

Miner, Pinned in Sitting Posture Twelve Hours, Vainly Battles to Save Mate Buried Alive

Special to The New York Times.

MAHANNOY CITY, Pa., Sept. 15.— Buried alive in a sitting position for twelve hours, Edward Warning, a miner, spent the time while waiting for what seemed certain death for himself in a futile struggle to keep alive one of his mates, the foreman of a crew of six men, trapped by a cave-in here yesterday.

Rescuers after a frantic struggle finally reached the buried men. Warning and another worker, Edward Mokaitis, were still alive, but William Wolfgang and three others were dead.

Warning was working beside Wolfgang, the foreman, when the cave-in occurred as the men were setting tunnel supports in the south side of the Buck Mountain colliery workings of the Lehigh Valley Company.

A fallen timber held Warning down, but he was kept free of the

clay by the "collar" of the timbers set. During the hours in which the rescuers were digging, Warning could reach Wolfgang, who was almost buried, with more earth sliding on him. Warning managed to keep the clay brushed away from the foreman's nose and mouth to permit him to breathe, but after hours of this struggle in their tomb Wolfgang died from internal injuries.

It was some time after Wolfgang died that the rescuers reached the buried men, but before that time they had heard the voice of the miner trying to encourage the man under the earth beside him.

Warning, who is 42, was in the Locust Mountain Hospital today on the road to recovery. Mokaitis, the other man rescued, was caught only by the tail end of the fall, suffering a dislocated shoulder and head injuries. He is at Ashland Hospital.

The New York Times

Published: September 16, 1929

Copyright © The New York Times