

Coal Dust Explosion Brings Scene of Horror to West Kentucky Mine Co.

FOUR DEAD BODIES TAKEN OUT UP TO 11 O'CLOCK THIS MORNING—MANY RESCUED ALIVE SOME BADLY BURNED. RESCUERS WORKING LIKE BEAVERS. DISTRESSING SCENES—RESCUE CREWS FROM EARLINGTON AND EVANSVILLE.

(Special to the Journal)

Clay, Ky., Aug. 4.—One hundred and seventy-five miners were entombed in No. 7 mine of the West Kentucky Coal Company at 7:35 o'clock this morning when an explosion occurred in the mine caused from coal dust, it is believed.

Dead Removed.

At 11 o'clock four deadminers had been removed from the mine. They were: Charles Wallace, Chas. Sacred, an unknown white miner and a negro miner who had not been identified.

Forty-Five Alive.

Forty-five live miners had been brought to the surface at 11 o'clock. Many of them were badly burned from flames which started in the mine after the explosion. Some of the number were not injured.

Rescuers At Work.

Immediately after the accident the mine rescue crew at Earlington was notified and the rescue car with twelve men was rushed to this place. The twelve men with helmets went down in the mine and soon found the dead bodies. As quickly as possible the forty-five men were sent to the surface. The rescuers found the entries around the bottom of the shaft aflame and it was with great difficulty that they worked their way into other entries.

Many Believed Alive.

The rescuers reported that they felt positive that few other dead bodies would be found, as the air was better the farther they went back into the entries and hope to find most of the entombed miners near the air shaft which had not been reached by rescuers at 11 o'clock.

They stated they believed the miners rushed to the air shaft immediately after the explosion and would be found there, as they could not have possibly reached the bottom of the shaft because of smoke and flames which drew to the shaft from all entries that were on fire.

DUST EXPLOSION.

When the explosion occurred many believed that it was caused by striking miners but this is refuted by the miners who were brought up alive. All say they feel sure it was caused from coal dust.

DISTRESSING SCENES.

When it became known that the mine was afire, hundreds of men, women and children rushed to the shaft. The mine is one of the largest of the West Kentucky Coal Company, employing more than 175 miners, but that number went to work this morning. All relatives of the entombed men ran to the mine and distressing scenes were witnessed. Many wives of miners with small children clinging to their skirts and babies in their arms are in the crowd waiting for some word that their loved ones are safe. Affecting scenes were enacted when the forty-five men were brought up. Their wives and other relatives fought

off guards who attempted to keep the crowd back, in an effort to reach the men.

MORE RESCUERS.

The mine rescue crew of Evansville was also summoned and expected to reach here by noon. Mine officials say the situation is well in hand and that the fire in the bottom has been extinguished. The mine is filled with smoke, but this will not deter the rescuers, who are searching every entry.

AIR PUMPS WORKING.

The air pumps are working splendidly and a great amount of fresh air is being sent into the mine. By this method the smoke will be forced out of the shaft, but it will require many hours and locating the live miners will be difficult until all the smoke has been forced out.

ASSOCIATED PRESS ACCOUNT.

Clay, Ky., Aug. 4.—A gas explosion early today entombed miners variously estimated at one hundred and fifty to two hundred. The mine is Number Seven belonging to the West Kentucky Coal Co. Forty are said to be white and thirty-one, all negroes were rescued. Some of them were burned. The explosion occurred in a portion of the mine where the negroes were largely employed.

ALLIES PRESSURE BEGINS TELLING ON THE GERMANS

THE BRITISH RE-ESTABLISH THEMSELVES IN SEVERAL POSITIONS AND FRENCH MOVE FORMED.

(By Associated Press)

While there is no renewal of smashing entente offensive on a large scale in Flanders, incessant pressure on the Germans is beginning to tell.

The British re-established themselves in village of St. Julian while the French moved forward in the vicinity of Horteleser.

To the south on Arras battlefield the British renewed their grip on the old line, completing recapture of positions east of Monchy Le Preux.

MERCHANT SHIPS TAKEN OVER BY UNITED STATES

Requisition All of More Than Twenty-Five Hundred Tons Now Building.

(By Associated Press)

Washington, Aug. 4.—Emergency fleet corporation today requisitioned all merchant vessels of more than twenty-five hundred tons now building in American ship yards. Double and triple labor shifts will be put in the yards to speed construction.

No announcement of amount of tonnage taken over, but records show that seven hundred vessels with nearly two million tons in all classes are building.

As fast as the yards are cleared of present construction there will be put to work on the great fleet the government will build.

Compensation for construction of ships seized will be determined later. Most of the tonnage is for Norwegian and British account.



SIAM WAGES WAR ON KAISI has declared that a state of war exists between the Siamese King and gives an idea of men. Insert, King Vajiravith.