

## RIFLE SHOT MAY HAVE SET OFF TRAGIC BLAST

Easton, March 28. (U.P.)—Authorities today investigated a theory that a rifle shot may have set off 21 tons of dynamite at the Sandts Eddy quarry of the Lehigh Portland Cement Company, killing 31 workmen.

Norman King and E. H. Felegy, Federal Bureau of Investigation agents, said it was possible that the dynamite had been exploded by a bullet fired from as far as a mile away.

Investigators from a dozen federal, state and local agencies continued to search for clues to the blast, admitting they were unable to determine its cause.

"All the witnesses were killed; everything was blown away," said Thomas J. Quigley, chief of the Pennsylvania Bureau of Mines and Quarries. "There's nothing to go on."

Mass funerals for 11 of the victims were held at nearby Martin's Creek last night. Today requiem masses will be sung in St. Rocco's Church there.

Enough human fragments were collected over a 500-yard area to identify 13 bodies. A coffin for each of the 18 other victims was bought and in each placed unidentifiable pieces of flesh.

Officials estimated that the plant's output might be delayed three months by the blast. The company has defense contracts.