

## TWO MEN KILLED IN EXPLOSION AT DEER PARK

A terrific explosion, which occurred among a large quantity of high explosives at the ammunition works of Nobel (Australasia) Pty. Ltd., Deer Park, shortly before 2 p.m. on Wednesday blew up a shed in which two men had been working mixing ingredients for the manufacture of "Samsonite," a powerful explosive now generally used in mining.

The bodies of the two workmen were shockingly mutilated. The detonation when the 1600 lb. of Samsonite exploded was so severe that it was heard many miles away. Every building at the plant was shaken, windows were shattered and other huts in the vicinity of the mixing room, which was completely demolished by the blast, were badly damaged.

Most of the young women, who are employed at the works operating machines in the manufacture of cartridges, were thrown into a panic when the roar of the explosion reverberated throughout the plant. Many fainted at the work benches and others rushed across the paddocks, as it was feared that the detonation would cause ammunition stacked in the surrounding huts to explode.

The victims were:

**JAMES ROBINSON**, 64 years, married, of Norfolk Street, Maidstone.

**HENRY POWELL**, 33 years, married, Forrest Street, Sunshine.

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Powell leaves a widow and five young children. Robinson, who has a grown-up family, was to have retired from the service of the company in three weeks' time. Both men had been employed by the company for many years and were extremely popular with their fellow employees.

The explosion was plainly heard at Sunshine, and in the vicinity of Albion housewives were temporarily alarmed and rushed into the streets. With all the quarries in the district many people in the vicinity of the Sunshine station and further away thought at the time that something extra special in the way of blasting was going on, others thinking the explosion was caused by sewerage construction contractors.

A number of wives of employees first heard the news in the city and were greatly agitated by the fact that early editions of the evening papers did not contain the names of the victims. In Sunshine, too, many relatives of workers frantically endeavored to obtain full details, and many rumors were current until arrivals from Deer Park, who were dismissed for the rest of the day, brought correct stories of the occurrence.