

ESTABLISHED 1881

FOUR KILLED IN EXPLOSION AT SHIPYARDS IN ROCKPORT

Cloud of Steam and Flying Debris Fills Air as 20-Ton Boiler Bursts Through the Roof of Engine Room.

BODIES SCALDED AND TORN FROM BLAST

Firemen Halbert and Sigler and Mexican Helper Horribly Crushed; Find Engineer Brown Buried Beneath Bricks.

Special to The Caller.
ROCKPORT, Texas, July 29.—Four men were horribly killed here early today when a boiler in one of the German shipyards exploded, wrecking the boiler room and causing damages estimated at more than \$10,000. All of the victims were horribly mangled, two of the bodies being almost unrecognizable mass of crushed, scalded human flesh.

The firemen, Halbert and Sigler, formerly of Lockhart, Texas;

Fireman W. C. HALBERT, former resident of San Antonio, Texas;

Fireman P. B. SIGLER, lately of Victoria, Texas;

MARCELLO GUERRIO, Mexican ash master of Rockport.

The explosion occurred about 7:20 o'clock this morning, just after the night force at the shipyards had completed their shift and before the day crews had come on duty. Had the explosion occurred during the regular working hours, the tall of human lives which probably have been appalling.

Boiler Hurled

The boiler, which was one of a battery of four that furnish steam for the various needs of the shipyards, was lifted bodily from its foundation by the explosion and hurled through the roof of the building, landing more than 300 yards away from the scene of the blast. The three bodies of the scalded and mangled victims, except for the loss of a few brick in the foundation and the disarranging of the gates, they were rent at once and in a few hours were supinely strewn over the power house and other purposes around the yards.

The body of Sigler was found atop of a tall, adjacent building more than 75 feet away from the scene of the explosion. Death was apparently instantaneous, as the entire right side of his body had been carried away by the force of the explosion.

Halbert was buried against a retarding wall in front of the boiler room, where he was found lying face down in the explosion. Practically every bone in his body was crushed by the terrific force with which it was thrown against the wall.

Find Body of Engineer

The body of Brown was found only after a search among the debris left after several hours of work had been performed beneath the brick that covered the foot of the boiler room following the explosion. His body was literally cooked by the dense cloud of steam that enveloped the building when the boiler blew up.

Guerrio, the Mexican ash master, was literally torn to shreds by the explosion, and was found lying face down by searchers. It was with difficulty that his remains were identified.

The last person to see sign of the setting of the explosion alive was Machinist A. J. Carmichael who visited the boiler room a few minutes before the explosion to inspect. Engineers Brown to start the emergency pump that would supply water to the fire hoses.

Mr. Brown was then at the boiler pump, presumably in the act of turning the water into the boiler, and replied that he would start the emergency pump at once. With this assurance Mr. Carmichael turned and waded toward the rear of the building and had hardly passed the door when he was struck under the head by a bolt of light that had come from the foundation of the boiler.

Expllosion Mysterious

The cause of the explosion is a complete mystery to officials of the shipyards. While several theories are advanced as to its origin, none of them seems to be a satisfactory explanation. The fact that the boiler was little damaged and only showed a slight bulge in the forward end has been suggested as indicating an internal explosion.

When Sight Examiner A. Stanley went off duty, he reported the boiler as ready to be fired up again because there had been no signs of damage during the night while it was not in operation.

(Continued on page four.)

Corpus Christi Caller

TEXAS, WEDNESDAY, JULY 30, 1919.

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HERE'S C

UNCLE SAM'S largest company. It has been embodying inventions deve-



COLOMBIAN PACT TO BE TAKEN UP BY SENATE SOON

Century-Old Precedent to be Smashed by Consideration in Open Session.

By The Associated Press.

WASHINGTON, July 29.—The century-old custom of consulting treason in secret will be broken next week when the long-pending Colombian treaty is taken up.

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(Continued on page four.)

SUBMARINE

One of the Fore River Shipbuilding word in submarine death dealing,

PRESIDENT SENDS FRANCO-AMERICAN PACT TO SENATE

Wilson in Message Urging Ratification of Compact Declares Promise "Temporary Supplement" to Treaty With Germany Designed to Protect France.

By the Associated Press.

WASHINGTON, July 29.—The special treaty with France promising immediate American aid to that republic in repelling an unprompted attack by Germany was sent to the senate today by President Wilson. In his message urging ratification the president declared the promise a "temporary supplement" to the treaty with Germany and the League of Nations covenant, designed to give France protection in an emergency, "without awaiting the advice of the tongue to act." He pointed out that a similar promise had been made by Great Britain and said that by the obligation the United States but partially discharged a debt to France which "nothing can pay," in full.

The senate received the message which was delivered by messenger in open session and referred the treaty, without discussion, to the foreign relations committee.

To be Considered Jointly With Versailles Pact.

It is likely that the treaty will be taken up by the committee within a few days and considered jointly with the Versailles treaty. Before this is done, however, the committee will hear appeal of the ex-senator who advised the American peace delegation.

When the Colombian treaty was submitted formally to the senate in executive session late today Senator Seth New Mexico, repudiated, urged that the Senate consider the convention in open session, and the committee, in accordance with the usual procedure, voted to do so.

The Senate agreed to do so.

Two minor changes were made in the treaty and a clause added in the resolution of ratification mentioning that in event of war between Colombia and another country, her shipping shall not be allowed Spanish Canal transit without payment of duties and tolls.

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Senator Gary, Democrat, Louisiana, urged its ratification without reservations, and Senator Nelson, Republican, Minnesota, announced that while he wanted to see it ratified, he thought it should not be ratified.

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