

# "BLACK DAMP"

## Loses Two Victims.

### Rescuers Save Men From Death In Abandoned Coal Mine— Found In Delirium.

Charleston, W. Va., September 18  
—(AP)—Two half-nude men, so  
crazed by hours of exposure to  
"black damp" that they tore off  
most of their clothing, were res-  
cued today from an abandoned coal  
mine by crews wearing oxygen  
helmets.

The men were rushed to a hos-  
pital at Montgomery, where at-  
taches said Earl Mason, 21 years  
old, Morris Creek, had been placed  
under an oxygen tent. Both Mason  
and his companion, Elmer Gay, 33,  
Montgomery, are expected to re-  
cover. They were in the mine for  
16½ hours.

The men told hospital attendants  
that they entered the old mine to  
obtain coal for their families.

Rescue crews found Gay and  
Mason sitting with their backs  
against the wall of the mine, in a  
delirium. They had torn off their  
caps, mining lamps, shoes, and  
shirts, the engineer related, and  
were "nearly dead."

"Apparently there was just barely  
enough oxygen in the air to keep  
them alive," Houtz said.

1940 Sep two crazed by black damp WV

Clipped By:  
usmra\_rob  
Nov 3, 2024