



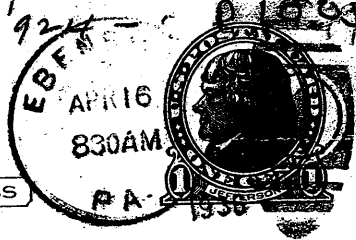
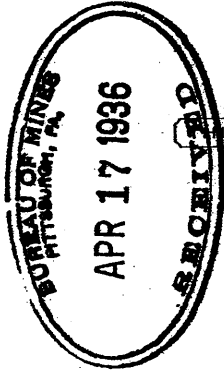
Correspondence

Dated

04/1936 - 05/1936

Scofield Mine

Schofield Utah May 1, 1900 - July 27 1909
Mar 8 1924 - 1936



THIS SIDE OF CARD IS FOR ADDRESS

Mr. J. J. Forbes, Chief Engineer,
U.S. Bureau of Mines,
4800 Forbes St.,
Pittsburg, Pa.

April 14, 1936.

Dear Jack:

If you have any information on an explosion that occurred in Schoefield Mine Carbon Co. Utah, let me have it.

An old man (82) passed for Mine Foreman in 1886, he was in Utah at time of the above occurrence he would like to hear some thing about it.

Yours very truly,

WAF

W.H. Filer, State Mine Inspr
Ebensburg, Pa.

~~W.H. Filer~~

April 17, 1936 JFF:RS

Mr. W. H. Filer
State Mine Inspector
Ebensburg, Pa.

Dear Mr. Filer:

I have your request dated April 14 for any information that we may have on the explosion which occurred in the Schoefield mine, Carbon County, Utah, for an old-time mine foreman who was in Utah at the time.

This event occurred before the Bureau of Mines was instituted and the information we have here is taken from the Salt Lake City Tribune of March 9, 1924. This newspaper article stated that on May 1, 1900, an explosion occurred at the juncture of Scofield Mines Nos. 1 and 4 of the Winterquarters Company, in which 200 men lost their lives. The article states that after the explosion no fire resulted and that rescuers were able to proceed with their work immediately and 200 men were found to have been suffocated by after-damp, a gas originating from the explosion. This was a dust explosion and the source of ignition has never been satisfactorily determined.

In addition to the 200 men killed, 7 were injured, 2 men escaped from No. 4 mine, and 103 escaped from No. 1 mine uninjured.

Very truly yours,

J. J. FORBES
Supervising Engineer
Safety Division

cc D. Harrington
Files ✓

J

W

May 6, 1936.

Mr. W. H. Filer,
State Mine Inspector,
Ebensburg, Pennsylvania.



Dear Mr. Filer:

Scotfield Explosion - Utah

In connection with the inquiry which you made of Mr. J. J. Forbes, U. S. Bureau of Mines, Pittsburgh, in April as to information in connection with the explosion which occurred in the Scotfield Mine, Carbon County, Utah, supplementing the information given to you by Mr. Forbes, I can give you some details which are undoubtedly unknown to most other persons because I entered the employ of the Utah Fuel Company twenty-eight days after the Scotfield explosion and took the place of a mine supervisor who was killed in that explosion and as a result of my employment by the company, was able to obtain details of what actually occurred which were not available to anybody on the outside.

What actually happened insofar as could be learned was that two men, wearing the old-time oil lamps, were making up some cartridges of black blasting powder at a point in their workroom where they had at least three, and probably more, twenty-five pound kegs of black blasting powder available. Presumably on making up the charge, the flame of their open light in some way or other came in contact with the granular black blasting powder and the explosion was precipitated with the resultant loss of at least two hundred lives and the wrecking of the mine in which the explosion occurred. This mine was not reopened for nearly ten years after the explosion.

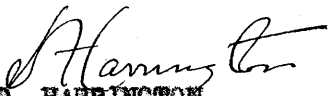
The mine in which the explosion started was a relatively small one and had not to exceed forty persons employed in it. Of course, all of them were killed and at least one hundred sixty persons in the adjacent mine, connected by one opening, were killed by the afterdamp. These mines were absolutely non-gassy insofar as concerns occurrence of methane. From time to time the mines in this camp were opened, probably around 1870, until they were abandoned a few years ago. Insofar as I am informed, and I think my information is correct, no person ever detected a gas cap or a flame safety lamp nor did any person ever ignite any gas in any place in any mine in this particular camp.

cc. J. J. Forbes ✓
Safety Division
Files

Handwritten initials or signature, possibly "WA".

The region is somewhat ^{disturbed} distributed by faults and these faults range from a few feet to several hundred feet. The faults were inclined to give off asphyxiating gas, carbon dioxide and nitrogen, but never, insofar as my information goes, was any methane encountered. The Seafield explosion was unquestionably one started by black blasting powder and the only ingredient entering into it was coal dust.

Yours truly,


D. HARRINGTON,
Chief, Health and Safety Branch.



Reports

**1904
Annual Report**

SCOFIELD MINE, UTAH

8-1065
8-277

The wrecking of the No. 2 mine of the Utah Fuel Co. at Castlegate by three explosions on March 8, 1924, and the resulting fire recalls to many the Scofield diaster of May 1, 1900, when the lives of 200 men were snuffed out in an explosion at the juncture of the No. 1 and No. 4 mines of the Winterquarters ~~mines~~ *Company*.

Following that explosion no fire resulted. Rescuers were able to proceed with their work immediately, and 200 men were found to have been suffocated by after-damp, a gas originating from the explosion.

That was the first great coal mine disaster in the state, and the fact that the flames are ravaging the workings of the mine where more than 170 men are now entombed causes great concern among people of the state.

On the morning of May 1, 1900, shortly after 10 o'clock, according to A. G. Mackenzie, secretary for the Utah chapter of the American Mining Congress, who served as a Tribune correspondent at that time, a severe explosion occurred at the intersection of the No. 1 and No. 4 mines of the Winterquarters company.

The cause has never been satisfactorily determined. Some contend that the firing of blasts in rotation raised the dust and resulted in an explosion of the dust at a later explosion.

Rescue crews entered almost immediately, and that night the first of the bodies were brought to the surface.

The sights found inside the mine were appalling. Men sat beside their lunch pails as calmly as though in life, but gas had smothered them. Others were burned about the head and shoulders and had fallen in death in the dark stopes.

The explosion occurred about 10:25 o'clock in the morning, and, in addition to the 200 killed, seven were injured. Two men escaped from No. 4 mine and the 103 from No. 1 mine without injury.

Salt Lake Tribune 3/9/24