

# SIXTEEN TRAPPED IN KENTUCKY MINE

**Fear Entombed Men Are All Dead—Rescue Crews Have Difficulty in Reaching  
—Explosion Due to Gas.**

Knoxville, Tenn., March 29—(P)—Hope for the rescue alive of 16 miners entombed in the Pioneer Coal Co. mine at Kettle Island, Ky., 85 miles north of Knoxville, was virtually abandoned late Saturday night after two rescue workers were overcome by gas and had to be pulled out. The entombed miners were more than a mile down in entry No. 12.

Knoxville, Tenn., March 29—(P)—Sixteen men were entombed in an explosion at the Pioneer Coal Mines, on Straight Creek, sixty-five miles north of here, near Pineville, Ky., Saturday afternoon, according to word received here. Mine rescue crews seeking to liberate the men had not been able to reach them an hour after the explosion.

It was a gas explosion. Just what caused it has not been determined.

A mine rescue car was summoned. Whether the entombed men are dead was not known early Saturday night.

Kettle Island, Ky., March 29—(INS)—A crew of sixteen miners was entombed and believed killed late Saturday when an explosion wrecked the 12th right entrance of the Pioneer Coal Company mine here.

The men were trapped a mile and a half below the surface when the blast shattered the mine.

Although rescue crews were immediately set to work in an effort to reach the entombed men, little hope was held that they would be rescued alive.

The explosion demolished the brattice works, shielding the air shaft, and also cut off all lights and means of communicating with the buried men.

Smoke pouring from the entrance caused fears that fire had followed the blast.

No word had been received from the rescue crews early Saturday night but they were not expected to reach

the section in which the men were working when the explosion occurred, until near midnight.

The scene at the mine entrance shortly after the blast was one of utter confusion. Most of the entombed men were married and wives, children and other relatives rushed to the shaft at first reports of the tragedy. A number attempted to enter the mine but were held back by a cordon of workmen thrown about the workings.

The crowds continued to mill about the front early Saturday night in the hope of getting some word from below.

The mine daily employes between 380 and 400 men. Only a small number were in it at the time of the blast, as only half a day is worked on Saturdays. Several of those entombed were repairmen making a weekly inspection of the interior.

A list of the sixteen men was announced by company officials late Saturday night, they were:

J. L. Jones, Pierce Lasley, J. E. Hill, M. C. Vann, Dave Sowders, Mason Fult, Luther Hodge, Ed Osburne, Harvey Allen, Elmer Stecie, John L. Cox, John Engle, Lee Johnson, Alvin Helton, Raymond Simpson, Sam Brofitt.

Local rescue crews were augmented by United States mine rescue crews as rescue work continued late Saturday night. The United States men were called here from Harland, Ky., Norton, Va., Lexington, Ky., and Jellico, Tenn.

## Rescue Party Goes

Jellicoe, Tenn., March 29—(INS)—United States mine rescue crews left here early Saturday night for Kettle Island, Ky., where sixteen men were reported entombed when a blast wrecked a mine of the Pioneer Coal Company there.

No details of the tragedy were received here.