

WAPC 575

King's Explosive at
the Government Gunpowder
works.

Transcribed from:
"Hornet Chronicle

29 May 1861

Frightful Explosion at the Government Gunpowder Works

Waltham, Tuesday Evening - About seven o'clock yesterday morning the inhabitants of the district surrounding the Government Gunpowder Works, which cover an area of about two miles, and are situated a little over a mile from the above station on the Eastern Counties Railway, were startled by a very loud report, followed almost simultaneously by three others of equal intensity. It was at once known that what is called in the neighbourhood a "blow" had taken place at the works; and crowds of persons immediately hurried in that direction. People living near the spot are accustomed to "blows", more or less violent, but on the present occasion the reports being so numerous and so heavy, induced the belief that the result to the persons employed must be of a very serious character. And this fear was greatly strengthened when, upon approaching the entrance to the works, the alarmed inhabitants met injured men being borne away on shutters either to their own homes or to the nearest medical men. It is gratifying, however, at this point to be enabled to state, that although several of the workmen have sustained very bad injuries - two being terribly, and perhaps fatally burnt, the accident has, altogether, been attended with far less deplorable results than were at first anticipated; and there were several very narrow escapes from a frightful death.