

# COAL FATAL

DEPT OF INT  
BUREAU OF MINES

February. 29, 1916 Kempton No. 42 mine, Garrett County, Maryland.  
15 killed.

## SIX MEN KILLED IN MINE EXPLOSION, NINE MISSING

Rescuers Bring out 52 Injured workmen While Efforts Are Being Made to Reach Those Still Entombed.

Kempton, W. Va., Feb. 29--Six men are known to be dead, nine are still missing and 52 have been brought safely from Mine 42 of the Davis Coal & Coke company, near here, where an explosion occurred this morning soon after the miners had gone to work.

The missing men had penetrated far into the workings and rescuers who reached the surface at noon expressed the opinion that they had perished.

### Caused by Dust.

The Explosion, it was stated, was probably caused by dust. Rescue parties were still seeking the missing men this afternoon.

KEMPTON, W. Va., Feb. 29.-- Seventy-one men were trapped by an explosion in the mine of the Davis Coal and Coke company near here today soon after they went to work. Two reached the surface and rescuers within an hour had brought out 37, four of whom were dead and two so badly hurt that it was feared they could not survive. Volunteers were attempting to reach the others.

The mine, which is located on a spur of the Western Maryland railroad, has been considered one of the safest in the region. The working force today had just reached their places when the explosion, which seemed to have affected only a part of the workings, occurred. Rescuers brought out the men who had not been injured and recovered the dead not far from the main entry.

### Hope for Safety.

The entombed men are said to be much farther from the opening and while hopes are entertained for their safety, as they have all been drilled in mine rescue work, nothing is being left undone to reach them with the least possible delay.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 29.--A dispatch to The Bureau Of Mines from the superintendent of the Western Maryland railroad at Cumberland today said 69 miners were reported entombed at Kempton. Director Manning of the Bureau immediately ordered two rescue cars to Kempton.

[KEMPTON, W. Va. Feb. 29 Buffalo, N. Y. Times]

## SIX MINERS ARE HELD IN SHAFT

### ENTOMBED FOLLOWING AN EXPLOSION OF DUST EARLY TODAY

ELKINS, W. Va., Feb 29--Six men are still entombed in the Davis Coal and Coke company mine No. 42 at Kempton, W. Va., which was wrecked by a dust explosion at 6:40 o'clock this morning. Sixty-two men caught in the mine by a fall of slate, were brought out alive at 10:30 o'clock. Of these only four are injured. The Kempton mine is a shaft mine, 427 feet deep.

At noon it was believed the nine remaining in the mine were dead and buried under a fall of slate. Rescue parties rushed from Thomas and other mining centers in this section are exerting every effort to find the missing miners. The shaft of the mine was not damaged in the explosion and the cages were kept in operation, which greatly aided in the work of rescue.

The blaze which swept thru the mine after the explosion and burned the faces of dead men so badly in some cases that their faces are badly disfigured.

[Lima Ohio News Tuesday February 29th, 1916]

## FIFTEEN MEN ARE KILLED IN MINE DUST EXPLOSION

BODIES OF DEAD, ALL FOREIGNERS RECOVERED FEW HOURS AFTER ACCIDENT.

Kempton, W. Va., Feb. 29.--Fifteen men were killed and five seriously injured by an explosion of dust in mine No. 42 of the Davis Coal & Coke Company here to-day. All the victims were foreigners. Fifty-one miners, who were also at work at the time, were rescued. The exploration of the workings was completed late to-day and all the bodies recovered.

The blast did not interfere with the working of the cages in the main shaft and the men not within range of the explosion hurried to the foot of the shaft and were at once brought to the surface. Among the first to reach the shaft was R. P. Maloney, general superintendent of the Davis Coal & Coke Company, who took active charge of the rescue work. The explosion occurred about 2,000 feet from the bottom of the shaft and all the victims were crushed under a fall of slate.

The last miner to be brought to the surface alive was John Borcosky. He was hurried to the hospital at Davis, where the other injured were taken this afternoon, and his condition is critical.

The entrance of the mine is located in Kempton, but the mine extends back into Garrett county, Maryland, where the explosion occurred. For this reason it has not been determined yet whether the authorities of this or Garrett county will investigate.

[Louisville KY., Courier Journal Wednesday, March 1st, 1916]

## SIX MINERS KILLED

Explosion in Kempton Coal Mine Also Injures One.

Kempton, W. Va., Feb. 29--Six miners were reported killed and one injured in an explosion in the mine of the Davis coal and Coke Company here to-day.

[Brooklyn (N. Y.) Times Feb. 29, 1916]

## 52 MINERS RESCUED

6 Dead and 9 missing at Kempton, W. Va. Shaft.

Kempton, W. Va., February 29--Six men are known to be dead, nine are still missing and fifty-two have been brought safe from Mine No. 42 of the Davis Coal and Coke Company near here, where an explosion occurred this morning soon after the miners had gone to work. The missing men had penetrated far into the workings, and rescuers who reached the surface at noon expressed the opinion that they had perished.

The mine, which is a shaft 427 feet deep, was not badly wrecked, according to mine officials. The explosion, as stated, was probably caused by dust.

[Brooklyn (N. Y.) Eagle Feb. 29 1916]

## 15 MINERS KILLED AS DUST EXPLODES

Crushed Under Fall of Slate in West Virginia Tube.

Kempton, W. Va., Feb. 29.--Fifteen men were killed and five seriously injured to-day by an explosion of dust in Mine No. 42 of the Davis Coal and Coke Company. All the victims were foreigners. Fifty-one miners were rescued.

The explosion occurred shortly after the men had entered the shaft, and other miners not within range of the explosion hurried to the foot of the shaft and were brought to the surface. Rescue parties were hastily organized and lowered. Among the first to reach the shaft was R. P. Maloney, general superintendent of the Company. According to Mr. Maloney all the victims were crushed under a fall of slate.

The last miner brought to the surface alive, John Borcosky, was unconscious from cuts and bruises. M. D. Kirk, vice-president of the company, arrived late to-day from Cumberland, Md., and is investigating.

[New York Tribune Mar 1 1916]

## FIFTEEN DIE, FIVE HURT, IN WEST VIRGINIA MINE

Explosion caused by Dust Causes death of Laboreres All, of Whom Are Foreigners.

Kempton, W. Va., Feb. 29.--Fifteen men were killed and five seriously injured by an explosion of dust in mine No. 42 of the Davis Coal and Coke company here today. All the victims were foreigners. Fifty-one miners who were also at work at the time were rescued. The exploration of the workings was completed late today and all the bodies recovered.

[Chicago, ILL. Tribune Wednesday, March 1st, 1916]

## 70 MEN TRAPPED IN COAL MINE

Six are Dead and it is Feared More Have Perished.

Kempton, W. Va., Feb. 29.--Six men are known to be dead, nine are still missing and 52 have been brought safely from mine No. 42, of the Davis Coal & Coke Company near here, where an explosion occurred this morning soon after the miners had gone to work. The missing men had penetrated far into the workings and rescuers who reached the surface at noon expressed the opinion that they had perished.

The working force today had just reached their places when the explosion, which seemed to have affected only a part of the workings, occurred. Rescuers brought out the men who had been injured and recovered the dead not far from the main entry. The entombed men are said to be much farther from the opening and, while hopes are entertained for their safety, as they have all been drilled in mine rescue work, nothing is being left undone to reach them with the least possible delay.

## Aid Is Sent

Washington, Feb. 29.--A dispatch to the Bureau of Mines from the superintendent of the Western Maryland railroad at Cumberland today said 69 miners were reported entombed at Kempton. Director Manning of the Bureau Immediately Ordered Two Rescue Cars To Kempton.

[Watertown (N.Y.) Times Feb. 29, 1916]

## MINE EXPLOSION KILLS SIX MEN, NINE MISSING

Kempton, Feb. 29.—Six men were killed, Nine are missing and fifty-two have been rescued from mine 42 of the Davis Coal and coke Company near here, where an explosion occurred to-day. The missing men had penetrated far into the workings, and rescuers who reached the surface at noon expressed belief they had perished. The rescue parties will continue exploration of the mine until the nine missing men have been found. Later in the day they will be reinforced by crews from two rescue cars being hurried to the scene by the Bureau of Mines.

[Evening Mail New York City Feb. 29, 1916]

## NITROGLYCERIN EXPLOSION SHAKES KINGSTON REGION.

### 71 TRAPPED IN MINE BLAST; SIX ARE DEAD

(By the Associated Press)

KEMPTON, MD. Feb. 29—Seventy-one men were trapped by an explosion in the mine of the Davis Coal and Coke company near here today soon after they went to work. Two succeeded in making their way to the surface, and rescuers within an hour had brought out thirty-seven, six of whom were dead and two so badly hurt that it was feared they could not survive. Volunteers were working under the direction of trained rescue crews in an attempt to reach the others. The mine, which is located on a spur off the Western Maryland railroad, has been considered one of the best and safest in the region.

[Chicago. ILL. Journal Tuesday, February 29th, 1916]

### 15 DIE IN MINE BLAST

Explosion in Davis Company Shaft Near Kempton, W. Va.

Dust Explosion in Mine No. 42 Under Maryland Makes It Uncertain What Officials Will Have Charge of the Investigation—Victims Crushed Under Falling Slate, Says Official.

Kempton, W. Va., Feb. 29.—Fifteen men were killed and five seriously injured by an explosion of dust in mine No. 42, of the Davis Coal and Coke Company here today. All the victims were Foreigners. Fifty-one miners who were also at work at the time were rescued. The exploration of the workings was completed late today and all the bodies recovered.

The explosion occurred this morning shortly after the men had entered the mine. The blast, however, did not interfere with the working of the cages in the main shaft, and the men not within range of the explosion hurried to the foot of the shaft and were at once brought to the surface.

### Rescue Parties Organized.

Rescue parties composed of miners from neighboring mines were hastily organized and were lowered into the mine. Among the first to reach shaft was R. P. Maloney, General Superintendent of the Davis Coal and Coke Company, who took active charge of the rescue work. The mine was not badly damaged according to rescuers. The explosion occurred about 2,000 feet from the bottom of the shaft, where more than a score of miners were working. According to Maloney, all the victims were crushed under a fall of slate. The last miner to be brought to the surface alive was John Borcosky. He was found unconscious, suffering from cuts and bruises about the face and body. He was hurried to the hospital at Davis, where the other injured were taken this afternoon, his condition is critical.

M. D. Kirk, Vice president of the company, arrived here late today from Cumberland, Md., and is investigating the explosion. The entrance of the mine is located in Kempton, but the mine extends back into Garrett county Md., where the explosion occurred. For this reason it has not been determined yet wheather the authorities of Garrett county will investigate.

[Washington, D.C. Post Wednesday, March 1st, 1916]

#### SIX MINERS KILLED.

Cumberland, Feb. 29, (Special)--Six men were killed and twenty others buried by an explosion today in the mine of the Davis Coal and Coke Company at Kempton, W. Va.

[Goshen, Ind. News Times Tuesday, February 29th, 1916]

#### SIX MINERS ARE KILLED AND MANY ARE INJURED AT KEMPTON MARYLAND

Kempton, Md., Feb. 29.--Six miners were killed, a number injured and thirty-three are still reported entombed in mine No. 42 of the Davis Colliery Company here following a terrific dust explosion early today.

Miners' rescue cars were rushed from Mahan, W. Va., and Russellton, Pa., in an effort to save those still buried. Following the explosion twenty-six men were brought out uninjured, carrying the bodies of the six dead.

[Journal, Peru, Ind. Tuesday, February 29th, 1916]

DEATH TOLL IN MINE TOTALS SIXTEEN

DAVIS, W. Va., March 6.--The death toll resulting from the mine explosion at Kempton last Tuesday was brought up to sixteen with the death at a local hospital of one of the five men who were brought here badly injured.

[Chicago ILL. Journal Monday, March 6th, 1916]

BLOWOUT SHOT CAUSED KEMPTON MINE BLAST; FIFTEEN DEATHS TOLL

Davis, W. Va., March 6.-- The death in the Allegheny Heights hospital here of one of the five men injured in the Kempton mine explosion, brings the total death list up to 16, where it will probably remain, as the other four injured miners are improving. State Mine Inspector William Walters, of Maryland, after investigating the disaster, has made the following report: "After a thorough investigation into the cause of the explosion in this mine, and from all evidence in the affected part where loss of life was the greatest, it is the conclusion of myself and the expert investigators that the trouble was caused by the blowout shot in room 11 on the first floor off first dip." The above notice has been posted at the office of the company, near the opening of the mine.