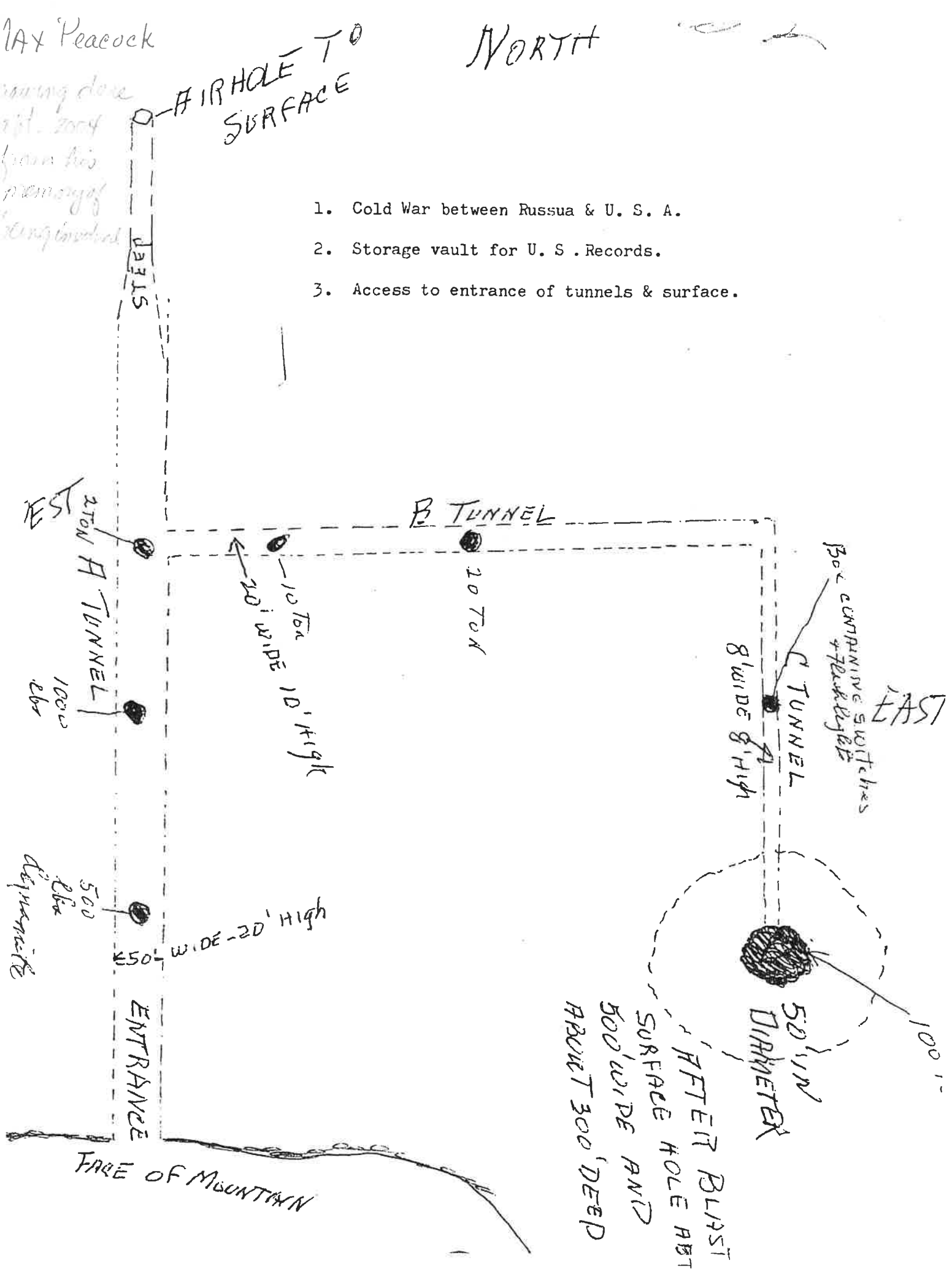
Max Peacock Evelyn's uncle

I do not remember the time frame as to when the next incident happened but I do know it was just prior to moving from Ferron up to Murray. It was vacation time, school was out and I was successful in getting a job working for Morrison Knudsen who had a contract with the U. S. Government. The government wanted to find a spot where the sandstone was extremely thick where they could build a large storage underground vault that could be used to store various government valuables. The government selected a spot down Buckhorn Draw which is east of Castle Dale. Morrison Knudsen had driven a large tunnel which was at the base of the Wingate Formation. The large tunnel was about 40 feet wide and 15 feet high. It was called the A tunnel and went in about one-half mile. At this point another tunnel called the B tunnel was driven at a right angle or to the east whereas the A tunnel was driven North. This tunnel was about 8 feet wide and 6 feet high which allowed a bobcat to work in this tunnel. Two smaller tunnels called the C tunnels forked off from the B tunnel and were driven south. From the tunnels to the surface was about 800 or more feet. The government wanted to test the strength of the sandstone so they drilled holes of various sizes on the surface which was 800 or more feet above the tunnels below. Dynamite was placed in the holes. The first test only had 500 pounds of dynamite, the next one 1 ton, the next one 10 ton and finally the big one 100 tons of dynamite. which I HELPED TO LOAD The big shot was carefully loaded in a hole 150 feet deep and 30 feet wide. After each shot workers would go into the various tunnels located below the shots to see what damage was done to the ceilings of the tunnels. The ceilings were white-washed before and after each blast so that it was easy to see how much material was shook loose. This material was gathered up and carefully evaluated. Very little damage was found after the 500 pound shot, the 1 ton shot, the 10 ton shot but the 100 ton blast was something else. The blast made a crater about 150 yards across. No estimate was made as to depth. All of the material in the Main tunnel, the B tunnel and the C tunnels had to be gathered up weighed and evaluated. For days equipment such as the bob-cat had been busy cleaning up the mess. All the material that the equipment couldn't get had to be loaded by hand in a wheel-barrow to where it was dumped into trucks. Less Crawford from Orangeville, Neil Nelson and myself and it seems there was one more man and I believe it was my cousin Edward Reid was given the job of shoveling the rest of the loose material from the C tunnel. The ceiling of the C tunnel was about 100 feet high and was directly below the big 100 ton blast. We took turns shoveling and taking the wheelbarrow out and dumping it. Suddenly my fathers voice came to me telling me to get out. I ignored it completely just as I had done before in Spanish Fork Canyon. A few minutes later a very forceful voice came to me GET OUT, THE CEILING IS CAVING IN. I looked up and saw small bits of rock coming down accompanied by some dust. I yelled to GET OUT, we scrambled out as quickly as we could hearing a loud noise back of us accompanied by screams of pain. Neil Nelson was the last one and he had been knocked down by a large flat rock weighing at least 1000 pounds. It was lucky for Neil that he lit in a small depression. We frantically dug him out from the rubble and couldn't believe that he was allright except for a few scratches and bruises. Engineers estimated at least 10 ton of rock had fallen from the ceiling and landed just exactly where we were working. The wheelbarrow and shovels were smashed to bits. If it had not been for the warning from my father who had been dead for years and years we would all been killed. Neil as you know is Florene's brother's son and I am sure he remembers the incident very well.

from Evelyn Peacock Huntsman MK Tunnels

1Ax Peacock

NORTH

AIRHOLE TO SURFACE

1. Cold War between Russua & U. S. A.
2. Storage vault for U. S . Records.
3. Access to entrance of tunnels & surface.