

# Kerralta Mine



Original Galt Hospital, built by the A. R. & I. Co. as a medical facility for their employees. Doctors and nurses became extremely proficient in the treatment of broken bones as the miners gave them so much practice.  
Photo courtesy of the City of Lethbridge Archives & Records Management



Second Galt Hospital. The old hospital and the nurse's home are to the left.  
Photo courtesy of the City of Lethbridge Archives & Records Management

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The Kerralta mine was located about 3 km north of the Highway 3 bridge and directly across the river from this sign. It produced a total of 10,565 tonnes of coal.

The Kerralta Mine was one of several that received a subsidy from the Federal Government (through the Coal Emergency Board), during the Second World War. The Board's purpose was to increase the output of coal in order to cope with wartime shortages of fuel. The Board also supervised coal prices so as to control the cost of living.

The mine was the scene of a gas explosion on August 9, 1943 in which Samuel Crabb, William King, John Pente, and John Zubray lost their lives. The Lethbridge Herald of August 11, 1943 reported:

*"Five-man squads worked in shifts throughout the afternoon, all through the night and into the next afternoon in an effort to locate the trapped men. By three o'clock, exactly twenty four hours after the explosion, a rescue squad from Shaughnessy was able to see into the room where the four men had been working. All were dead and seemingly had died instantaneously. The bodies all carried burns pointing to an explosion of gas as the cause of the tragedy."*

The coroner's jury concluded the deaths were the result of an explosion of unknown cause.

The explosion caused the mine to file for bankruptcy and equipment seized by the Workmen's Compensation Board was sold at a sheriff's sale. By 1957, the mine had been dewatered, and all machinery and rails had been removed. James Kerr, owner, arranged to fill in and seal the two openings of the mine.

Kerralta Mine was developed under a program sponsoring strip mines. Others were at Bow City and Taber.



Mine rescue team which combined mine rescue and first aid work. Back row left to right: Robert Livingstone, Supt.; M. Rebar; D. McDonald; Geo. Coutts; John Livingstone, Asst. Supt.; and Alex Muir. Front row: Rob. Clark & John Stevenson, Capt.

Photo courtesy of the City of Lethbridge Archives & Records Management



Miner identification tags.

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Universal Coal Cutter. A coal cutter was being repaired in the room where the explosion took place.

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