

91 WORKERS OF VIRGINIA MINE BELIEVED DEAD

**Blast Entombs 88 Miners at
Fairmont. Three Men on
Surface Are Killed and 15
Injured by the Concussion.**

EIGHT OTHER BODIES FOUND

**Ten of Men Working Under-
ground Make Way to Safe-
ty. Half Holiday Saves 300
Members of Normal Force.**

By the Associated Press.

FAIRMONT, W. Va., April 30.
—Ninety-one men are believed to have lost their lives in a terrific explosion late today in the Everetttsville mine of the New England Fuel and Transportation company. The known dead had reached 11 late tonight. Eight bodies were removed from the mine; two men were killed at the tippie outside, while another died in a local hospital shortly before midnight.

While the fate of 80 men still entrapped in the workings remained unknown, rescue crews, which have penetrated the debris-strewn mine, said conditions were such that none of them could have survived.

Of the 15 known injured, several were reported by hospital authorities to be in a critical condition.

Harold Davis, 18, of Fairmont, a check weighman on the tippie, was so badly injured when the explosion blew off the front of the office in which he was working that he died later in a hospital.

Among the identified dead were Jim Morrison and Robert Peters, negro, whose body was found 250 feet down the main entry of the mine.

Hope Not Abandoned.

Mine rescue crews from all sections of northern West Virginia were pushing their way into the mine in the hope of saving some of the 80 men still entombed.

Manuel Porpo was the first man to come from the blast-torn workings. He said he had come through the dense smoke with difficulty but he was unharmed. Shortly afterward, he led a party of rescue workers back into the mine.

The blast set fire to the tippie.

(Continued on Page 16, Column 1.)

91 MINERS ARE BELIEVED DEAD

**Blast in West Virginia Mine
Kills 11 and Entombs
80 Others.**

(Continued From page 1.)

but the Morgantown fire department quickly extinguished the blaze.

Air System Operating.

The mouth of the mine and the main passageway apparently were not badly damaged. The ventilation system was operating and a good current of fresh air was being circulated late tonight, company officials said.

Federal Mine Inspector McKaa, accompanied by five other attaches of the United States bureau of mines at Pittsburg, were reported en route to the scene of the disaster to aid in rescue work.

Company officials said the origin of the blast was undetermined. Fire Boss William Cannon said he had inspected the mine early today and found nothing unusual.

Harvey McKay, brother of J. W. McKay, superintendent of the mine, is among the men entombed.

Mine rescue cars operated by the state of West Virginia were rushed in from Clarksburg, and Morgantown. Volunteer rescue teams were organized, re-enforcing the trained rescue men from mines at Grantown and other near-by settlements.

The rescue work was being directed by J. W. Devisson, general operating manager of the company owning the mine, and J. E. McKay, superintendent of the Everettsville working.

According to company officials the mine known as Federal No. 3, and one of the largest of the Northwest Virginia coal fields, was entirely rock dusted.

Holiday Saves Many.

The usual half holiday Saturday caused only about 100 of the normal force of 400 miners to report for work this morning. Early in the afternoon some of these men came to the surface. They estimated that about 75 men were trapped in the underground tunnels behind the spot where the blast occurred. The lone miner who staggered from the smoke filled drift said that about 10 other men in the main entry were safe, but that they feared to come through the dense smoke.

It was believed that most of the trapped miners were far back in the workings at No. 7 heading on the left.

The injured men were brought to a Fairmont hospital on a special train.