

61 DIE IN MINE EXPLOSION

24 Bodies Recovered—37 Trapped in Earth at Royalton, Ill., Mine Gas Cause of Tragedy.

Royalton, Ill.—A total of 61 dead is shown on the casualty list issued by officials of the Franklin Coal and Coke company, in whose mine near here 300 men were entombed at the going to work hour.

The decrease in the number of dead from earlier estimates was accounted for by the registration of scores of miners who escaped during the day but who were too busy assisting in rescue work to answer to the roll call of the rescued.

Twenty minutes before the explosion 346 men went into the mine, only the last cage full of the day force remaining on the surface. Twenty-four bodies had been recovered and 37 men were missing. Mine officials conceded that the 37 still were entombed and never would be brought out alive.

Rescue trains from Benton and Springfield, Ill., and from Evansville, Ind., were rushed to the scene, and their crews, together with the population of Royalton—about 1,000—spent the day and the greater part of the night rescuing the living, attempting to extinguish the fire that followed the explosion and caring for the injured and for the hysterical relatives of the dead and entombed.

The fire followed a gas explosion. Deadly fumes prevented rescuers from reaching the men entrapped on the lower level.