

TERRIBLE EXPLOSION IN A MINE

THIRTY-FIVE MEN SERIOUSLY INJURED, SOME FATALLY.

Mine 44 of the Kansas and Texas Coal Company of Huntington, Ark., Catches Fire.

By Associated Press Lease Wire to Express.

HUNTINGTON, Ark., March 5.—Mine 44 of the Kansas and Texas Coal Company exploded last evening, burning thirty-five men seriously, some fatally.

The dead are: Bud Hanley.

Injured—Joe Hubbard, colored, badly burned, probably die; William Hanley, colored, badly burned and will probably die; E. Fricker, burned about the arms, head and face; T. Stusner, badly burned and may not recover; Andrew Fox, badly burned; Ennis Cable, colored, probably fatally burned; Marshal Hayes, burned severely about the head and face; W. N. Hile, a track layer, severely burned on the hands and head; John Harris, colored, badly burned and thought to be injured internally; Doc Huffaker, colored, burned about the head, shoulders and arms; J. Ellis, colored, hands and head burned; William Morris, badly burned about the face, head and arms; William Scarlet, severely burned and cut on the head, in a precarious condition; John Maxwell badly burned; William Gardenshire, burned about the face, neck and head.

The Mine 44 is situated about a quarter of a mile north of the main part of the town. The shaft was sunk about six years ago but has been abandoned for about two years. This winter a slope was driven to the old workings and the mine again commenced to produce coal. Over one hundred men, half of them negroes, were employed.

About 4:30 o'clock a muffled roar startled the people. A column of smoke and debris shot up high from the air shaft. Over the open ground and a network of railroad tracks rushed men and women. Many of the latter had husbands and other members of their families in the mine. In a few minutes after the explosion the men commenced to appear. Some were not burned at all, while others appeared with the skin standing up in blisters on the faces and hands or hanging in ribbons. A search for those unable to walk was at once begun. Superintendent Vail of the Kansas and Texas Coal Company directed the work. One by one the more seriously injured were brought out and taken to their homes in hacks and wagons.

Superintendent Vail believes that a keg of powder was exploded by carelessness, but the general opinion of the miners is that the explosion was caused by a windy shot firing the gas, powder and smoke. They say the mine is very dry and dusty and the furnace not sufficiently strong enough to create sufficient draft to carry off the dust out of the rooms and entries.