

# MINE HORROR IN ILLINOIS SHOWS DEATH LIST OF SIXTY-ONE MEN

Royalton Disaster Due to Ex-  
plosion Takes Heavy Toll of  
Human Life According to  
Official Figures.

**MORE THAN 300 ARE  
CAUGHT IN INFERNO**

Early Estimates of Casualties  
Reduced by Return of Men  
Who Escaped and Assisted  
in Rescue Work.

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Royalton, Ill., Oct. 27.—A  
total of sixty-one dead is shown  
on the casualty list issued late  
tonight by officials of the  
Franklin Coal & Coke Co., at  
whose mine here 300 men were  
entombed this morning.  
The heavy decrease in the  
number of dead estimated earlier  
in the day was accounted for by  
the registration tonight of scores  
of miners who had escaped dur-  
ing the day, but who were too  
busy assisting in the rescue work  
to answer to the roll call of res-  
cued.  
Twenty minutes before the  
explosion, 346 men went into  
the mine, only the last cage full  
of the day force remaining on  
the surface. Tonight twenty-  
four bodies had been recovered  
and thirty-seven men were miss-  
ing. It was conceded by officials  
of the mine that the thirty-seven  
still were entombed and would  
never be brought out alive.  
Rescue crews from Benton  
and Springfield, Ill., and from  
Evansville, Ind., were rushed to  
the scene and their crews, to-  
gether with the entire population  
of Royalton—about 1,000—spent  
the entire day and the greater  
part of the night rescuing the  
living, attempting to extinguish  
the fire which followed the ex-  
plosion and caring for the in-  
jured and for the hysterical rel-  
atives of the dead and entombed.  
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[BY MORNING JOURNAL SPECIAL LEASED WIRE]

Royalton, Ill., Oct. 27.—One hundred and five men who were trapped on the lower level of a burning mine near here today, were believed tonight to be beyond hope of rescue. Thirty to forty others of the 308 who entered the mine this morning were known to be dead and late this afternoon twenty-eight bodies had been recovered.

The mine belongs to the Franklin Coal & Coke Co., and is located a mile from Royalton.

The fire followed a gas explosion that occurred five minutes before the miners were to begin work. About fifty men had not entered the shaft but the others had gone down and begun to scatter to the various workings.

The sound of the explosion was heard in Royalton and every adult person in the town, except the telephone operator, hurried to the mine. Rescue parties quickly were organized and help was summoned from surrounding towns. Gas in the mine, however, prevented the rescuers from penetrating more than 1,500 feet into the workings and they were unable to reach the 105 men entrapped on a lower level, which was in flames. One hundred and fifty miners, however, were taken from the mine unharmed, but more than eighty of these had been overcome by gas. Two died at the surface.

A mine rescue car from Benton, Ill., arrived nearly four hours after the explosion with a supply of oxygen helmets. The work of rescue then was pushed with vigor and soon twenty-eight bodies had been recovered.

Companies were organized to battle with the flames in the lower level, but experts feared it would be impossible to subdue the fire unless the burning sections were sealed. It was announced this would not be done until all hope of saving the entrapped men was abandoned.

Late tonight confusion reigned about the mine alike among rescuers, rescued and relatives of the dead and entombed. The exact number of men still in the mine was unavailable and estimates ranging from eighty-five to 105.

Even the nature of conditions in the mine was not definitely known. While some rescuers reported they could find no fire, experienced miners declared fire was raging in two entries and that there is no hope of rescuing alive any of the men still in the mine.

This afternoon James Harris descended with one of the rescue crews in the hope of finding his son Russell Harris. He failed to reach the boy, but found fifteen other dazed and injured miners in a pocket in the burning drift and led them to safety through an adjoining drift.