

GAS EXPLOSION BLOCKS EXITS FROM NO. 7 MINE OF WEST KENTUCKY COMPANY

Mine is Located at Clay and Regiment
of Soldiers Encamped There Are
Helping With Rescue

ONE REPORT SAYS 31 HAVE BEEN SAVED

Most of the Men in the Working Are Believed to be Negroes—Have Been Having Labor Trouble
in That Region.

CLAY, Ky., Aug 4.—Two hundred miners are entombed in mine Number 7 of the West Kentucky Coal Company here as a result of an explosion of gas at 7:30 this morning.

Three men have been rescued.

Smoke is emerging from the mine. The explosion it was said, occurred in the south end of the mines, where negroes were employed largely.

Derbis, it was stated choked the passage to the north end where the remainder of the force including 40 white men were at work.

MADISONVILLE, Ky., Aug. 4.—Reports which reached here several hours after a gas explosion in mine Number 7 of the West Kentucky Coal Company at Clay, said that 31 men, all negroes, had been rescued. Many it was said were badly burned.

Employees of the Company and sol-

diers of Company C, First Regiment, Kentucky National Guard are working desperately to save the others. Superintendent Jenkins in charge of the 10 mines owned by the West Kentucky Coal Company in this section is directing the rescue work and has asked that a relief car from the mine rescue station at Evansville, Ind., be sent here.

The soldiers who had been on guard duty during the strike troubles here have assumed charge of the situation and are allowing no one not directly connected with the rescue operations to approach the workings. The explosion is asserted by those in authority to be not connected with the strike troubles.

WASHINGTON, Aug. 4.—Bureau of Mine officials said their car No. 3 with experts aboard had left Evansville, Ind., for the Clay mine.