

Explosion of Dynamite

May 15, Shenandoah City Colliery. John Kutsko, Lithuanian, repairman, Anthony Check, Lithuanian, repairman, Felix Varacofski, Polish, miner, Joseph Batusky, Lithuanian, driver, John Juko, Polish, miner, James Quinofski, Polish, miner, and Walter Quinofski, Polish, miner, went to their work about 6:55 A. M. on the first lift Buck Mountain Slope. Kutsko, Check and Juko had just reached a tunnel between the fifth and Sixth breasts when a terrific explosion occurred, instantly killing them.

The bodies of those found near the tunnel were horribly mangled, indicating that dynamite was the cause of the accident. Joseph Batusky was found at No. 9 breast, having been thrown from his mule, and smothered by fine dirt and rock that rushed over his face when the timber was blown out. Joseph and Walter Quinofski and Varacofski were found at the sixteenth and seventeenth breasts, having been crushed by falling timber. The explosion at the mouth of the tunnel was evidently caused by dynamite and black powder. This was indicated by the mangled bodies, the broken and shattered timbers, the pulverized rock and coal, and the heated condition of the debris that burned the hands when placed near it.

CONDITION OF COLLIERIES

PHILADELPHIA AND READING COAL AND IRON COMPANY

Shenandoah City.—Ventilation and drainage good.
 Draper.—Ventilation and drainage good.
 Turkey Run.—Ventilation and drainage good.
 Gilberton.—Ventilation fair; drainage good.
 Knickerbocker.—Ventilation and drainage excellent.
 Boston Run.—Ventilation and drainage good.
 West Shenandoah.—Ventilation and drainage good.
 Kohinoor.—Ventilation fair; drainage good. The principal work done at this colliery is robbing.
 Indian Ridge.—Ventilation fair; drainage good.

LEHIGH VALLEY COAL COMPANY

Packer No. 2.—Ventilation and drainage fair. The principal work at this colliery is robbing.
 Packer No. 3.—Ventilation and drainage fair.
 Packer No. 4.—Ventilation and drainage fair.

SUSQUEHANNA COAL COMPANY

William Penn.—Ventilation and drainage fair.

THOMAS COAL COMPANY

Kehley's Run.—Ventilation much improved; drainage fair.

CAMBRIDGE COAL COMPANY

Cambridge.—Ventilation and drainage fair.

BROOKWOOD COAL COMPANY

Stanton.—General condition fair.