

6 ARE KILLED
IN KENTUCKY
MINE BLAST

Bodies Recovered By
Crews of Rescuers; In-
quest Is Today

By JOHN A. EILERT
Press Staff Writer

CLAY, Ky., Dec. 1.—U. S. Bureau
of Mines inspecting Tuesday
searched for the cause of an ex-
plosion in No. 10 mine of the West
Kentucky Coal Company, located
about 10 miles
from Wheat-
croft, which
claimed six
lives Monday.
The six bod-
ies were recov-
ered late Mon-
day by a crew
of rescue work-
ers headed by
James Fugate
and Clebbie
Myers, Madison-
ville, district
mine inspec-
tors.

ELVIS TAYLOR

Elvis Taylor, 35, father of four
children, who lived at Wheatcroft,
and five Negro miners lost their
lives in the blast, the first in the
19 years the mine has been in
operation.
Fire swept the mine in 1934
taking a toll of six lives.
Negro miners who died in Mon-
day's explosion are: Sam Kirk-
wood, 60, Nebo, Ky.; John Lanour,
55, father of 19 children; Riley
Webb, 50, and Tass-Gee, 55, all
of Wheatcroft, and Santaniel
Brodie, 22, Clay.

Inquest Today

Four of the bodies, badly burned,
were found a short time after res-
cue crews entered the mine but
those of Lanour and Webb were
not located until late Monday.
Five bodies were removed to
the Franklin Funeral Home in
Clay and one to the Tapp Funeral
Home in Providence.
A coroner's inquest was con-
ducted Tuesday in the Franklin
Funeral Home at which surviving
miners and mine officers testified.
Altogether 136 miners were at
work at the time but most of
them did not know what had
taken place until later.

Was Deafened

Two of these were Claude
Almon and his brother, Ernest.
Claude Almon operates a coal
cutting machine and was working
a short distance from the spot
where the six met death.
"I went deaf for a short time,"
Claude related. "However, I didn't
know anything had happened until
about 15 minutes later when some-
one warned us to get out of the
mine."
"I climbed on an electric motor
car and rode out of the mine.
Other miners were streaming out
at the time, some walking and a
few crawling.
"Pickey" King, who lives in
Providence, was one of those who
crawled out of the mine. He said
he was knocked down and stunned
for a while."

Wife Afraid

Claude's wife said she was
"scared to death" when she heard
of the explosion. "I felt sure
Claude had been killed or in-
jured," she said. "I lost several
cousins in another mine disaster
and I'm always scared when
Claude leaves home for fear he
won't come back."
David Reed, company vice pres-
ident, said a "concussion" had
taken place in the mine but that
it had been confined to a rela-
tively small area as a result of
the ventilating system, rock dust-
ing and other safety measures
used.

500 Feet Down

No. 10 is a slope mine and the
place where the six miners lost
their lives is about 13-5 miles
from the entrance, 500 feet below
the surface. The scene of the ex-
plosion is about 20 miles south of
Morelandfield, Ky.
While four of the bodies were
located a short time after res-
cuers entered the mine, carrying
their own oxygen with them, Mr.
Reed said it was impossible to re-
move the bodies until ventilation
was restored.
It was determined early that all
six men were dead and that they
probably had been killed instantly

ALLIES CALL UP BIG C
FOR KNOCKOUT OF

ENTRANCE TO KENTUCKY MINE WHERE SIX MEN DIED



Entrance to Mine No. 10 of the West Kentucky Coal Company from which bodies of six miners were brought to the surface in the above picture. A crowd of Negro and white miners, most of whom had been in the mine when the explosion took place, remained at the scene until the bodies were brought out.

REDS ADVANCE
ON TWO FRONTS

German Defense West Of
Moscow Crumbling

By M. S. HAYDLER
United Press Staff Writer

MOSCOW, Russia, Dec. 1.—Rus-
sian forces pushed back the Ger-
mans in the Stalingrad area again
today and drove forward through
dense blizzards in their new of-
fensive northwest of Moscow in a
battle of steadily growing fury.
Axis defenses are crumbling be-
fore the Red army's onslaught in
the Rzhev-Velika Luka triangle
northwest of the capital. The
Soviets advanced in several sectors
despite increasing counter-attacks,
and occupied a number of localities
and heavily fortified points.
Hitler Orders Rzhev Held
The Germans are trying desper-
ately to recover lost territory in
the northwest sector, increasing
the fury of their counter-attacks
in compliance with an order from
Adolf Hitler to hold Rzhev at all
costs.
The army newspaper Red Star
said Hitler had warned his com-
manders that "The loss of Rzhev
would be equivalent to the loss of
half of Berlin." Accordingly, Ger-
man leaders exhorted their men to
hold the city to the last man to
facilitate extraction of encircled
German troops in the area.
South of Rzhev, the Russians
have cut the railroad to Vyazma,
depriving the enemy of his sole
important supply line. At the apex
of the northwest triangle, they
had driven almost to within strik-
ing distance of the Latvian border,
less than 100 miles beyond Velika
Luka.

Counter-Attacks Repulsed

The Germans launched a series
of determined counter-attacks in an
attempt to recapture the Rzhev-
Vyazma railroad yesterday, front-
line dispatches said, but all were
repulsed with Russian artillery
playing a major part in the action.
At Stalingrad, the Soviets con-
tinued successful development of
the second phase of their opera-
tions with a two-fold objective: To
mop up pockets of resistance in
the central part of the Don River
between the elbow between the
Don and Stalingrad, and to fill
the gaps in two semi-circular lines
surrounding Axis armor estimated
at upwards of 20 divisions (300,000
men).
Axis Yield at Stalingrad
The Soviet noon communique re-
ported that the enemy had been
forced "to reel backward south-
westward" in the Stalingrad area.
The inner ring surrounding the
Germans extended from a point on
the Voronezh-Stalingrad railroad

Gas Stations Have Boom As
Car Tanks Get Last Refill

Bus drivers were seeing a lot of new faces early Tuesday as men
and women who haven't ridden on buses in years left their autos at
home on the first day of gasoline rationing here.
Some buses which ordinarily do not become crowded before
nearing the downtown sections had
standing room only shortly after
starting their runs from the out-
lying residential sections.
As one passenger said, getting
on a bus from the East Side of
town, "I'll have to move further
out of the city if I expect to get
a seat downtown in the mornings."
The sidewalks early Tuesday
seemed more crowded than usual,
also, probably because many res-
idents who would ordinarily be in
autos were now walking, or wait-
ing on corners for buses.

Biggest Business

Filling stations looked deserted.
In comparison with the way they
were jammed with autos until late
Monday, as carowners filled tanks
in preparations for the rationing.
Attendants said Tuesday they
had the biggest rush in their ex-
perience, many of them crowded
with autos waiting for gasoline
until they closed at midnight.
An idea of how heavy the busi-
ness was at some gasoline stations
can be obtained from the total re-
ported at Bob Partle's station, Lin-
coln and Weinbach Avenues, where
3800 gallons were sold by 8 p. m.
Monday. This usually is the amount
sold in five days. Other stations
reported similar experiences.
Many out of town shoppers were
doing their Christmas buying Mon-
day in the stores here, and doc-
tors' and dentists' offices were
busy with out-of-town patients
using their cars "to get here for
the last time."
B and C rationing books were
being distributed Tuesday at the
three rationing boards, which re-
ported a heavy rush Monday after-
noon and evening.

Sells One Cent's Worth

At the Shell Filling Station, 835
E. Columbus st., the smallest amount
(Turn to Page 2, Column 1)

ZONING PLAN IS
GIVEN COUNCIL

Ordinance Would Clarify
Regulations Here

An ordinance to clarify city
zoning regulations, and to estab-
lish zoning for two areas recently
annexed to the city, was given
first reading at a special City
Council meeting Monday.
Under existing restrictions op-
erators of commercial trucks are
prohibited from parking them in
residential districts. The pro-
posed ordinance would permit
owners of commercial trucks not
exceeding two-ton capacity to park
them in their private garages.
Another clause clarifies use of
signs in residential districts.
Under the proposed ordinance
doctors, artists, dentists and music
teachers may do business in their
homes, but in exclusively residen-
tial sections may exhibit only a
one-foot square sign, not illumi-
nated. In apartment residential
districts the signs may be two
feet square, but not illuminated.
The ordinance provides zoning
of Helfrich Heights on the West
Side. Property facing on Mt. Ver-
non Avenue is classified as "B"
residential, permitting apartment
houses.
In Crestwood, new addition west
of Stringtown Road and north of
Olmatstad Avenue, the ordinance
proposes to restrict residential
and apartment houses.
Council also gave final approval
to an ordinance to transfer funds
to depleted city accounts. These
include \$46,000 from the highway
fund for street improvement, and
\$1500 for machinery repair. Ori-
gins include \$1800 to the law de-
partment for indemnities, \$500 to
the department of buildings for
heat and lights, \$20 to the city en-
gineer for communications and
transportation, and \$50 to the
Fire Department for communica-
tions and transportation.
NEW PRIORITY PLAN
MEETING IS CALLED
INDIANAPOLIS, Dec. 1.—(AP)—
Hoosier manufacturers were in-
vited today to attend a "controlled

1942 West Kentucky No 10 Mine explosion
NEWS5

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