

228 MEN KILLED BY EXPLOSIONS IN THREE MINES

60 of 75 Trapped Workers
Escape After Blast in Ken-
tucky Colliery

ENTIRE CREW OF 17 DIE
IN WEST VIRGINIA PIT

Death Toll in Penna. Shaft
Will Reach 196 as Rescuers
Find Bodies

Since Saturday 228 men have been killed in three coal mine disasters in Pennsylvania, Kentucky and West Virginia.

While rescue crews today were bringing out the last of the bodies of the 196 men killed by an explosion Saturday in the Mather Collieries Company's mine at Mather, Pa., 17 men were trapped by an explosion in the Yukon-Pocahontas Mine No. 1 at Yukon, W. Va. Thirteen bodies have been recovered.

An explosion in the Black Mountain Coal Corporation's mine at Kinver, Ky., last night entombed 75 workers. Sixty of them escaped, seven bodies were recovered and eight still were missing.

Seventeen Miners Killed in West Virginia Blast

Charleston, W. Va., May 23 (U.P.)—Seventeen miners were killed in an explosion last night in No. 1 mine of the Yukon-Pocahontas Coal Company at Yukon, W. Va., Earl Lambie, chief of the West Virginia Bureau of Mines, said today.

Thirteen bodies were recovered from the drift workings early today, Lambie said, and four bodies remained in the mine.

Only seventeen men were in the mine when the gas explosion occurred, according to Lambie.

The mine ordinarily employs 350 men, but recently has not been running at full capacity and the explosion came at a time when a small shift was on duty.

Seven of 15 Bodies Found After Kentucky Explosion

Harlan, Ky., May 23 (U.P.)—Seven bodies were recovered today from Mine No. 20 of the Black Mountain Coal Corporation at Kinver, Ky., wrecked by a gas explosion last night. Eight bodies are still in the mine, according to rescue workers.

The bodies were those of Elmer Leach, Sam Edwards, Lewis Fagerty, Asher Hall, night foreman; Frank Higgins, Fred Quintrel and Frank Chow, chief electrician.

Officials expressed the hope the missing miners are still alive. The explosion, they said, was not of such terrific proportions as first reported. The cause of the blast has not been determined.

Miners Changing Shifts

The explosion occurred as the night shift was relieving the day crew. A majority of the miners were in the main shaft or they all would have been killed, advices said.

The explosion occurred in a mine owned by the Black Mountain Mining Corporation. The bodies of Chow, Hall, Edwards and Bradley were the first brought out of the shaft. They were thrown clear of their companions, who were trapped by a cave-in of debris.

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1928 Yukon-Pocahontas mine explosion
NEWS1

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173 Bodies Found in 3 Mine Blasts

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Throughout the night rescue workers, laboring in shifts, descended into the shaft, but at 2.30 a. m. they had found no means of getting air to the men or of establishing communication with the chamber in which they were entrapped.

Gas Settling In Shaft

The workers reported that black damp—the deadly gas which forms after such explosions—was settling rapidly in the shaft, and it was feared that if relief did not reach the trapped men within the next few hours, all would be dead.

Thousands gathered at the mouth of the mine as word of the disaster spread during the night through the coal mining district along the southeastern Kentucky border. Kinver is one of the many small mining towns that dot the Cumberland mountain range in Kentucky and Virginia.

The explosion occurred as the men were changing shifts last night. The mine, which is one of the largest in this section, regularly employs a force of 700 men, company officials said.

When first word of the accident was received, calls for aid were sent to all neighboring mining towns, and rescue crews were rushed to the scene.

Relatives of the entombed men, meanwhile, collected about the mouth of the mine, hysterically beseeching the rescue workers to save the miners imprisoned in the underground shaft.

A rescue crew from Lynch, a nearby town, was first to reach the scene. Its members descended into the workings immediately and began digging toward the subterranean chamber formed by the cave-in. Reports sent up to the mouth of the mine by the workers said it might be possible to reach the men within a few hours.

Meanwhile, additional crews with rescue apparatus were on the way from Lexington.