

ENTOMBED IN A MINE

AT LEAST 43 PERSONS TRAPPED
BY AN EXPLOSION AT
ACTON, ALA.

FIVE MEN TAKEN OUT ALIVE

Nine Bodies Already Recovered, and
the Number Still in Workings
Not Definitely
Known.

Acton, Ala.—Nine miners are known to have been killed and at least a dozen others were missing as the result of an explosion in the Alabama Fuel and Iron Company's mine No. 2, near here.

Five men had been taken out of the mine alive by rescue crews up to 11:30 o'clock at night. At that hour mine officials expressed the belief that the death toll would not exceed fourteen, although estimates of the number of missing varied at from twelve to thirty. It is said that forty-three men entered the workings early in the day, but there was no means of ascertaining the number who had left before the explosion occurred.

Experienced miners expressed the belief that many of those still entombed had been killed by the force of the explosion. The explosion is believed to have been caused by ignition of dust set off by a miner's shot.

Rescue work was undertaken in systematic manner. The federal automobile ambulance made a quick run of thirty-four miles from Birmingham, arriving here simultaneously with the Tennessee Coal and Iron Company's rescue car dispatched by special train. The mine fan, which was not damaged, was set in motion at once so as to restore the air and enable the rescuers to work freely.

Those in charge of the rescue work hope to penetrate the mass of rock and coal jarred loose by the explosion before morning. The mine was comparatively new and was said by officials to have been provided with modern equipment.

The first rescue parties who entered the mine searching for any who might be alive reported they had passed several bodies lying beside the tramway of the sloping entrance shaft. These had not been brought out.