

200 ENTOMBED BY GAS EXPLOSION IN KENTUCKY MINE; MOSTLY NEGROES

Troops on Strike Duty Do Good Service in Saving Victims

(By Leased Wire to New Mexican.)
CLAY, Ky., Aug. 4.—Between 140 and 150 men were entombed by an explosion early today in the south entry of No. 7 mine of the West Kentucky Coal company here, according to Chas. S. Richardson, vice president and general manager.

At 2 o'clock this afternoon one hundred had been brought to the surface. Nine were dead and fifteen severely injured.

A mine rescue car from Evansville arrived at 12:40 o'clock and its rescue crews at once began the effort to penetrate the inner workings in search of the forty or fifty believed to be still in the mine. No cause for the explosion, which in some quarters was attributed to gas, is known, according to Mr. Richardson. He does not connect it with the strike of union miners which has been in progress in this field since July 3.

Clay, Ky., Aug. 4.—Two hundred miners are entombed in Mine No. 7, of the West Kentucky Coal company, here as a result of an explosion of gas at 7:30 o'clock this morning. Three men have been rescued.

The explosion, it was said, occurred in the south end of the mine where negroes largely were employed. Debris, it was stated choked the passage way to the north end where the remainder of the force, including 40 white men, were at work.

THIRTY-ONE MEN, ALL NEGROES, ARE RESCUED

Madisonville, Ky., Aug. 4.—Reports several hours after the gas explosion in Mine No. 7 of the West Kentucky Coal company at Clay early today said that 31 men, all negroes, had been rescued. Many of them, it was said, were badly burned. Soldiers who have been on duty during the strike troubles are helping in the work of rescue.

NUMBER ENTOMBED MAY BE LESS THAN 175

Clay, Ky., Aug. 4.—An unofficial check of the men entombed in the mine, made at noon, indicated the number to be less than 175. Forty-six had been brought to the surface alive, together with four bodies, including that of Charles Wallace, mine foreman. Fire which followed the explosion is thought to be extinguished but the presence of "black damp" has made further rescue work impossible pending the arrival of a mine rescue car from Evansville.

ALL BUT 20 REPORTED BROUGHT TO SURFACE

Evansville, Ind., Aug. 4.—It was reported that all but 20 of the 200 entombed miners in the West Kentucky Coal company mine at Clay, Ky., had been brought to the surface early this afternoon. Six men are known to be dead, three white and three negroes. Sixteen of the rescued men are badly burned. Mine officials at Clay expressed hopes that the remaining 20 men would be rescued with few casualties.