

SEARCHERS FIND THIRD VICTIM OF LOGAN MINE BLAST

Explosion Trapped Five Men
In Island Creek Company
Whitman Mine

HOPE IS ABANDONED FOR
TWO MISSING WORKERS

Men Caught In Abandoned
Section Of Workings; 241
Miners At Work In Mine At
Time Of Blast; Debris Ham-
pers Progress Of Rescuers

Logan, W. Va., Nov. 3. (AP)—With bodies of three miners recovered, rescue crews tonight pushed ahead in their search for two other men missing following an explosion in a temporarily abandoned section of Island Creek Coal company, Whitman mine No. 20.

The bodies recovered were those of William Dingess, 48, father of five children; David Amos, 36, father of four children, and Alonzo Napier, 29, father of six children. All were timbermen.

Virtually all hope was abandoned by rescue crews for the recovery alive of the two missing men, Charles Frye, 31, fire boss, and James Hobbs, 38, timberman.

The men were retimbering the unused section of the mine when, rescue workers believed, a slatefall occurred, breaking an electric wire and liberating a quantity of gas which was ignited by a spark from the wire. Rockdust in the mine, R. M. Lambie, chief of the state department of mines said at Charleston, prevented the explosion from spreading through the mine which extends underground for several miles from the foot of a 250-foot shaft.

241 Escape

Dust flying through the air gave warning to 241 other miners that an explosion had occurred some place in the workings and they hurried from the mine uninjured. One man was injured slightly when he was blown against a trap-door by the force of the blast. He had been working near the explosion area.

Rescue crews working under the direction of J. F. White, state mine inspector, and H. P. Farley, district safety director for the department of mines, located two of the bodies, those of Dingess and Amos, about two miles from the foot of the shaft where they had been engaged in re-timbering. Several hours later after groping their way through thick fog composed of rockdust, coal particles and smoke, they found the third body, Napier, near the spot where the others had been located.

With the recovery of Napier's body, a slight hope that he and the two other missing men might have escaped injury in the explosion and barricaded themselves in a mine room to keep out gas and smoke, was abandoned. Rescue workers, describing the conditions in the explosion area, said that although damage to the mine was not great, dust was so thick that it was "almost impossible to tell a man from a lump of coal."