

FORTY-THREE DEAD; NOT A MAN IS LEFT TO TELL AWFUL STORY

Twelve White Men and Thirty-One Negroes
Lose Lives As Result of Horrible Explosion
at Mulga Mines Wednesday Night---Not a
Single Body Has Been Lifted From Ter-
rible Pit of Death.

**BRAVE MEN WORK ALL OF THURSDAY
BUT EFFORTS PROVE OF NO AVAIL**

Three Men Who Risked Lives to Save Those
of Others, Are Now Unconscious and
Fear Is Felt That They May Not Recover
---Four Other Rescuers Believed to Have
Been Overcome in the Awful Chamber
of Death---List of the Victims.

THE KNOWN DEAD:

The known dead in the Mulga mine are

WHITE.	
Morgan Johns, foreman.	T. Defoore.
John Lisk, machinist.	John Herron.
John McHaffey, mining contractor.	Will River.
Luther Stephenson, motorman.	Tom Washington.
Jim Bishop, motorman.	Three unknown Italians.
NEGROES.	
Henry Lettersen.	David Mayfield.
Will Ford.	Roy Robertson.
John Williams.	Jim Townsley.
Henderson Moore.	Will Tobe.
Henry Thomas.	Alonso Lasant.
Frank Carlisle.	Isaac Austin.
Tight Harrison.	John Williams.
John Walker.	David Rowles.

It is reported at 3 o'clock that five bodies have been recovered.
The rescue parties have not let up a whit in the search for the en-
tombbed miners.

All hope for the lives of the forty-three miners caught in the
explosion at Mulga mine Wednesday night was abandoned Thursday
morning, when rescue party after rescue party had been driven
from the shaft by the black damp that formed immediately after
the explosion.

Three men, who braved the dangers of the deadly black
damp to save their fellows imprisoned in the shaft, are uncon-
scious and slowly recovering under treatment with powerful res-
toratives.

Other Lives Feared For.

Four other rescuers are believed to have been overcome in
the shaft and a party of five volunteers has entered the death cham-
ber to save them.

These are the conditions Thursday afternoon at Mulga. Before
the story of the tragedy caused by the windy shot of Wednesday
night has been closed the death list may reach a half hundred.

The account of the annihilation of those working in the mine
was brought to the waiting, weeping, hoping-against-hope families
of the victims by Superintendent Sam Johns of the mine, Angus
Brown, Francis Browley and Tom Johnson, who were the first
men to attempt the work of rescue.

Soon after they were revived a few stammered sentences told
the tragedy. Exhausted, the men relapsed into a coma and Thurs-
day afternoon they have not been completely revived.

No Hope Is Entertained.

The condition of the rescuers told
the story long before the men had been
revived. The watchers knew that if
the rescuers, helmeted and protected,
had so narrowly escaped death,
there was no hope for the workers,
who, without a second's warning, had

been entombed in a nature-made grave
the night before.

When Johns and his companions, by
heroic treatment, finally regained con-
sciousness, they confirmed the grim
anticipations of the people who the
hours had waited at the mouth of the

(Continued on page 2.)

43 PEOPLE LOST IN EXPLOSION AT MULGA

(Continued from page 1.)

shaft to hear a word of their loved ones.

"Dead—all dead," was the staggering sentence of the superintendent as the rescuers had reached the first gallery. Even that near the shaft they saw things that made them know that only a miracle could save the men further removed from the fresh air and sunlight.

Two bodies were at the entrance to the gallery. They were lifeless. They were not turned or disfigured by the force of the explosion. Standing at their work, the poison of the black damp had entered their lungs and they fell dead, where a second before they had worked.

The rescuers then knew their own danger. The damp was still there. Despite the protection of the helmets, the fumes began to do their fatal work. Just in time, Johns pulled the rope to the bucket in which they had been lowered, as a signal for the men at the mouth of the shaft to haul them to the surface.

They Had Seen Enough. They had seen enough. The dead bodies attested the fact that none could be saved. The gases had informed them that the most deadly perils were to be encountered by those so brave as to enter the tomb and bring back to earth its tenants.

The disaster is believed by Chief Mine Inspector Billhouse and Assistant Inspector Neal, who are on the scene, to have been due to the cold weather of the past few days.

Windy Shot Caused Disaster. The reason that the low temperature of the past few days caused dust to form in the mine and a windy shot was the result.

Those who have been in the mine and returned conscious report that absolute chaos reigned in the shaft, but despite the known danger a tremendous crowd of people have gathered as near as possible to the mouth of the shaft, while scores of men have volunteered in the work of rescue.

First aid to the injured crews are working with all the haste possible on the rescue corps, who have been hauled back unconscious. Fresh air is being pumped into the mine as rapidly as possible, but the black damp is not being dispelled as easily as the officials had hoped for.

To add to the scene, the families of those who lost their lives, still hoping that some miracle might happen to bring about their resurrection, are praying pitifully, with their friends and neighbors joining in their lamentations.

Neal Goes Into Mine. State Inspector Billhouse, accompanied by William Murr, one of the oldest miners in the district, descended at 1 o'clock. On their return to the surface they declared that there is no possibility of bringing out the bodies before late Thursday night or Friday morning.

Inspector Neal went into the mine at 3 o'clock.

Every doctor in the neighborhood is on hand, but save for reviving rescuers there has been little for them to do.

The rescue party that is now missing entered the shaft at 11 o'clock and when no reports were received the second party was sent. Helicopters were at first used, but later in the day the air had been sufficiently purified for the rescuers to abandon them.

All that remains now is the strenuous and sorrowful task of bringing the miners up that they may be buried beneath good green grass and not waste to ashes in the sombre soil for which they had given their lives.

Then the Mulga disaster will be written in the dark pages of Jefferson's history with that of the Virginia, the Yolande and the other Creek tragedies and the mining will be resumed and the lives lost forgotten.

The Mulga mine is the last place in the great Birmingham coal district that would have been thought of as the scene of a disaster. The Birmingham Coal and Iron company had established a model plant at the place. General Manager James Bonnyman had provided every safety device, every modern mechanism known to make the shaft death proof.

Monday the mine was inspected by Assistant Mine Inspector Neal. He pronounced the shafts in perfect condition and Neal is regarded as one of the most efficient of the state's staff.

The precautions counted for nothing. At 9:15 o'clock Wednesday night, the dust had formed and at that minute tenths of unknown cause exploded those gases.

All For Nothing. Twelve white men and thirty-three negroes were killed. The money, the brains, the caution, and the care that had been expended on the model mine had gone for nothing.

Twelve hundred people sleeping or enjoying the evening after the hours of toil beneath the ground were told of the tragedy as the force of the explosion shook every cottage. In the camp and throughout the adjacent country, a second later, a sheet of flame leaped into the air through the mouth of the shaft, 100 feet and the fiery signal told the story that all had perished.

In a second, every man, woman and child in the place had rushed to the scene. Those who knew their loved ones had been trapped frantically called for rescuers, or gave vent to their feelings in tears. Some shocked by the suddenness of the disaster stood mute, watching the opening in the earth through which the flame still poured.

Though experts saw immediately that only the barest hope existed for anyone who had been in the shaft, messengers for aid were quickly dispatched to Enley, six miles away.

Shock Told Enley. The shock of the explosion had already told Enley of the disaster and surgeons and supplies were on the way.

MULGA MINE THE BEST IN THE ENTIRE WORLD

International Congress of Mining Engineers Put Stamp of "Perfect" on Mine at Explosion of Which More Than Forty Lives Were Lost.

The Mulga mine was considered by experts the most perfectly equipped plant in the world.

It was so pronounced when members of the International Congress of Mining Engineers visited the Alabama mineral district just a year ago.

Cost \$2,000,000. Two million dollars had been expended by the Birmingham Coal and Iron company to attain this perfection.

The plant is but a little more than a year old. When it was first installed, the most perfect appliances and every cure were purchased that science and experience knew.

It was the idea of the owners to have the mine absolutely free from danger.

When the International Congress of Engineers met in Pittsburgh they did not confine their investigations and experiments to the great coal fields of Pennsylvania. They came to the equally great coal fields of Alabama.

"Perfect," They Said. When they reached Mulga they had seen enough. German, Briton, Belgian, Frenchman, Spaniard, Austrian and Italian as well as the American experts simply said "perfect."

It was believed that it would be impossible to trap the mine force in the shaft as they were caught Wednesday night.

It is believed that practically all of the expensive equipment has either been destroyed or wrecked beyond hope of repair.

THE U. S. RELIEF CORPS BEING RUSHED TO MULGA

Famous Geological Survey Crew Sent From Knoxville To Help in Work of Rescuing Entombed Bodies From Mine. May Save Some Lives.

Equipped with every known device for mine rescue work, the relief corps of the United States geological survey, especially authorized and financed by congress, is on its way to Birmingham to aid in the work of rescue at Mulga.

As soon as the news of the disaster was flashed to Washington, the head of the department wired instructions to Knoxville, Tenn., where the corps has its headquarters, for the men to proceed directly to Birmingham, carrying all their equipment.

This is the same body of rescuers who did such signal service after the terrible disaster last November at Cherry, Ill.

It was through the agency of these men that the miners, entombed for a week in that shaft, were finally brought to the surface. All but one survived.

Slight hope is still held that some of the Mulga men may have escaped the force of the shot and reached a gallery, where by clinging themselves to the black damp, which forms a solid mass, they could keep out a greater portion of the gas.

If these men are still alive, great confidence is placed in the ability of the United States rescuers to reach them.

The Knoxville party is expected to reach Mulga Thursday night.

Cherry, Ill. It was through the agency of these men that the miners, entombed for a week in that shaft, were finally brought to the surface. All but one survived.

Slight hope is still held that some of the Mulga men may have escaped the force of the shot and reached a gallery, where by clinging themselves to the black damp, which forms a solid mass, they could keep out a greater portion of the gas.

If these men are still alive, great confidence is placed in the ability of the United States rescuers to reach them.

The Knoxville party is expected to reach Mulga Thursday night.

Daily Statistics

Building Permits.
P. G. Shepard, changes and repairs, Tenth alley, Nineteenth and Twentieth streets, \$100.

A. R. Vandergriff, repairs on garage, North Fifth avenue, \$10. Mary A. Andrews.

Kilby Frog & Switch Co., addition to plant, North Birmingham, \$550. Wiley Smith, repairs on residence, Woodman, Avenue B and Forty-eighth street, J. R. Hanes, \$150.

Mrs. State Nichols, erect one-story frame building, Thirty-third avenue, North Birmingham, \$1,500.

A. N. Hawkins, repairs, residence, Slaton, \$175.
E. H. Gubins, two-story frame building, Highland avenue, garage, \$475. J. E. Allen.

Really Transfer.
Bessemer Homestead Company to J. P. Heflin, lot 5, block 12, survey of the Bessemer Homestead Company, \$750.

John Rockett to Cap Stranber, parcel of real estate in Jefferson county containing two or more acres, \$200.

All arrangements have been made for the occasion. Mr. Mallory is in Boaz Thursday and will arrive in Birmingham Friday morning about 10:30 o'clock. He will spend a greater part of the day in consultation with his Jefferson county managers and at night at Bessemer. Mr. Mallory will talk of the issues in the present campaign.

At West End Wednesday night John Morgan Burns was the principal speaker at a meeting held in that driving municipality. Mr. Burns was greeted by a large audience and was listened to attentively.

NOTICE
Hon. J. A. Rogers will address the Young Men's Good Government Club Thursday night, 8:15, Magnolia hall, 3d Ave. Public invited.

ALABAMA POSTMASTERS.
Special in the Birmingham News.
WASHINGTON, April 21.—The postmaster general today appointed the following fourth class postmasters for Alabama: William T. Rutledge at Crawford, Russell county; George L. Srett, at Longview, Shelby county; Nancy E. Rogers at Samuel, Choctaw county; Raymond R. Custer at Watson, Jefferson county.

NOTICE
Hon. J. A. Rogers will address the Young Men's Good Government Club Thursday night, 8:15, Magnolia hall, 3d Ave. Public invited.

ALABAMA POSTMASTERS.
Special in the Birmingham News.
WASHINGTON, April 21.—The postmaster general today appointed the following fourth class postmasters for Alabama: William T. Rutledge at Crawford, Russell county; George L. Srett, at Longview, Shelby county; Nancy E. Rogers at Samuel, Choctaw county; Raymond R. Custer at Watson, Jefferson county.

NOTICE
Hon. J. A. Rogers will address the Young Men's Good Government Club Thursday night, 8:15, Magnolia hall, 3d Ave. Public invited.

ALABAMA POSTMASTERS.
Special in the Birmingham News.
WASHINGTON, April 21.—The postmaster general today appointed the following fourth class postmasters for Alabama: William T. Rutledge at Crawford, Russell county; George L. Srett, at Longview, Shelby county; Nancy E. Rogers at Samuel, Choctaw county; Raymond R. Custer at Watson, Jefferson county.

NOTICE
Hon. J. A. Rogers will address the Young Men's Good Government Club Thursday night, 8:15, Magnolia hall, 3d Ave. Public invited.

ALABAMA POSTMASTERS.
Special in the Birmingham News.
WASHINGTON, April 21.—The postmaster general today appointed the following fourth class postmasters for Alabama: William T. Rutledge at Crawford, Russell county; George L. Srett, at Longview, Shelby county; Nancy E. Rogers at Samuel, Choctaw county; Raymond R. Custer at Watson, Jefferson county.

NOTICE
Hon. J. A. Rogers will address the Young Men's Good Government Club Thursday night, 8:15, Magnolia hall, 3d Ave. Public invited.

ALABAMA POSTMASTERS.
Special in the Birmingham News.
WASHINGTON, April 21.—The postmaster general today appointed the following fourth class postmasters for Alabama: William T. Rutledge at Crawford, Russell county; George L. Srett, at Longview, Shelby county; Nancy E. Rogers at Samuel, Choctaw county; Raymond R. Custer at Watson, Jefferson county.

NOTICE
Hon. J. A. Rogers will address the Young Men's Good Government Club Thursday night, 8:15, Magnolia hall, 3d Ave. Public invited.

ALABAMA POSTMASTERS.
Special in the Birmingham News.
WASHINGTON, April 21.—The postmaster general today appointed the following fourth class postmasters for Alabama: William T. Rutledge at Crawford, Russell county; George L. Srett, at Longview, Shelby county; Nancy E. Rogers at Samuel, Choctaw county; Raymond R. Custer at Watson, Jefferson county.

NOTICE
Hon. J. A. Rogers will address the Young Men's Good Government Club Thursday night, 8:15, Magnolia hall, 3d Ave. Public invited.

ALABAMA POSTMASTERS.
Special in the Birmingham News.
WASHINGTON, April 21.—The postmaster general today appointed the following fourth class postmasters for Alabama: William T. Rutledge at Crawford, Russell county; George L. Srett, at Longview, Shelby county; Nancy E. Rogers at Samuel, Choctaw county; Raymond R. Custer at Watson, Jefferson county.

NOTICE
Hon. J. A. Rogers will address the Young Men's Good Government Club Thursday night, 8:15, Magnolia hall, 3d Ave. Public invited.

ALABAMA POSTMASTERS.
Special in the Birmingham News.
WASHINGTON, April 21.—The postmaster general today appointed the following fourth class postmasters for Alabama: William T. Rutledge at Crawford, Russell county; George L. Srett, at Longview, Shelby county; Nancy E. Rogers at Samuel, Choctaw county; Raymond R. Custer at Watson, Jefferson county.

NOTICE
Hon. J. A. Rogers will address the Young Men's Good Government Club Thursday night, 8:15, Magnolia hall, 3d Ave. Public invited.