139.—Map of explosion area, Brilliant No. 2 mine, Brilliant, N. Mex., July 28, 1944.