

36 MINERS TRAPPED FAR UNDER GROUND BY BLAST; SLATE FALL AND GAS DELAY RESCUE PARTY

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

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 explosion the stricken men would not be reached until 6 a. m. Sunday at the earliest.

A. C. Lucas, chief mine inspector 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, smoke fog hung low over the roundabout country for miles after the explosion.

Miner after miner interviewed by the United Press tonight invariably spoke of "dogs howling" last night—traditional ill omen in any mining community. Early today the omen came true with the mightiest 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 leading from the Boisevain mine into the nearby Jenkins-Jones mine, by which, he believed, the men might be able to lead themselves to safety.

1932 Boisevain Mine explosion NEWS2

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