

# RESCUERS IN EFFORT TO REACH VICTIMS OF WEST VIRGINIA BLAST

**Believe Over 100 Entombed in Benwood Mine of  
Wheeling Steel Corporation Shortly After Enter Work-  
ings Early Today; Exact Number is Indefinite.**

## TRAINED WORKERS ON JOB; MINE RESCUE CARS ARRIVE

**Officials Say 125 Miners Entered Shaft; Eleven Believed  
to Have Escaped Explosion; Batter at Two Openings  
to Reach Men; No Fire Results, Report.**

(By The United Press)

Benwood, W. Va., April 28.—The first of more than 100 miners entombed by an explosion at the Wheeling Steel Corporation mine here were brought to the surface by rescue workers early this afternoon.

Two miners, both badly injured, were pulled to the top and taken to a local hospital.

Officials of the Benwood mine announced that 104 men received their checks on entering the mine today. Some of the men might have entered the mine without checking in, they said.

Rescue squads from the bureau of mines car started into the mine at the Brown's Run opening and six men worked their way into the slope of the main entrance. The rescuers working at Brown's Run found the two miners in a dazed condition. The men were not suffering from gas, but were badly bruised.

Word was sent to the surface that the cave-in was not as bad as was feared.

Air was circulating through the corridors of the mine and there was little gas. The fact that no fire followed the explosion raised the hopes that all of the men would be saved.

(By The United Press)

Benwood, W. Va., April 28.—One hundred and fourteen men were entombed in the Benwood mine of the Wheeling Steel Corporation at 7:30 a. m. today, it was announced.

A gas explosion, the exact nature of which has not yet been determined, occurred thirty minutes after the men had gone to work.

Workers from all surrounding mines were brought to the Benwood mine in automobiles and made preparations to go into the mine.

The explosion occurred about a mile from the entrance. An opening at Brown's Run, two and a half miles from the entrance, was choked up by rocks and dirt. Rescue crews were attempting to reach the miners through both openings.

Mine rescue cars arrived from Pittsburgh and Clarksburg during the morning. Trained workers, with rescue apparatus, descended into the mine at once, aided by scores of miners recruited from surrounding pits.

The explosion caused no fire, officials of the mine announced, which increases the chances of the entombed men being brought out alive.

Hundreds gathered around the mine mouth, many of them women and children.

### Charleston Says 200

(By The United Press)

Charleston, W. Va., April 28.—Two hundred men were entombed by a blast in the Benwood Mine operation of the Wheeling Steel Corporation at Benwood, near Wheeling early today, according to a report received by R. M. Lambie, chief of the state department of mines here. The mine chief was preparing to leave for the scene of the blast.

Benwood fire apparatus was summoned to the mine shortly after the blast. Whether the calling of the fire department was a precautionary measure or whether the mine was afire could not be determined as communication by telephone between Moundsville and Benwood was interrupted by the explosion.

The cause of the explosion is not known. The first blast occurred shortly after the men entered the mine. Muffled explosions followed.

Great clouds of smoke poured from the mine.

Two mine rescue cars were on their way to the scene of the blast, Lambie was notified by the federal department.

Cause of the explosion was not known here.

### Reports Says 125

(By The United Press)

Moundsville, W. Va., April 28.—Approximately 125 men are entombed in the Wheeling Steel and Iron company mine at Benwood, eight miles from here, according to reports reaching here today.

A terrific explosion in the mine, shortly after the men had gone to work today, closed the entrance and cut off escape.

The mine is owned by the Wheeling Steel Corporation and the entire output is consumed by the operating company.

### Pittsburgh Says Over 15

(By The United Press)

Pittsburgh, April 28.—More than 150 men are entombed in a mine near Wheeling W. Va., according to word received at the bureau of mine headquarters here today. A mine rescue car was sent to Wheeling at once.

In Russia there are 1400 women to every 1,000 men.