

APPENDIX D
GLOSSARY

Critical Fence

Security fence around the industrial area as well as the shipping and storage buildings. Patrol road used by guards to maintain the security of the facility was immediately inside the critical fence.

Guncotton

Specific variation of nitrocellulose with nitrogen content between 13.35% and 13.45%

Laminex

Laminex is the name of a patented wood box used for culverts and sewers. The boxes were manufactured by Wheeler Lumber Bridge and Supply Company in Minnesota. The Laminex wood box was square and made from pressure-treated wood. The preservative used on the pressure-treated wood was most likely chromated copper arsenate.

Nitrocellulose

Nitrocellulose is derived from the nitrification of cellulose fibers with the appropriate mix of nitric acid and sulfuric acid.

Oleum

Concentrated (100%) sulfuric acid (H_2SO_4) containing 24, 32 or 65 wt.% of dissolved sulfur trioxide (SO_3).

Pyrocellulose

Specific variation of nitrocellulose with nitrogen content between 12.6% and 12.7%. Diphenylamine is added to act as a stabilizer.

Smokeless Powder

Smokeless powder consists of almost pure nitrocellulose (single-base powders), corned into small spherical balls or extruded into cylinders or flakes using solvents such as ether. The reason that it is smokeless is that the combustion products are mainly gaseous, compared to around 60% solid products for black powder. A small amount of diphenylamine is added to assist in preserving the chemical stability. The granules are also coated graphite to prevent static electricity sparks from causing undesired ignitions.