

FOURTEEN BODIES TAKEN FROM MINE AFTER EXPLOSION

Victims of West Virginia Blast Burned and Mutilated—Fifty
Five Workers Escaped Wading Through Water to Knees
—Last of Bodies Brought to Surface Nearly
Twenty-four Hours After Explosion

Kingstown, W. Va., Jan. 27—(AP)—The removal of 14 burned and mutilated bodies from the Kingston Pocahontas Coal Co. No. 5 mine here where an explosion occurred Saturday, today had accounted for all miners in the workings when the blast spread destruction through the underground workshop. Fifty five workers escaped.

The last of the bodies were brought to the surface nearly 24 hours after the explosion by rescue squads who had toiled since the detonation rocked the district.

Several fires kindled by the explosion handicapped rescue efforts for several hours until extinguished. Surface buildings, including that housing the ventilating system, were put out of commission and this also hindered the safety crews until repairs could be made.

The No. 5 mine extends two miles through a mountain, with entries

on each side. The miners who escaped emerged through the Coal river entrance, on the other side of the mountain from here. They waded through water to their knees to reach the open air and then walked over the mountain to Kingston in water-soaked clothing.

The miners who died were in the center where the explosion apparently originated, while the others were in distant parts of the large mine and were warned of trouble by the rush of air which follows an explosion. Five hundred men is the normal force of the No. 5 but only 69 were on duty Saturday when the blast ripped through the passageways at about 2 a. m.

Investigations into the cause of the explosion were under way today by State, county and company representatives. A coroner's jury viewed the bodies today and set next Friday for a preliminary inquest.