

# EXPLOSION WRECKS PART OF MINE AND ENTOMBS 600 MEN

**Terrific Blast Causes Disaster in Ehrenfeld Mine  
and Rescue Workers Are Being  
Rushed to the Scene.**

**EFFORTS TO GET IN TOUCH WITH MINE  
FAIL; FEAR LOSS OF LIFE IS HEAVY**

Canadian Press by Direct Wire.

**ORESSON, Pa., March 30.**—All but 10 of the 400 men in the explosion-wrecked Ehrenfeld mine have been taken from the mine alive, it was announced late this afternoon at the office of the Pennsylvania Coal and Coke Company, owner of the mine.

The statement was made by H. S. Cole, secretary to C. L. Watkins, vice-president, in charge of operations. Cole said it was not known whether the 10 men unaccounted for were alive or dead.

## **MOUTH OF THE MINE WRECKED BY BLAST.**

**PITTSBURGH, Pa., March 30.**—More than 600 men were entombed by a terrific explosion in the Ehrenfeld mine of the Pennsylvania Coal and Coke Corporation this afternoon, according to reports received here. The mouth of the mine was wrecked by the blast, it was said.

A United States Bureau of Mines rescue car, stationed at Derry, near Ehrenfeld, has been ordered to the scene.

## **Efforts to Get In Touch With Mine Fail.**

All efforts to get into direct touch with the mine failed. It is located in Cambria County, about 75 miles from Pittsburgh. George Moea, mine rescue expert of the Federal Bureau, said he believed that between 350 and 400 men had been trapped by the blast.

## **Blew Down Two-Storey Office Building.**

The explosion was of such great force that when it ripped from the shaft mouth of the mine it blew down a two-storey brick office building about 200 feet from the entry. Some office employees were injured when the structure collapsed.

Mining men familiar with explosions said the blast was so terrific they could hold little hope for the men trapped in the wrecked workings. The mouth of the mine caved in making rescue work difficult.

## **Attack Blockade to Try and Enter Mine.**

Volunteer rescue crews from all parts of the entire Cambria field were organized quickly when word of the blast spread. These men, equipped with helmets, were rushed to Ehrenfeld by automobile. Within a short time they were attacking the mine mouth blockade in an effort to get into the workings.

With the rescue car "Holmes" moving toward Ehrenfeld from Derry, officers of the United States Bureau of Mines here decided that the explosion was so serious they must send their directing heads to the scene. D. J. Parker, director, will head the Pittsburgh Bureau experts.

The rescue men were unanimous in the opinion that the explosion was one of the worst in the history of mining in western and central Pennsylvania.

## **Killed Number of Workmen On Surface.**

**SOUTH FORK, Pa., March 30.**—Between 250 and 600 miners were entombed and a number of workmen on the surface were killed this afternoon, when a terrific explosion spread death and destruction through Mine No. 3 of the Pennsylvania Coal and Coke Corporation, at Ehrenfeld, near here.

The entire day shift of miners, together with some extra men, were in the workings when the blast occurred. South Fork was rocked as if by an earthquake. So far as is known none of the men in the mine escaped and rescue experts held little hope for them, pointing out that it was practically impossible for life to exist where the force of the explosion was so great.

## **Mine Extends Back Into the Mountain.**

The drift mouth of the mine was wrecked. Earth came tumbling down from the hill into which the channel leads. The first rescuers on the scene went to work on this blockade, in the hope that some of the men entombed had reached some point of refuge in the big mine, which extends back into the mountain a distance of some eight miles.

## **People Stunned at Extent of Disaster.**

Stunned by the extent of this disaster, the entire Ehrenfeld community was stricken, and it was some time before the rescue work was under way. First those injured in the wrecked office building had to be given first aid. Calls went out into the surrounding mining country for volunteer rescuers. Crews of men, travelling by automobile, soon reached the scene. They went into action with their picks and shovels, trying to clear the mine mouth so as to effect an entrance.

People living 10 miles from the mine felt the explosion, which, according to those near the workings, came ripping through the drift mouth and cut into the open destroying much property on the surface.

## **Majority of Miners Are White Men.**

No. 3 mine, a union operation, had been working full blast during the past three weeks, employing many extra men. A majority of the miners are white men, about 50 per cent. of the working force being foreign born.

Attracted by the explosion, the families of miners stampeded to the mine mouth. State troopers were sent in from all parts of the region to control the great crowds. As the diggers attacked the shaft mouth blockade of earth, other men, equipped with gas and smoke helmets, stood ready to enter the blast torn workings just as soon as the pick and shovel men cleared the way.

No. 3 mine, it is said, was known as a gaseous working. Company officials said all approved methods had been adopted in the mine, and that it was rock-trusted. The miners used safety lamps.