

# Fire In Mine Caused Death Of 9 Persons

Eighty Men Fighting Blaze In  
Webb Mine Which Started  
Tuesday Night

Victims Suffocated  
At Main Air Shaft

Sixty Others Made Way To  
Safety—Advice Of Mine  
Foreman Ignored

Belleaire, Ohio, Dec. 23 (AP)—  
Eighty men working in three shifts  
are fighting a fire in the Webb mine  
at Shady Side, near here, in which  
nine miners died. Officials expressed  
the belief tonight the fire would be  
extinguished within 48 hours.

Jerome Watson, chief of the Ohio  
bureau of mines, is directing efforts  
to combat the flames, which have  
burned 200 feet back into the mine,  
but are confined to the main en-  
try. If they spread, which Watson  
considered unlikely, the mine will  
be sealed up.

### Suffocated By Smoke.

Mine officials, led by Watson and six inspectors, plunged into the fight against the conflagration as the last body was removed early today. The nine miners who died had rushed to the main air shaft, hoping to escape, but were suffocated by thick fumes and gas in trying to climb to ground level, 240 feet above.

Sixty-one other men, who were working at various places in the mine, made their way to safety through the main entry. Watson asserted the nine who died would have been saved had they followed the advice of Foreman Jacob Schramm, who told all the workers that their only way of escape was through the main tunnels.

The fire was caused by a rock slide in the main entry short-circuiting the electric wires which fired timber supports.

The mine is owned by the George M. Jones Coal Company, of Toledo. Officials of the company here said tonight no estimate had been made of the financial loss.

The dead, all of whom live near Shady Side are:

John Sarre, 40.  
A. O. Truax, 50.  
Edward Kennedy, 37.  
Julius Galgaetta, 35.  
Alfred Zaccignia, 31.  
Sam Mkrabrada, 50.  
John Kura, 27.  
Tom Stezens, 33.  
Martin Szig, 39.

All excepting Zaccignia and Szig were married.

Rescue parties early today had penetrated to all portions of the mine where the men were working when the fire started, and reported that no more men were in the mine. An unofficial check of the force known to be working corroborated this assertion.

### Fire Still In Mine.

Early today the fire was burning fiercely but little effort having been made to check it until rescue work was complete. Company officials said the damage probably would be large before the fire is extinguished.

Only seventy-nine men of the normal forces of more than six hundred, were at work at six o'clock last night when the fire was discovered. All made their escape except eleven who were trapped in one of the lower laterals. Rescue workers succeeded in reaching them before midnight and brought three survivors to the surface. Ferry died, however, a few minutes later. The other two, Robert Hock and Harry Kyle, both of Belleaire, are still in a serious condition.

The bodies of the eight who died in the mine were brought to the surface before 2 o'clock this morning. No statement was forthcoming from company officials early today pending an investigation by state mine officials who reached the scene late last night.

The Webb mine is one of the largest in the eastern Ohio field and is operated by the G. M. Jones Coal Company, of Pittsburgh.