MSIA

MINE SAFETY INSTITUTE OF AUSTRALIA PTY LTD
ABN - 3115 135 4442

MINE FIRE AND EXPLOSION SEMINAR

CAPELLA – 27TH MARCH 2014

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BOX FLAT

31ST JULY

1972

17 MEN KILLED,

1 DIED LATER.

Box Flat

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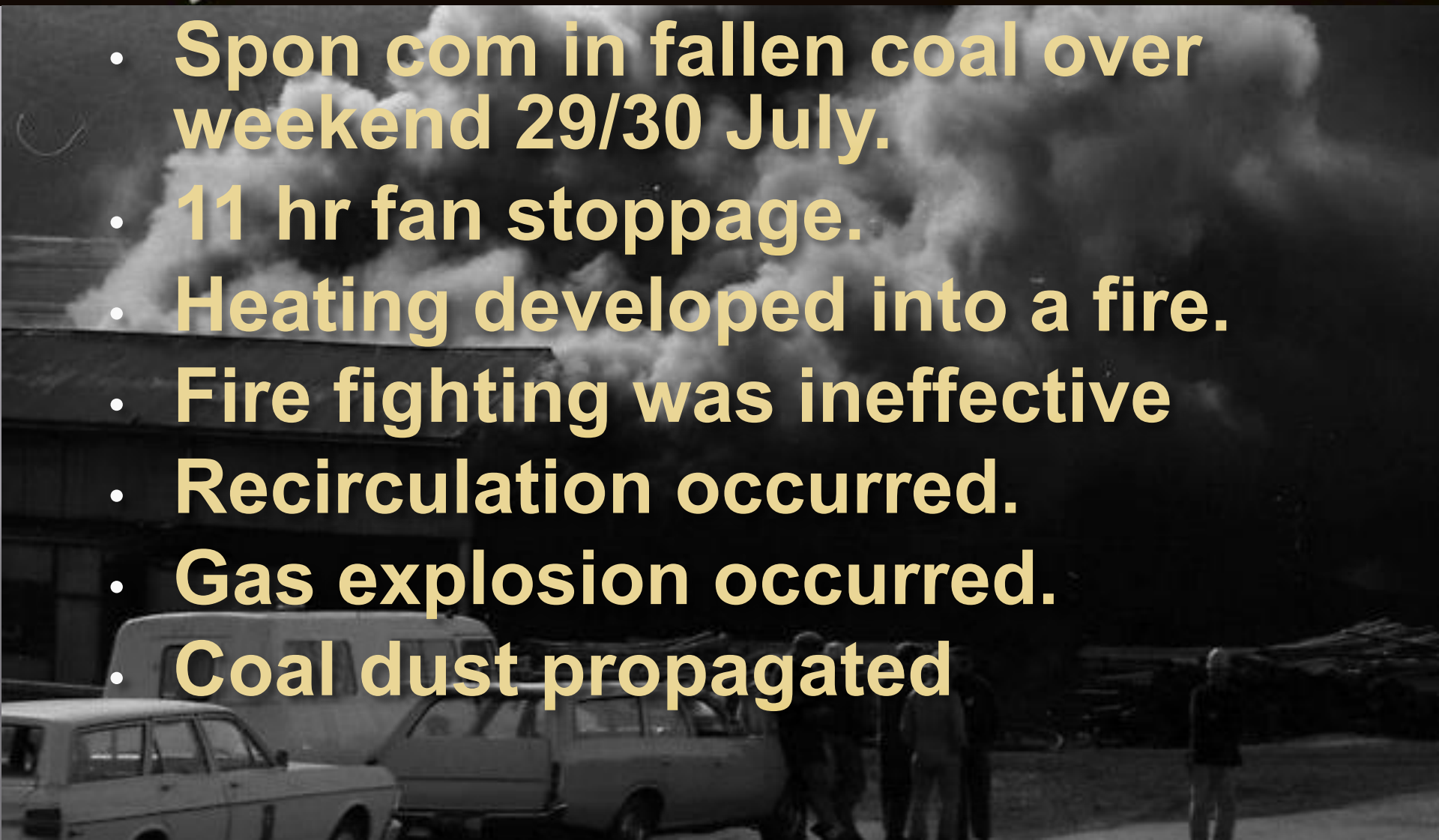

- Spon com in fallen coal over weekend 29/30 July.
- 11 hr fan stoppage.
- Heating developed into a fire.
- Fire fighting was ineffective
- Recirculation occurred.
- Gas explosion occurred.
- Coal dust propagated

Box Flat

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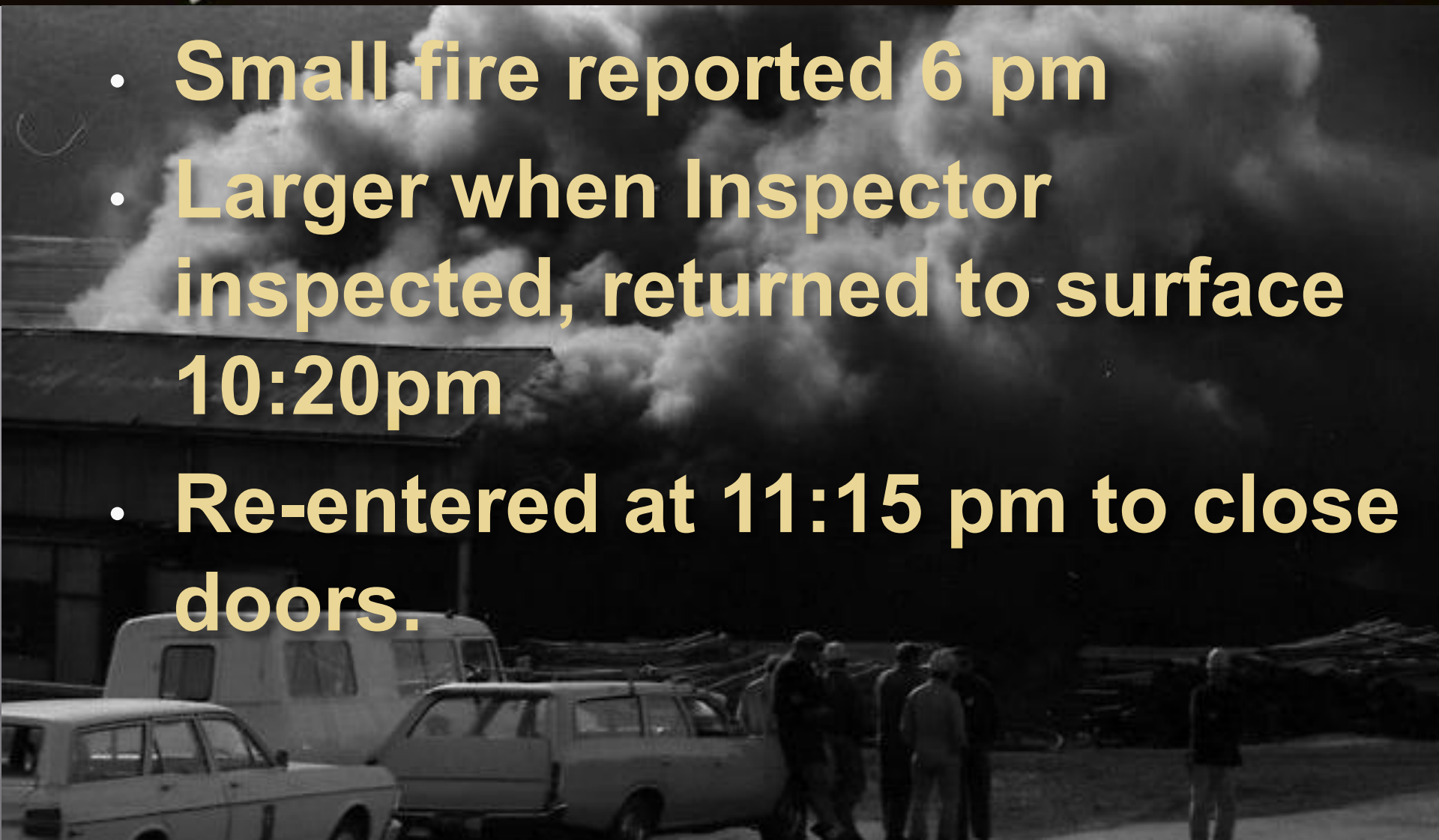
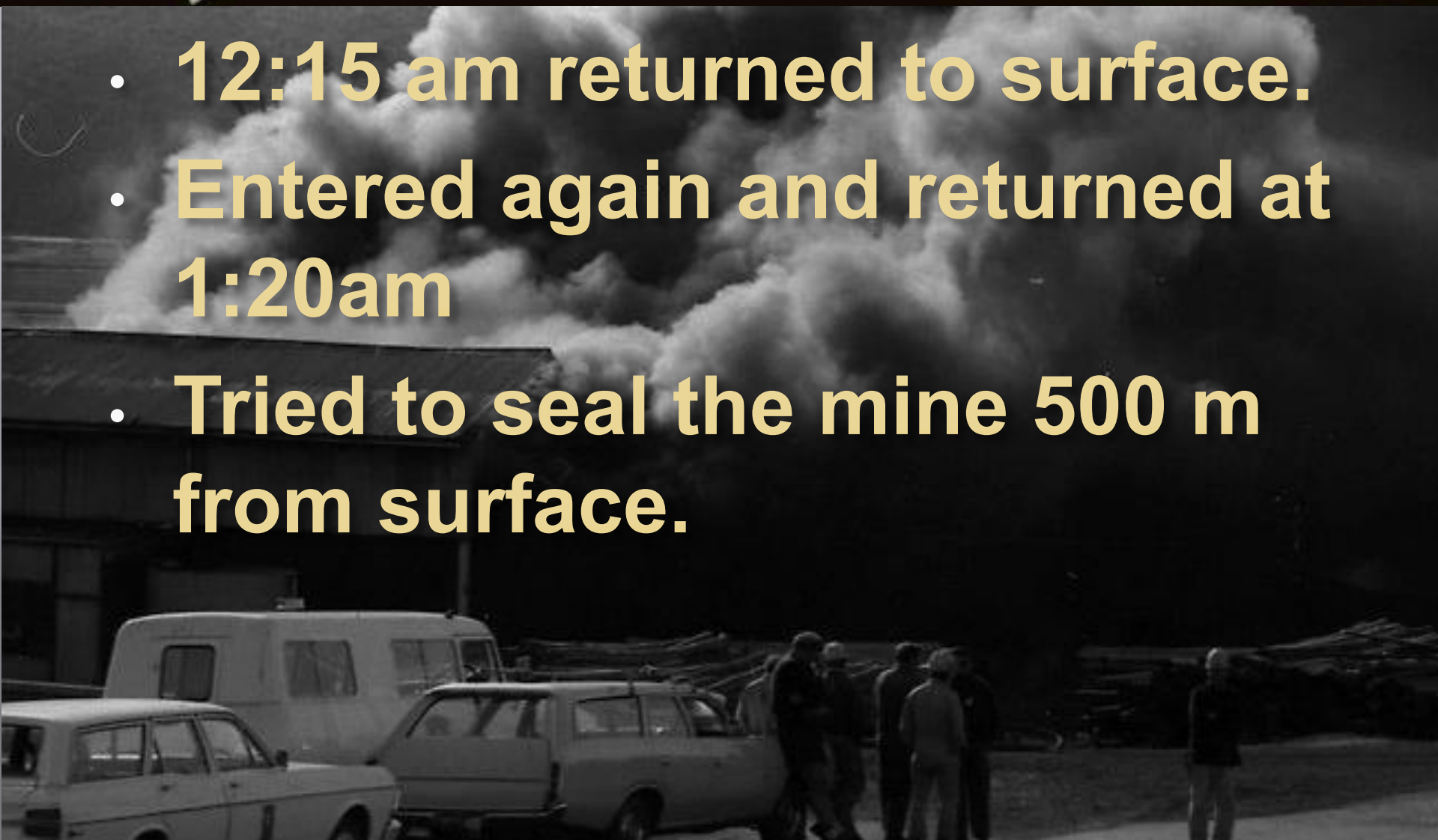


- Small fire reported 6 pm
- Larger when Inspector inspected, returned to surface 10:20pm
- Re-entered at 11:15 pm to close doors.

- 12:15 am returned to surface.
- Entered again and returned at 1:20am
- Tried to seal the mine 500 m from surface.



Box Flat

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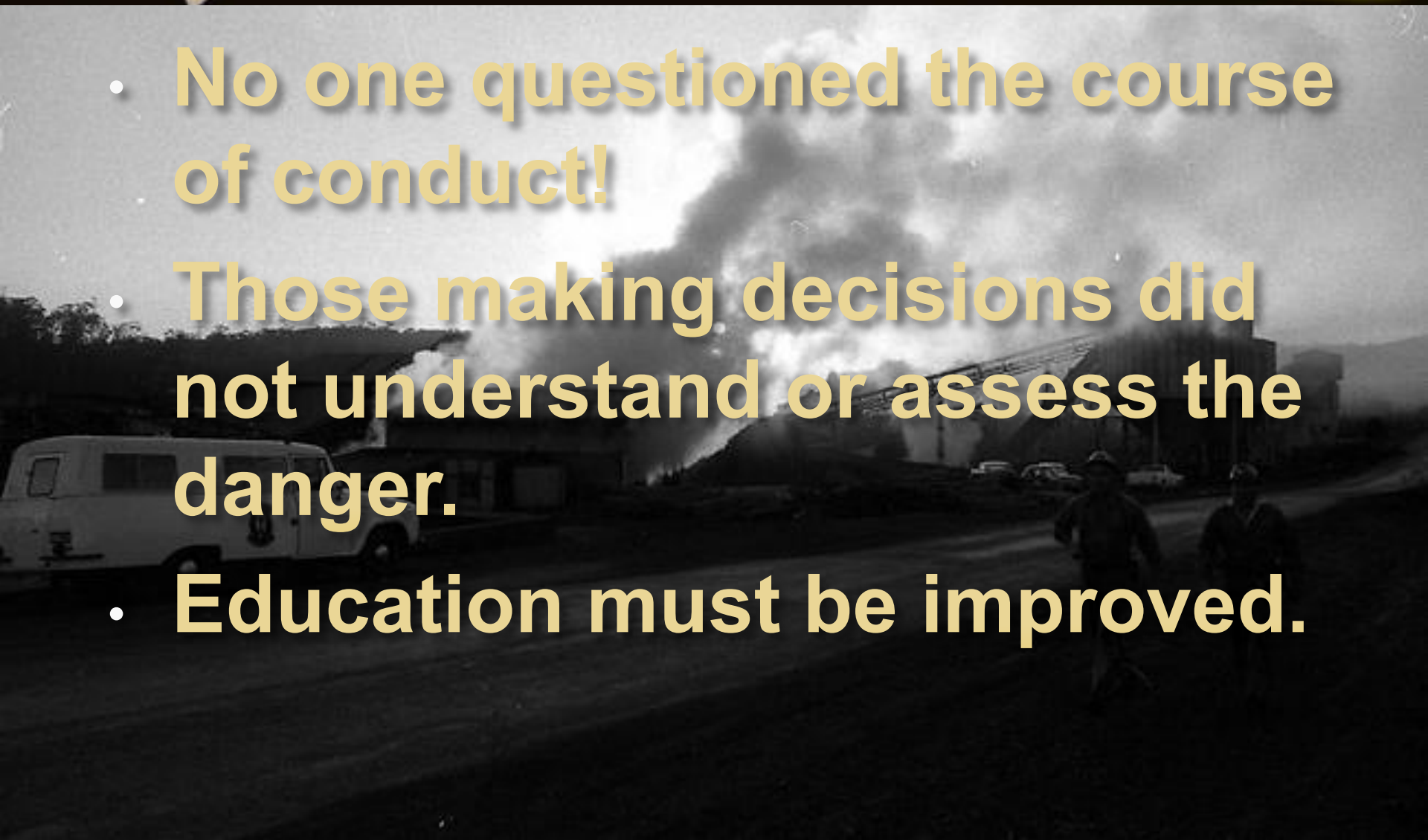
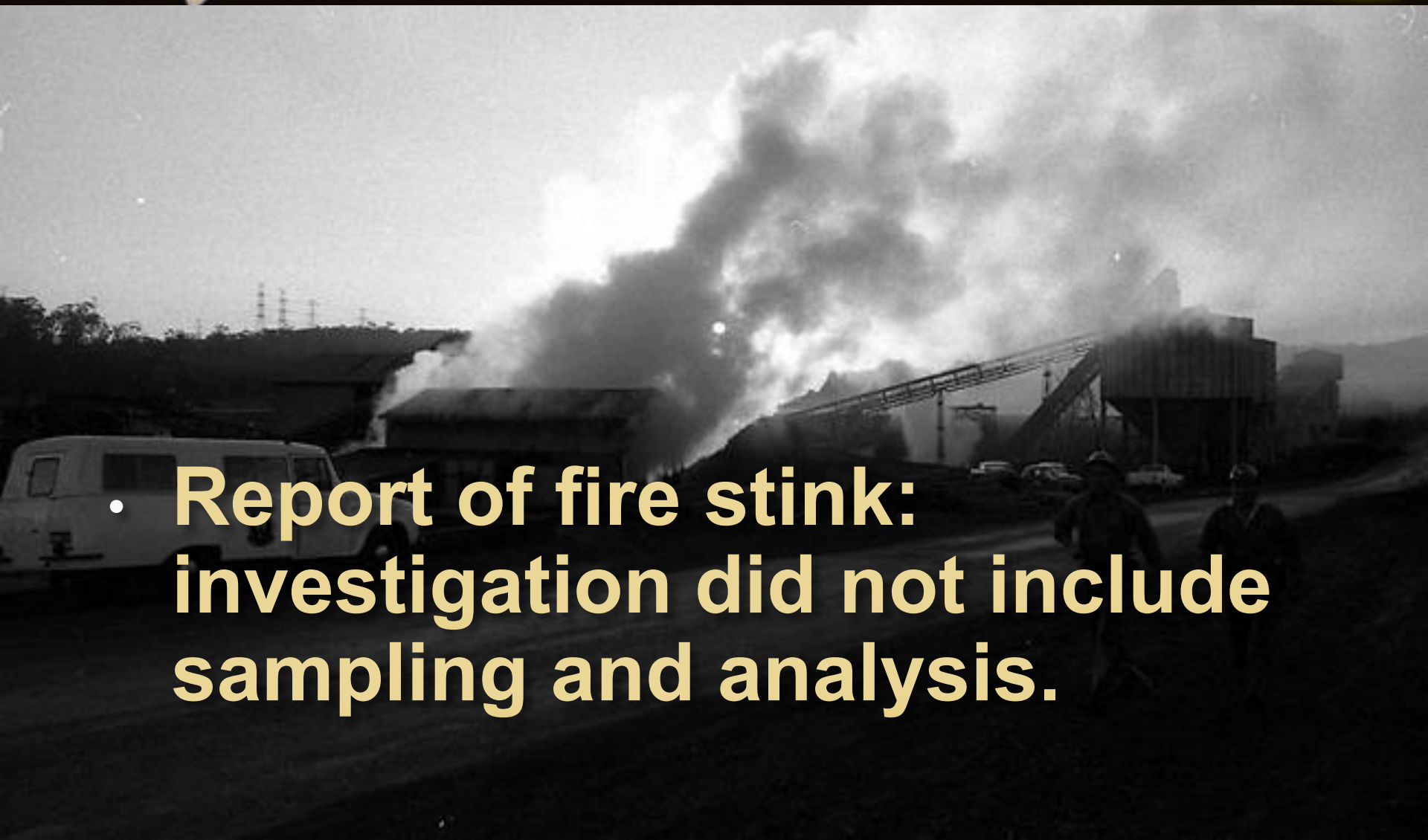
- 2:45 am Explosion



- No one questioned the course of conduct!
- Those making decisions did not understand or assess the danger.
- Education must be improved.

- **Stonedusting legislation was not complied with.**



- **Report of fire stink: investigation did not include sampling and analysis.**

Recommendations

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Establish a Mine Research Organisation.

Improve mine fire fighting knowledge.

Coal Dust treatment review.

Fire fighting arrangements.

Improved gas monitoring and analysis.

Rapid sealing of districts and mines.

Non combustible VCDs.

Use of foam generators.

Minimise rib spall

Persons making Technical Decisions - Qualified

Discussion

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Not in the report:

Location of persons in proximity to mine entrances – for later discussion.

Memorial

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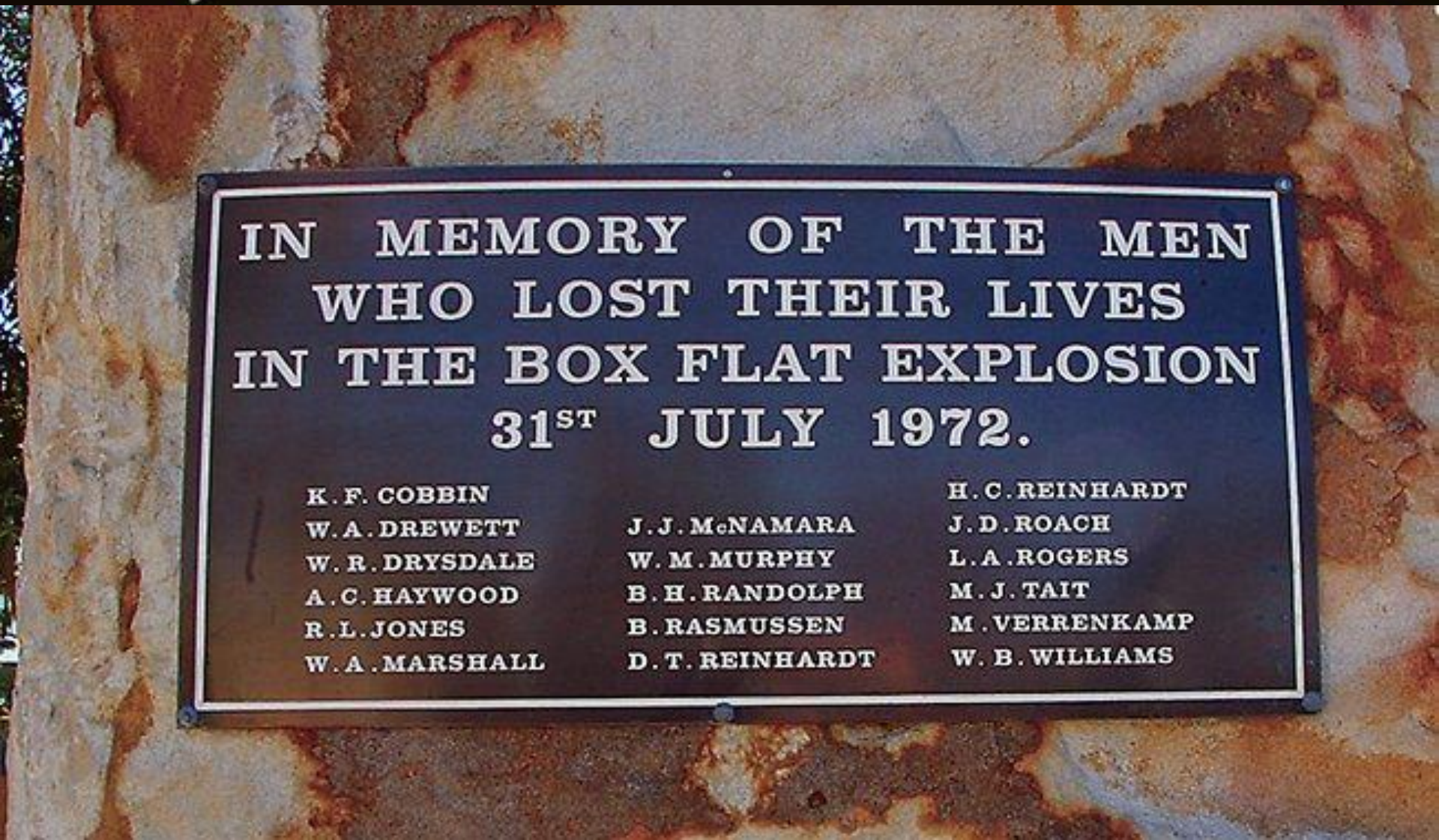

Memorial