

1999 Cap Tin Update

by Andy Martin, oldadit@iname.com

With this update we welcome a couple new contributors, John Pawloski and Larry Kuester, in addition to some of the "old faithful" sources. Larry has experience in underground exploration, and also is knowledgeable on the right way and wrong way to transport ore cars.

The two ATLAS tins illustrate the "A" and "B" variations in the design of the trademark globe. The older "A" globe has light letters on a black belt, while the "B" design had the shades reversed. The newest design "C" (not pictured) has light letters and a solid belt design.

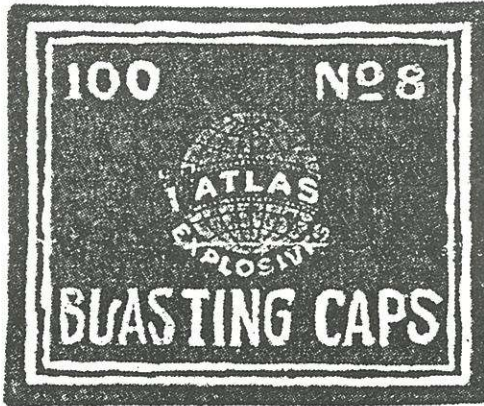
The ILLINOIS POWDER label on a California Cap Company BLASTING CAPS DANGEROUS tin is a nice find. These 1940 vintage CCC tins have very generic looking lids, the trick is to look for a bottom label, where you will often find company logos for DuPont, Hercules, Atlas and Giant, or the rarer Trojan, Apache, and now Illinois. People who live in moist climates like the eastern US should take care to protect labelled tins from high humidity, which can damage the label. Luckily this is not as much of a problem in the arid west.

Cap tin aficionados will note that the lettering on the METALLIC CAP MANUFACTURING WORKS tin is very similar to the DuPont 10 cap oval and 25 cap round tins. This is not surprising, since the "WORKS" designation was made after DuPont bought out the Metallic Cap Company, and caps produced at the old plant in New Jersey were then sold under both brand names.

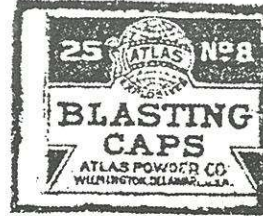
Don Blyth is the lucky guy who turned up the nifty NORTHERN EXPLOSIVES LIMITED tin. The illustration is lifted right off the cover of his "Canadian Blasting Cap Tins & Explosive Industry Collectable's" book, which can be ordered from RR #5, Guelph Ontario, Canada N1H 6J2. The logo on this tin is crossed dynamite sticks circled by fuse - truly a find to drool over for the "true believers" in cap tin land. Those interested in viewing this tin in color will find it at the cap tin web site: <http://www.nmt.edu/~tromero/caps/tins.html>

The Northern company was organized in 1907 and backed by Montreal money. A site was acquired near Rigaud Quebec, and after only four years Curtis's & Harvey of London purchased control of the independent company. Probably shortly after this time Rigaud was renamed Dragon, after the Curtis's & Harvey logo. The whole plant burned and blew up in 1917, which marked the end of Curtis's & Harvey Canada. Since the Northern tin mentions Dragon and not Rigaud, my guess is that it dates from 1911 to 1917. This nice tin and the related "Dragon Brand" are truly two of Canada's finest, just as the American Cap and related Fort Pitt tins are a premier American pair.

The prettiest tin in our update is followed by the ugliest - "sledgehammer ugly" - to use terminology borrowed from carbide lamp classifiers. The paper label on this tin is worn and faded - the illustration here is much more legible than the real tin. On the other hand, the tin is probably well over 100 years old, so it is fortunate just to survive till the present. The complete label might have read "ZUNDHUTCHEN TREBLE FORCE Alfred Nobel & Company HAMBURG. "ZUNDHUTCHEN" is the tip off that this tin held caps, this word means detonators in German, and is found on several types of old European blasting cap tins, including some exported to the USA.



ATLAS, No 8, square, globe "A"
 painted dark green with off white letters
 Reported by John Pawloski



ATLAS, No 8, 25 caps, globe "B"
 painted light and dark green
 Reported by Graham Living



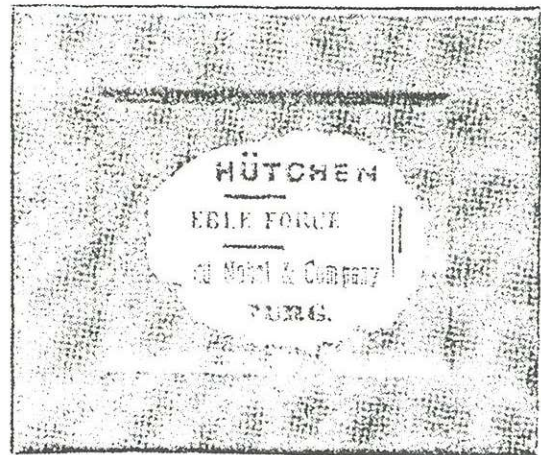
CALIFORNIA CAP, for ILLINOIS POWDER
 embossed lid, paper bottom label
 Reported by Larry Kuester



METALLIC CAP, No 6, 10 caps
 painted red with white letters
 Reported by Don Blyth



NORTHERN EXPLOSIVES LIMITED, No 6
 painted red and cream with black lettering
 Reported by Don Blyth



Alfred Nobel, ZÜNDHUTCHEN TREBLE FORCE
 paper label with black letters on white paper
 Reported by Bob Schroth