

18 ARE SAVED IN EXPLOSION AT MILLFIELD

Many Of Survivors Are
Reported In Serious
Condition

COMPANY HEADS
ARE AMONG DEAD

State And Federal Gov-
ernments Launch In-
vestigations

(By Associated Press)

MILLFIELD, Nov. 6.—Number 6 mine of the Sunday Creek Coal company gave up the last of its dead shortly after 7:30 a. m. this morning when the 76th and last body of the men who met death when an explosion and fire wrecked the underground workings late yesterday was brought to the surface.

Fear that this toll might be increased however, was expressed by rescue workers and officials of the Sunday Creek company, because of the serious condition of eighteen men who escaped from the inferno alive. They were brought to the surface late last night and early today after having spent several hours in the gas filled shaft.

Bodies of the dead were placed in an improvised morgue in an empty store room and efforts were being made by relatives to identify them. The bodies were discolored

Fathers And Sons Are Blast Victims

(By Associated Press)

MILLFIELD, Nov. 6.—Among the 76 dead in the disaster at mine number six of the Sunday Creek Coal company, are three fathers and their sons, and two brothers.

Alfred Wade, his son, Luther; James North, his son, Wilbur and Oscar Willis and his son, Andrew, were among the victims of the shaft blast and killing gas.

William and Thomas Peyatt, brothers, died almost side by side—and Fieldin Peyatt, another brother, was among the injured.

and it appeared that the men had died from the effects of inhaling poisoning gas.

Plant Officers Die

The dead included all members of the inspection party, who had been lowered into the underground tunnels a few minutes before the fatal blast.

Among them were William Tytus, of Columbus, president of the Sunday Creek company; Howard Upson, field manager; Hubert Lancaster, chief engineer; Robert Parsons, superintendent of the Columbia steam engine plant at Fultonham, a subsidiary of the Pittsburgh Plate Glass company; Thomas B. Traynor, traffic manager, and Vernon Roberts, foreman of the Columbia company; J. Bergen, superintendent of the Ohio Power plant at Philo; and P. A. Coen, vice president in charge of sales for the coal company.

Three men performing rescue work were reported overcome in the gaseous chambers today, but were brought to the surface safely by others.

Investigations Started

Hardly had the bodies of the last victims reached the surface when two investigations—one by the state and the other by the federal government—got under way. The government's investigation was headed by J. J. Forbes, of Pittsburgh, head of the U. S. Bureau of Mines, experimental station at California.

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18 SURVIVORS IN MINE BLAST

Federal And State Governments Start Investigations

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Pa. E. W. Smith, head of the mining section of the state department of industrial relations was in charge of the state's probe.

While officials and rescue workers declined to express an opinion as to what caused the blast, veteran miners said it was obviously gas, although the shaft had been classed as non-gaseous for several years.

Hospital Established

As fast as the bodies were brought out, they were taken to the temporary make-shift morgue near the mine entrance, where a corps of 25 embalmers from a number of cities were on hand to lay them out on slabs to await identification.

Representatives of the state department of public relations were on hand with instructions from Governor Myers Y. Cooper to write compensation checks for poverty-stricken families.

The first explosion was tremendous. Tons of slate and coal were jolted into the passageways. Bodies of any of the workers were dismembered. A short time later there was a second blast and the mine filled with gas which penetrated masks and held back rescuers until late last night.

It was believed close to 100 escaped through two passages unaffected by the gas. The mine was clearing of gas and rescue workers no longer needed masks.

Blast Cause Uncertain

The cause of the explosions also remained uncertain today, although it was generally believed to have been caused by accumulation of gas. E. W. Smith, chief of the mine division of the Ohio department of industrial relations, said the cause could not be determined until a thorough examination is made. He said, however, that the blasts occurred about a mile and three-fourths from the shaft.

This little village, a typical Hocking county mining center, virtually was under martial law. A detachment of national guardsmen was thrown about the entrance to keep back the anxious and the curious alike and keep traffic moving on the narrow, winding road leading supplies were being dispatched.

Several hundred friends and loved ones of the tombed men huddled together, sometimes hysterical, sometimes quietly weeping as they kept their eyes on the entrance to the shaft. Rescue men, working until the effects of the gas drove them out and then giving way to another crew, toiled throughout the night under brilliant searchlights.