

## Explosion in Which Two Were Killed



On lookers gaze in awe at B&O wreckage and engine 2840 which exploded Sunday, October 20, 1918, at Columbus , Ohio.

Photo from the Alex Campbell Collection.

## TWO KILLED WHEN ENGINE BLOWS UP

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Engineer and Fireman Lose Lives  
When B&O Locomotive Explodes in City.

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Eight Box Cars Are Smashed Into Kindling  
Tender Is Hurlled Half-Block

(Columbus Dispatch, October 20, 1918)

Engineer Henry Hall, age 38, and Fireman Harry E. Darsham, aged 27, both of Newark, were killed at 2:30 p.m. yesterday when a Baltimore and Ohio locomotive exploded, wrecking eight box cars, at the crossing of the Norfolk and Western line, near Woodland Avenue.

The engine, said to have been condemned recently while in a shop for repairs at Newark, was drawing 10 cars of freight. Another locomotive was pushing the load from the rear. Just as

the first engine started to cross the N&W tracks, bound east, the explosion, said to have been due to low water, occurred.

#### **Going at High Speed.**

So terrific was the force that the heavy brass number plate on the front was hurled three squares and the tender to the rear was thrown ahead of the engine a half block. The train, it was said, was traveling at between 25 and 40 miles, the former being the highest rate permitted at the crossing.

When the first engine stopped because of the explosion, the one at the rear pushed the cars between them into a heap. Among the contents were scrap iron, wood, broom corn, wheat and baled cotton. The wreck reduced the wooden cars to kindling.

All police and private ambulances were sent to the wreck first reported to have been a passenger train. The Fisher ambulance removed the body of fireman Darsham to Grant Hospital, where it was found he was dead. It was prepared for burial and sent to Newark, where the widow survives.

#### **Police Restrain Crowds.**

Darsham's body was hurled high into the air and fell in a field. His skull was fractured, left leg broken and his body scalded.

Wrecking crews from Newark and Columbus were busy until early this morning. Police held back large crowds that watched the crews at work. Traffic on the Norfolk and Western was tied up three hours, while on the Baltimore and Ohio it was not resumed until this morning.

The body of Engineer Hall, which was not found until late last night, was sent to Newark by the Brown-Ferguson Company, undertakers.