

Faint Hope That Entombed West Virginia Miners Are Still Living--16 Bodies Out

FAIRMONT, W. Va., May 2.—(INS)—Spurred to action by the faint hope that the entombed miners may have been able to wait themselves off from the fire and gas that followed in the wake of the terrific explosion, rescue crews under the leadership of R. M. Lambie, West Virginia mine chief, re-entered the Federal No. 3, mine of the New England Fuel and Transportation Co., 10 miles from here, today.

"There is a chance they may come out alive," Lambie told newspapermen as his helmeted rescue crews, hardened for the unpleasant task before them by countless other mine disasters, re-entered the slope. "And so long as there is a chance of bringing them out alive, no effort will be spared."

Sixteen men are dead, seven others are in hospitals and either 77 or 78 other miners are trapped behind the curtain of fire, which mine experts now are certain broke out following the explosion.

Lambie's spirit was reflected among the rescue crews who have waited, indefatigable, at the mine mouth for the order to go in again in search of the unfortunate miners. Rescue operations were suspended late yesterday pending the arrival of further supplies with which to combat the fire and gas.

All through the night from 2,000 to 3,000 relatives and friends of the trapped men maintained a ceaseless vigil on the hillsides across from the cement-rimmed mine mouth.

Upon the success or failure of the rescue crews depends the fate of many families represented in that mournful group, but they waited patiently with the sincere hope that providence will give them back their husbands and fathers, despite the seemingly overwhelming odds against the men being rescued alive.

They did not weep for they are the wives and children of miners, who are taught from childhood to be prepared to meet such emergencies without faltering.

The mine is one of the largest in Monongalia county. It is located four miles off the main road from Morgantown to Fairmont. The nearest railroad is two miles away and only one telephone, a party line, serves the vicinity of the mine.

Rescuers found considerable difficulty in trekking over the muddy, winding mountain roads with tile, cement and timber with which to erect brattices as they force their way back into the inner workings of the mine.

MORGANTOWN, W. Va., May 2.—(INS)—Rescue crews early today had penetrated less than half the distance into the blast-wrecked depths of the New England Fuel & Transportation company's mine at Everettville, W. Va., near here, where 77 miners, entombed late Saturday afternoon, are still imprisoned.

Presence of gas in the mine is delaying the rescue attempts.

Sixteen dead and seven injured have been brought to the surface, according to Col. Early Smith, commanding three national guard companies guarding the mouth of the mine.

The fate of the entombed men was in doubt, according to reports here from the scene, but rescuers were said to be doubtful of the possibility of finding any great number of them alive, because of the evidences already encountered of the terrific force of the gas explosion which swept the pit late Saturday.

The entombed men, it is believed, are imprisoned at a depth of 10,500 feet. Rescuers this morning, according to early reports, had succeeded in reaching the 4,000 foot level only, and were progressing but slowly, due to the presence of smoke and gas.

The sixteen rescue teams are under the direction of Chester Watts, gas expert and head of the Air Analysis Department of the Bethlehem Steel Corporation, and William Forbes, chief of the U. S. Mine Safety Appliance Division.

Watts reports today that the air in the mine is saturated with combustible gas, and is but .2 per cent below explosion point.

The rescue teams are carrying their telephones with them and are reporting their progress to guards and workers at the mouth of the mine.

Reports of fire in the mine have not been verified.

Red Cross workers from Fairmont, Morgantown and Clarksburg, are on the scene, with the three companies of National Guards, ordered out Sunday after a conference between Gov. Gore and Col. Smith.

The rescued men so far have been so badly injured that a comprehensive story of the explosion has not been obtained.

Rescue workers at 4,000 feet report that the 85 pound rails at this point are a twisted and tangled mass, indicating that wreckage and destruction will increase as they progress into the bowels of the earth.

PITTSBURGH, May 2.—(INS)—Reports from the Everettville, W. Va., mine of the New England and Transportation Co., to the U. S. Bureau of Mines here today indicated that there is small hope for the lives of the seventy-seven miners entombed by an explosion. The bureau was advised that sixteen miners are known to have been killed.

All available rescue equipment, including one mine safety car and the equipment from another car, has been sent to the ill-fated mine by the Bureau of Mines. W. H. Forbes, of the local office, is directing the res-

cue work, which the bureau was informed was made extremely dangerous by monoxide gas.

It is more than 7,000 feet from the mine mouth to the farthest working, it was explained. About half the distance has been penetrated by rescue workers. If any of the entombed men protective walls they may have been are alive, they are walled in behind able to erect before the after-damp reached the point where they were working, bureau officials said.

MOB AT LITTLE ROCK IS SEARCHING FOR ASSAILANT OF GIRL

LITTLE ROCK, Ark., May 2.—

(INS)—Little Rock today is a city of mobs searching for Lonnie Dixon, 16-year-old Negro, who late yesterday confessed to assaulting and murdering Floella McDonald, 11, in the belfry of the Presbyterian church here last April 12. Dixon's father is janitor at the church.

A mob several thousand strong besieged the city hall last evening and remained thruout the night.

Another mob went to the penitentiary walls and demanded permission to search for Dixon. The search was permitted and the mob then left for Benton, 25 miles away, county seat of Saline county and searched the jail there.

Soon after the young Negro confessed the crime, officials spirited him away for safe keeping.

The girl's body was found in the belfry Saturday afternoon. Dixon said the girl had stopped in the vestibule of the church to escape a heavy rainstorm and he forced her to climb a ladder into the belfry.

After he had attacked her, he said, she threatened to tell her father. He then struck her over the head with a brick, he said.

Sentences Monessen Officers to Atlanta

PITTSBURGH, May 2.—(INS)—The 11 Monessen officials and residents found guilty of conspiracy to violate the prohibition laws in the Federal court here last February, received sentences today by Judge R. M. Tibson ranging from three months to a year and a day.

William Horne, chief of the Monessen police, and two constables, John McNally and Walker Wallace, were sentenced to serve one year and a day in Atlanta, and eight others were sentenced to serve from three to six months in the Westmoreland county jail at Greensburg.