1996 Cap Tin Update

by Andy Martin

O nce again, it is our pleasure to report on novel cap tins that collectors have tracked down the last few months. We also get to introduce three new contributors: Don Dalton, who has put together a large collection in an impressively short time period, Lane Griffin, an accomplished member of the vanishing breed of underground collectors, and Leo Stambaugh, who runs Powder Cache Antiques in Georgetown Colorado. This shop is loaded with mining artifacts and related books, a must see if you are in the area.

The most surprising tin for me in this group is the GERMAN DETONATOR. The only tin from this company previously known was one mangled sample from West Australia. Lane managed to find this one in decent condition underground in Nevada, and estimates the date of the workings is 1910-1930. It is hard to imagine German products being very popular after 1914, so my hunch is the tin dates pre WWI, even though the caps are pretty powerful (No. 6) for this period. The arrows on the label are reminiscent of the lightning bolts on the German Silesian Detonator tin (page 71 of our Bible), and it is possible that the companies are related.
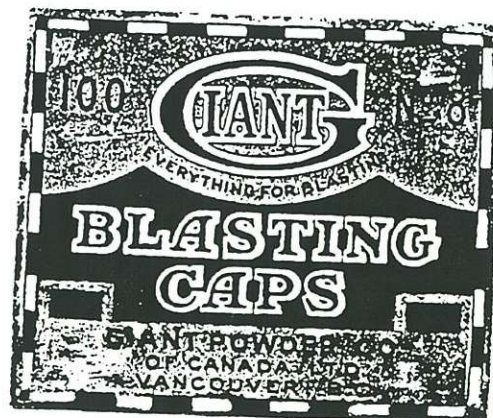
The GIANT POWDER CO. OF CANADA tin is also a nice one. It is the first one known from this company, which is an offshoot of the Giant Powder Company headquartered in California. Giant Powder owned a dynamite plant near Victoria, British Columbia dating back to 1884. On January 1, 1916, the operations were renamed Giant Powder Company of Canada, limited. This was done under the direction of Atlas Powder, which controlled Giant after 1914. It appears that the name was changed again to Canadian Giant, Limited in 1925. This dates the tin to the 1916-1925 period, unless the name was maintained after 1925 for trade purposes.

TWENTYFIVE No-6 CAPS
Painted yellow with black letters
Reported by Don Dalton

GERMAN DETONATOR, XXXXXX
Blue letters on White Paper
Reported by Lane Griffin

GIANT POWDER CO. OF CANADA, No 8
Reported by Leo Stambaugh