

TWENTY EIGHT MINERS SUFFOCATED BY FLAMES IN HAILEYVILLE COAL MINE

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DEAD.

ALEX ROSS,
LOUIS MANZIE,
JOE TOBACCHI,
W. H. PARKER,
JAMES SEDINO,
JOE GIACOMO,
DAN GIACOMO, SR.,
RICK GIACOMO,
WALTER JONES,
GEORGE GLENDENNING,
LEWIS LEWIS,
LEE HARNEY,
ROY PIERCE,
ROSS MELTON,
ANDREW KARUKO,
DOMINIC MARICINO,
ROBERT WEBSTER,
MICK VOCABICH,
WILLIE SMITH,
LENO FISHER,
RICHARD BROWN,
ANTON DELMONICO,
JACK SSAUAGE,
FELIX STRAU,
JOE GALLAGHER,
JOHN MORRETT,
PETER SCHULTZ,
MISSING.
TOM RIEMON.

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Haileyville, Okla., Aug. 27.—Twenty eight dead bodies have been taken from the Hailey-Ola Mine No. 1 up to this hour and only one man now is known to be missing.

Nineteen of the corpses were found in the sixth level. Walter Jones was imprisoned under a pile of slate which had caved in from the heat. Not one man who did not make an immediate escape after the first alarm survived.

The victims will be buried at the company's expense.

Three hundred feet below the surface in the Hailey-Ola mine at Haileyville, in avenues filled with seething flames and suffocating smoke, 29 men, mostly foreigners, lost their lives early Wednesday morning as a result of one of the most disastrous accidents in the history of the southwestern mines.

A barrel of oil at the bottom of the hoisting shaft was set on fire while one of the men was in the act of dividing it among the men for use. Instantly a sheet of flame enveloped the shaft base and in a minute dense volumes of smoke were escaping to the surface. In half an hour the crackle and roar of the underground flames told a horrible story of death to human lives and destruction to everything inflammable. In the afternoon, from another entrance to the mine, half a mile away, a party of miners who attempted an entrance on a rescue expedition were checked by flames, smoke and unbearable heat coming from the subterranean furnace.

Nowhere is it possible to gain an entrance to the mine. There seems to be no limit to the force and area of the flames. Trolleys, timbers, ma-

terials, explosives, oils, all are eaten by fire or melted or exploded.

A miner who witnessed the disaster, said:

"After the oil had exploded the whole mine immediately burst into flames, and the 30 or 35 miners who had descended were fighting for their lives. There was no escapement shaft, and with flames reaching the hoisting shaft and the air shaft, there was no means of egress. Smoke and flames rolled out of the top of the shaft that alarmed the entire village. Men attempted to go into the shafts, but were driven back by the heat and smoke. Wives and children and sisters and parents flocked around the smoking surface, and the scenes that followed were pathetic in the extreme. Women attempted to dash in to the wreathing smoke to grasp the ropes and pulleys for descension into the mine."

Haileyville, Okla., August 26.—With the fire completely out in the Hailey-Ola mine and the excited populace under good police protection, the rescue work is progressing rapidly today. Twenty-five bodies have been recovered. All were suffocated. Seven men are missing, and their bodies are expected to be found tonight.

The Hailey-Ola was considered one of the safest mines in the field. This is its first disastrous fire. Last May a year ago, an explosion took place in the mine and two men were killed.

A majority of the men who were killed today are foreigners, and several of them were married. Among the few Americans lost one or two were married.

Scenes around the shaft opening today have been pathetic in the extreme. Many relatives of the unfortunates have approached the mouth of the death pit of their loved ones and cried and moaned piteously in their anguish. One woman was taken away a maniac over the loss of a husband.

Haileyville is near the center of the Oklahoma coal mining district. More than a thousand men are employed in the mines, and the mining population is several thousand.

The accident was due, it is believed to the inability of the man operating the barrel of black oil to properly manage it, and not to carelessness. A few men who were near the top of the shaft observed the first flash of flames from the base and saw the men congregated near there flee for their lives. They ran back into the long channels, followed by dense streams of black, suffocating smoke. The cries of some were audible and their calls for help were pitiable in the extreme.

There are three openings in the mine and only an unusually large fire would have caused the suffocation of the men.

Peter Hanraty, state mine inspector, reached here tonight and will tomorrow begin an investigation of the disaster.