

LOSE ALL HOPES OF FINDING ANY ALIVE IN SHAFT

Rescue Workers Battle Debris-Strewn,
Gas-Filled Workings in Search
of Others Believed Dead
Deeper in Mine.

GALLANT ESCAPE EFFORT NIPPED IN SIGHT SAFETY

Check-Up Shows 110 Men Entered
Mine; Relatives and Friends of
Victims Gather on Muddy
Hillside to Watch.

(By The United Press)

Benwood, W. Va., April 29.—Fifty bodies have been removed from the Benwood Mill mine where 114 men were entombed by a gas explosion Monday, officers of the Wheeling Steel Corporation, the firm operating the mine, stated this afternoon. Thirty other bodies found in the workings by rescue squads will be raised to the surface tonight.

Rescue workers continued pushing through underground passageways in an attempt to locate other victims.

(By The United Press)

rescue squads battling deeper into the debris-strewn, gas-filled workings of the Benwood mine of the Wheeling Steel Corporation and with no ray of hope held that the miners remaining in the shaft would be found alive, bodies of the victims were being removed today.

Shortly before noon, officials announced that the rescuers had brought out 40 bodies and were pushing farther back in the shaft where others are believed to have perished.

A gallant effort to escape that was all but successful and yet ended in tragic death, was discovered when the bodies of Rocco and Michael Capabianco were found near the Brown's Run air shaft. The brothers had died, locked in each other's arms.

They had escaped the roof fall and fire that followed the blast only to overcome by fire damp a few hundred yards from fresh air.

Benwood, W. Va., April 29.—No hope was held out today for rescue alive of the 110 miners entombed in the Benwood Mill Mine of the Wheeling Steel Corporation 24 hours ago by a terrific gas explosion that tore down mine supports, letting loose tons of earth on the trapped men.

Officials of the mine admitted that it would be a miracle should any miner be rescued alive.

Twenty two crushed and burned bodies were brought to the surface at dawn today from the workings.

A small army of expert rescue workers, recruited from the bureau of mine cars and mines in the vicinity of Benwood, were still groping their way through the caverns of the earth searching for the 88 men unaccounted for.

While the rescue squads worked untiringly the entire population of Benwood—4,773 men, women and children—huddled on a muddy hillside out side the Benwood mine gate hoping against hope as the hours passed that their loved ones might have escaped death.

The cause of the explosion is still undetermined. Officials of the steel company have refused any information and as yet they do not know the exact number of men who entered the mine Monday morning.

One hundred and four miners, checked in Monday after a mine inspector had gone down in the working and reported conditions "safe." It is believed, however, that at least six other miners entered the Benwood mine without "checking in" making the total in the mine at least 110.