

FIVE LOSE LIVES AS MINE EXPLODES AT MOUNDVILLE

State and County Officials
Prepare for Double
Investigation.

AFTERDAMP IS BELIEVED
TO HAVE CAUSED DEATHS

Blast Occurs Quarter of Mile
Southeast of Bottom of
Main 180 Foot Shaft; It Was
in This Vicinity That Dead
Were Found.

Moundville, W. Va., Nov. 15. (P)—
State and county tonight prepared
a double investigation of the ex-
plosion of early today at the First
Street mine of the Glendale Coal
Company which claimed the lives
of five miners and resulted in in-
jury to two others. The body of
Thomas Robbins was removed from
the mine by rescue workers at 6:45
o'clock tonight, recovery of his body
accounting for all who were in the
mine at the time of the explosion
about 3 o'clock this morning.

The dead, all of Moundville, are
Walter Fogle, 18, Michael Kavassak,
45, Rube Kirkhart, 33, Thomas
Robbins, 44, and J. E. Stifel, 50.
The injured miners, James Le-
masters, 40, of Glendale, and H. F.
Cumberland, 32, of Moundville,
are at the Glendale hospital where
attendants tonight said they were
on the road to recovery.

Thirteen other workers in the
plant at the time escaped injury,
Robert M. Lambie, chief state
mine inspector, assisted by A. E.
Lafferty, of Moundville, district in-
spector, tonight took preliminary
steps toward an official investiga-
tion of the explosion for the state
department. Coroner J. T. McCombs
and Prosecutor Lloyd Arnold, of
Marshall county, will join the mine
department in a joint inquiry into
the disaster. District Inspectors E.
L. Griffith, of Clarkeburg, and W.
B. Riggleman, of Fairmont, are ex-
pected here tomorrow to assist in
the probe.

The explosion occurred a quarter
mile southeast of the bottom of the
180 foot main shaft. And it was in
this vicinity bodies of the dead were
found. James Fogle, foreman of
the night crew at the mine, and
father of Walter Fogle, a victim of
the disaster, says he was at work
near the place of explosion. He
heard a dull thud, felt a rush of
air and knew what had occurred.
He says his son accompanied him
toward the shaft, succumbed to
what Fogle says was after-damp,
and the father carried the boy's
body toward the shaft until he, too,
was overcome. Others of the 180
miners who escaped death or injury
carried James Fogle's unconscious
body to the surface but failed to
locate Walter Fogle's body.

Rescue crews of neighboring
mines, including that attached to
the state mine car at the Hitchman
mine, Benwood, at once set about
recovering bodies of the victims.
The injured two were brought to
the surface and revived by first aid
methods. Recovery of the dead
was a longer process, the last body,
that of Robbins not being located
until early tonight.

James Fogle and other veteran
miners expressed the opinion all
men met their deaths not as a re-
sult of the explosion itself, but
from the effects of afterdamp which
followed it. None of the bodies
were mutilated and so far as res-
cuers have been able to determine
the mine is only slightly damaged
by the blast. No fire followed the
explosion, Inspector Lambie said
tonight. He added that no attempt
will be made to operate the mine
until a formal official inspection
which will probably be completed
today. Officials and miners would
hazard no opinion as to what
agency actually set off the pocket
of gas.