

7 KILLED IN CATALINA EXPLOSION

**900 Cans Blasting Powder
Are Touched Off in
California**

**Axe of Workman Strikes
Combustible; Plane
Brings Medics**

AVALON, Catalina Island, Cal., Nov. 12.—(UP)—Seven workmen were burned to death and one other injured seriously today in an explosion of 900 cans of blasting powder at a seashore rock quarry here.

The dead: Marion Paul, 23; Kenneth Ernest Smith, 23; Angel Hernandez, 37; Herman Bermudas, 37; Pepter Hansen, 38; Manuel Flores, 20, and Russell Lauders, all of Avalon.

John Halverson suffered third degree burns.

Paul was killed almost instantly when a spark, caused by a pick-axe striking a powder can, touched off the powder as the workmen were transferring it from cans to sacks for blasting purposes.

Smith died in a hospital an hour later, and then one by one the others succumbed to the burns, despite the efforts of a corps of doctors and nurses rushed by plane from Wilmington, across the channel on the mainland.

The men were employed on the Rohl-Connolly quarry.