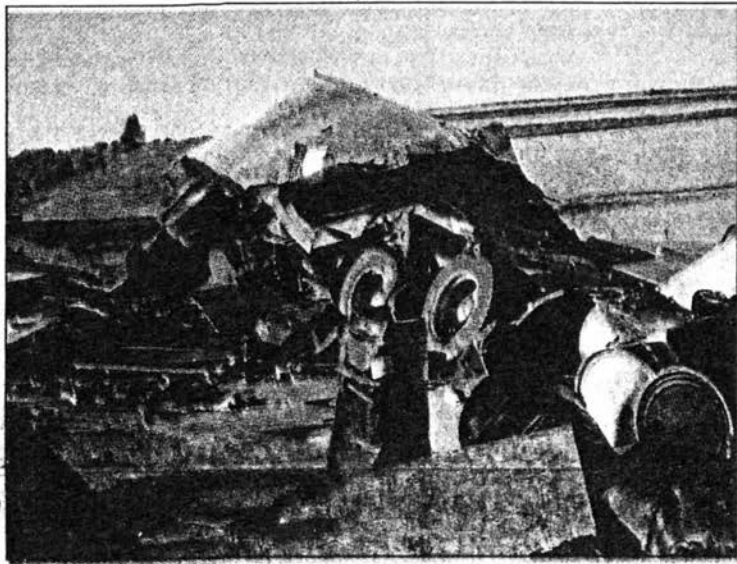


# Truck Accident <sup>28</sup> 9-31-2000



**DEFIANCE** — One person was fatally injured in an accident early Thursday morning, Sept. 28 involving two semi-tractor trailers. The accident occurred approximately one mile south of Defiance on U.S. Highway 59.

One of the semis was loaded with lumber and the other semi was carrying used oil drums and oil filters. As of press time further details of the accident were unavailable.

The accident is under investigation by the Iowa Highway Patrol. (Photo by Elizabeth Mahlberg)

**TUESDAY, Oct. 3, 2000**

## Trucker killed in accident

**SHELBY COUNTY** -- A 38-year-old Wever man was killed early Thursday morning, Sept. 28, when the semi-tractor trailer he was driving collided with a second semi-tractor trailer on U.S. Highway 59 south of Defiance.

Ralph Blanchard was pronounced dead at the scene. The driver of the other semi, John Ulve, 41, Bemidji, Mn., was not injured.

According to Iowa Highway Patrol reports, the Blanchard semi was northbound on U.S. Highway 59 at about 4:20 a.m. when it crossed the center line and collided with the Ulve semi, which was southbound.

The report stated that the front part of Blanchard's tractor struck the right rear tires on the Ulve

trailer. The impact caused both vehicles to lose their loads. One of the semis was loaded with lumber and the other semi was carrying used oil drums and oil filters.

The highway between Defiance and Iowa Highway 37 was closed for several hours while debris was removed from the scene.

Assisting at the scene of the accident were the Harlan Police Department, Shelby County Sheriff's Department, Shelby County Emergency Management Agency, Department of Natural Resources and the Fire and Rescue Departments from both Defiance and Earling.

No charges have been filed. No cause for the accident has been determined. The accident is still under investigation.