

# Death Toll Of Mather Mine Explosion Mounts Steadily As Rescuers Reach Bodies

Mather, Pa.—(P)—Ten additional bodies, bringing the known death list of 92, were removed from the explosion-swept Mather mine late today by rescue crews. One hundred and five miners still were entombed, and believed to be dead.

During the morning the rescuers brought out seven additional bodies, and had rescued one man alive—Frank Krubik—who had escaped death by relaxing in an air lock. He had been entombed more than sixty hours when found by rescuers. Early in the afternoon, the mine cage continued its funeral trips up and down the shaft, bringing out fifteen additional bodies of victims.

At first the rescue of Krubik led some to hope that others of the trapped men would be found alive. But, as the rescuers pushed into the far reaches of the mine and found nothing but death, this slender thread of hope was abandoned, and it was the general belief that the death list would number 197.

Mather, Pa.—(P)—The rescue of a living man from death-ridden Mather mine today renewed hope for some of the 137 missing miners, entombed by an explosion Saturday.

Imprisoned for more than sixty hours in the underground recesses, Frank Krubik was found alive by a rescue crew. He was brought to the surface and rushed to the emergency hospital nearby, where doctors said his condition was very good in view of his harrowing experience.

This rescue, after practically all hope had been abandoned for the entombed, spurred the rescuers to renew their work. They started a new drive through the blast-swept tunnels, hoping to find other miners alive in the far reaches of the workings. Some rescuers believed that Krubik might have crawled from another section of the mine where others might be found alive.

Rescuers said that when found, Krubik was on his hands and knees, crawling among the bodies

strewn nearby and mumbling. Doctors believed the deadly afterdamp had affected the man's throat, causing him to think he was being strangled.

## Explore Recesses

Some of the bodies near Krubik were burned and mangled. This led rescuers to believe that Krubik had crawled to that point from some other section of the mine and they spurred their efforts to explore the far recesses of the workings in the hope that others would be found alive.

The rescue of Krubik gave hope to the scores of relatives of entombed men, and to the rescuers who started a drive through the debris in the tunnels toward butt No. 19.

The scene of the living tomb when Diehl came upon Krubik brought tears to the eyes of the begrimed rescuers. Hearing the entombed men call, the rescuers rushed to the butt and forced their way in, led by Diehl. Krubik was on his hands and knees and had stopped to bathe his face in cold mine water. He staggered to his feet, and with shouts of joy, threw his arms about Diehl's neck. The rescuers brought him out, and as Krubik breathed the surface air and found himself free of the death-ridden pits, he said: "Gee, it's good to be out."

The bodies of 59 of the 211 men in the mine when the blast occurred had been recovered today. One died in a hospital, while 13 escaped. Rescue workers emerging from underground said other bodies had been sighted but were not picked up pending penetration to the section where a large number of miners were believed to have been at work.

Among some members of the safety crews there still lingered hope that at least a few of the entombed men might be found alive—perhaps languishing in a remote subterranean workroom, where they might have bratticed themselves, away from the cases and afterdamp. Men have lived in mines for days after similar explosions.