

## 36 MINERS ARE NEAR DEATH IN CAVED TUNNEL

Crews But 200 Yards  
Away from Supposed  
Position of Men

Thousands Mill About  
Shaft Collar, Wait  
For Word of Rescue

**BOISEVAIN, Va., Feb. 28. (Sun-  
day) (U.P.)** — Rescuers searching  
for 36 miners trapped more than  
two and one half miles from  
the mouth of the Boisevain coal  
mine here penetrated to within  
200 yards of their probable lo-  
cation early today, officials of  
the company announced.

**BOISEVAIN, Va., Feb. 27. (U.P.)**—  
Between 2,000 and 3,000 persons  
massed at the mouth of the Boise-  
vain mine here tonight as rescue  
squads worked frantically at the  
apparently hopeless task of liber-  
ating 36 coal miners trapped far  
underground by one of the worst  
explosions in this district in the past  
25 years.

**ESTIMATES TIME**  
W. A. Bishop, chief engineer of  
the mine, expressed the belief that  
because of the stifling, carbon-  
monoxide after-damp, and the heavy  
slate fall caused by the explo-  
sion, the stricken men would not  
be reached until 6 a. m. Sunday  
at the earliest.

A. C. Lucas, chief mine inspec-  
tor of Virginia, arrived tonight and  
expressed the hope that the men  
still lived, although few thought it  
possible.

The explosion, which occurred at  
4:30 a. m. today, was so violent  
that heavy soot settled to a depth  
of more than an inch on buildings  
in the vicinity of the mine mouth.  
A heavy, smoky fog hung low over  
the roundabout country after the  
explosion.

### "DOGS HOWL"

Miner after miner interviewed by  
the United States tonight invariably  
spoke of "dogs howling" last night  
—traditional ill omen in any min-  
ing community. Early today the  
omen came true with the might-  
iest blast in the memory of the  
oldest miner.

Inspector Lucas based his hope  
that the men might still live on  
the fact there is a waterway lead-  
ing from the Boisevain mine into  
the nearby Jenkins-Jones mine, by  
which, he believed, the men might  
be able to lead themselves to  
safety.

Meanwhile, fearing the worst, of-  
ficials of the mine established a  
temporary morgue at the mine  
mouth, with 12 embalmers and as  
many mortuary tables awaiting  
any eventuality. Physicians were on  
hand to lend whatever aid they  
might, while the Pocahontas fire  
department also sent units to the  
scene.

### STRICT GUARD

Strict guard was maintained by  
the mine company over entrance  
to the mine. A gate leading to the  
mine mouth was heavily policed,  
and none admitted save relatives  
of the trapped men, or employees  
of the company.