



In the enclave of accidental deaths in the Southern Cemetery, we come to two more stories;

The first is an industrial accident.

An inquest was held today in connection with the fatal blasting accident at Chain Hills Tunnel. The evidence showed that the deceased man, Harry Smith, was placing gelignite cartridges in position in

a hole, and Gardiner (acting as ganger) was pushing them home with the usual copper tamping rod. The hole was on a slight incline, but was almost horizontal, and the second of the two plugs evidently did not go to the bottom when it was put in. The tamping pad was applied gently to the cartridge, and at that moment the explosion occurred. After the accident Dr. Stewart, resident house surgeon at the hospital, said the cause of death was severe concussion of the brain.

The court returned a verdict of accidental death, with no blame attachable to anyone.

Taken from: Otago Witness/Evening Post, Vol LXXXV, Issue 112, 13 May 1913, page 7