

Thomas Holland

(- 12 Mar 1866)

The Evening Star, March 13, 1866

Explosion of a Shell at the Navy Yard--

One of the Gunners' Gang Terribly Lacerated

Yesterday afternoon, about five o'clock, an explosion occurred in an outbuilding in the northwest portion of the Navy Yard, by which Mr Thomas Holland, one of the workmen, was badly injured. Mr. Holland, with others in the building, was engaged in emptying shell, and after removing the fuse from one was endeavoring to take out the stock, when it exploded, and the pieces flew in all directions, some of them striking him and terribly lacerating both his arms, his left leg, and face. Some of the other workmen were struck by the flying pieces, but none seriously injured. It is thought that amputation of both Mr. Holland's arms--one above and the other below the elbow--will be necessary, and it is highly probable that it will be necessary to amputate the leg also. This shell--a thirty-two pounder--had been, with others, subjected to the usual precaution, being immersed in water the previous night, and it is supposed that it contained something besides gunpowder, (put in for experimental purposes,) as the water did not appear to have affected it.

Mr. Holland is a New Yorker, and served during the war as an acting gunner in the navy.

P.S. Since the above was written we learn that Dr. Duvall amputated both arms of Mr. Holland last night, after which the wounded man was removed to his residence, where he is now doing well and is expected to recover. Amputation of the leg will not, it is thought, be necessary.

The Evening Star, March 14, 1866

Fatal Result of the Explosion

We regret to learn that Mr. Thomas Holland, who was so badly injured by the explosion of a shell on Monday afternoon at the Navy Yard, died about 4 o'clock yesterday from the effects of his injuries. The left and right arms of the deceased were amputated on Monday evening by Dr. Duvall, the Yard surgeon and Dr. McMasters of the Miantonomah. Assistant Surgeons Green and Adams, of the Yard, and Shaw, of the Florida, remained with him until his death, and were assiduous in their attentions. His body was taken in charge by Washington Circle, Brotherhood of the Union, of which he was a member, and will be interred by them this afternoon.