

AWFUL MINE HORROR.

OVER ONE HUNDRED MEN IMPRISONED IN SPANGLER, PENN'A, MINE.

EIGHTY-TWO DEAD ARE TAKEN OUT—TWENTY-FIVE ARE ALIVE WHEN
RESCUERS REACH THEM. EXPLOSION OCCURRED AT 7:45 MON-
DAY MORNING WHEN DAYLIGHT SHIFT STARTED WORK.

The worst explosion in the Pennsylvania soft coal region in many years, occurred at 7:45 o'clock in the Reilly Mine No. 1 on the morning of Monday, November 6th by which over 100 miners at work in the mine were killed or injured.

The tremor of the explosion was felt for a mile around the mine, and soon afterwards hundreds of persons were running towards the ill-fated mine to render such assistance as was in their power.

The Reilly No. 1 mine is reached by a shaft 100 feet deep. The explosion is supposed to have occurred about 500 feet from the bottom of the shaft, where it brought down many tons of mine big air pipe in the mine broken, thereby cutting off the supply of roof and other debris. The mine air fans were damaged and the pure air and causing the suffocation of many miners by fire damp gas. Some of the miners were killed by the explosion, but most of them were victims of fire damp gas.

It was nearly noon before an opening was made through the debris by which to get to the first entombed miners. These were dead, having been killed by the explosions. These men were left by the rescuers, who endeavored to find live men. As these were found they were carried to the shaft and hoisted to the surface. Rescue work was slow because of the prevalence of fire damp and lack of gas helmets for the rescuers. Men worked in four-hour shifts, or less, as they could stand the work. Monday afternoon the fans were repaired and put into operation and the mine Rescue car from Pittsburgh arrived, after which the rescue work progressed more rapidly. By midnight the mine had been explored and all the men alive were removed, then began the removal of the dead men. There were 27 men removed alive, two of these have since died, 82 are dead. Most of these were recovered on Tuesday. Most of the miners were foreigners and a majority were unmarried.

The cause of the explosion is unknown. It was known a small amount of gas was encountered occasionally. Safety lamps were used by the miners. The mine boss had visited the mine early Monday morning and reported it safe. The lives of all the miners were insured by the Coal Company in a Baltimore Insurance Company. A state compensation adjuster is already at Spangler and all needed aid will be rendered at once. The explosion is a great calamity to the town of Spangler. Nearly every home has sustained a loss either in killed or wounded. It is likely never to be learned what caused the explosion. Those who knew are likely among the victims.

IDENTIFIED DEAD:

JAMES DECKER	JAMES CLAWSON
JOSEPH SALTSGIVER	PATRICK FLANAGAN
CHARLES SMARKO	JOHN BARTECK
HARRY HUTCHO	MIKE ZURINKO
CLYDE McGAHEY	JOHN SIMCHACK
SLOAN McGAHEY	BARTO YOOSHEK
MERVIN BERKEY	JOHN YOOSHEK
JOE PLUTKO	JOE ABRAMS
RUDY SHOPO	PAUL OWENS
JAMES ELLIOTT	FRANK MINGINO
TONY PAVLIS	JOHN SHOPO
JOHN GREECO	MIKE SIMCHACK
MIKE GRIFFIN	SAM DEARCOOT
JOHN PELO	THOMAS BROOKS
JOE DOLAN	GEORGE KATCHMER, Sr.
JOHN GRIFFIN	CHARLES VALLA
VALLEY SMOLKO	JOHN PILLO
EDWARD OSTRANDER	ELICK KUXMA
TONY VALLALLA	JOSEPH POTINAC
CHARLES AELLO	JOHN POTINAC
STEVE SIMCHACK	RICHARD LEEK
WILLIAM LESLIE	ROY WEATHERSON
NORMAN VAUGHAN, Altoona	MIKE DUNCHAK
HUGH BEARER	OSCAR PETERSON
JOSEPH FRITZ	JOHN MONAC
MARTIN McAVOY	BERNARD TANZY
VINCENT MILLER	OLLIE BEARER
GUY LESLIE	FELIX PARLONE
FRANK MINDRANO	TONY CANTALOUPE
GEORGE KELLY	JOHN POPOVICH, Sr.
STEVE WAYKANCAR	MIKE WASHCO
FRANK WYSCANCKI	PETE WASHCO
JOHN ANDERSON	GEORGE BAKER
GEORGE KATCHMER, Jr.	RALPH CANTALOUPE
MIKE SCHRANKEL	WILLIAM ROGERS
ARTHUR McKIVIGIN	HAYDEN KELLY
JOHN LOGUE	ANDY PLUTKO
WARREN GRAY	JOHN JONES
STANTON GRAY	MIKE PLUTKO

FIRST MINER OUT

Abe Craig, one of the best known young men of Spangler and a brother of Mickey Craig, famous locally as a boxer, tells an experience that gives an idea of the condition of the mine after the explosion.

Craig, with another brother, James, were the first men to be brought to the surface by the rescuers. Mickey, the boxer, did not report for work on Monday, on account of attending a funeral at Marion Center.

Abe and James Craig were working in No. 9 heading left when the explosion took place. The motor had just been run into the heading and the gate was open. The doors of the other headings were closed when the explosion took place and the gates were smashed, allowing the gas to penetrate into the heading. After the explosion the men in No. 9 heading closed the gate and kept the fresh air in the heading. This prevented the gang of men from dying from the fumes of the after damp.

"We knew what had happened and we realized we had a fight for life on our hands," said Craig. Craig was the first to be rescued from the mine and also the first to be discharged from the hospital.

"We closed the gate after the explosion and found that gas was creeping into the heading," went on Craig. "The boys held their heads well. After talking it over I made the suggestion that we go forward toward the mouth of the shaft to meet the rescuers. Others wanted to go back into No. 12 heading, figuring it would be safer."

"I told the boys that I didn't intend to die like a rat. If my end was coming I was going to fight for it. Life is sweet and I didn't believe in sitting in the headway and waiting for death. There was a fighting chance by going forward and I took it. As I left I called to the other lads and some of them followed. James, my brother, and Rube Schler-

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eth, a newcomer in the mines followed.

"My God, it was terrible. I fought my way down the main headway, stumbling and falling, but always hoping and praying that I would reach the rescuers in time. I passed man after man on the ground, some dead, others just breathing. It was hard to pass the brave lads. I called to them and urged them to battle to the end.

"On I fought, striving to keep the deadly gas from overcoming my senses. My brother Jim and Rube were right in back of me. One time Rube stopped and dropped. He was all in. I begged him, coaxed him, even threatened him and he finally got enough strength to drag himself along the ground.

"Just before we sighted the rescuers, we found Abe Galinsky, a motor runner, all tangled up in coils of wire. Galinsky had been tossed from his motor by the explosion and was rammed against the side of the heading. He was alive but did not have the strength to untangle the wires. I called to Jim and Rube to help and we got him loose from the wires.

"The four of us continued to fight and fight and we were rewarded by the sight of the lamps of the rescuers. It was all I could do to hold out and I flopped over just before the rescuers came to us. But we had worked our way nearly 2,000 feet through the shaft, battling the poisonous fumes and were living.

"I told the rescuers where they could find some of the other lads alive and I believe they were aided by our direction.

"It was a horrible experience. I believe I aged in the few hours I was in the main headway battling for my life. I will never forget the sights as I walked, ran and stumbled to daylight and life."

Investigators now know that the Reilly mine disaster with its gruesome record of 79 dead and 32 injured was the result of a mine gas or after-damp explosion and that the recent coal strike was an important contributory cause.

Reilly mine had been closed for six months during the coal strike and was re-opened in August without a government inspection having been made to insure that the mine was not generating mine gas, accumulating the fatally explosive coal dust which contributes to every great mine explosion, and that its ventilating machinery had not been impaired by the long period of idleness.