

14 ARE KILLED BY BIG BLAST IN W. VIRGINIA

22 Workers Are Hospitalized
By Catastrophe.

BUILDINGS ARE WRECKED

Pupils In School 500 Feet
Away Are Injured By Force
Of Explosion.

WELCH, W. Va., Jan. 15.
—(AP)—Thirteen men were killed and another died subsequently in a hospital, while more than 200 escaped today in the most unusual catastrophe recorded in a century of coal mining in West Virginia.

Twenty-two additional men working deep inside the Havaco No. 9 mine of the New River Pocahontas Consolidated Coal company were injured in an explosion which was so great that it wrecked buildings in the immediate area.

School children in a building 500 feet away were injured by flying glass. Five women and children in the company grocery store were taken to a Welch hospital for treatment of various injuries resulting from the terrific blast.

Thirteen of the 14 known victims apparently were killed outright, while Luther Tolley, 34, of Havaco, died several hours later in Grace hospital.

267 MEN AT WORK.

Five of the 22 injured men were discharged after treatment and returned to the mouth of the wrecked shaft.

Company officials reported that 267 men were at work when the deep rumble first warned the disaster-wise section that a blast had occurred.

The "miracle" aspect of the explosion was that with so many in the blast area, so few were killed or injured. In most catastrophes of this kind, seldom do more than a few of the trapped come out unscathed.

Within an hour after the blast, the first survivors walked out unassisted up an emergency stairway which somehow remained intact although the "head house" of the opening and the tibble were destroyed.

All through the day as the familiar disaster crowd of relatives, nurses, and others assembled around or within the roped-off area, workers continued to emerge from the wrecked workings.

Most of them walked upright unaided. Some appeared dazed and leaned heavily on their buddies. Others had to be half-carried or dragged.

Some of the more seriously injured were hoisted out by an improvised cable and bucket arrangement through an air shaft.

The identified dead, all of Havaco, were:

Luther Tolley, 34; Earl Belcher, 35, mine foreman; Albert Miller, 47, mine foreman; Luther Calent, William Cooper, Negro; Ernest Bell, Ira Alderson, Earl Carter, James Gibson, way boss; and Ed Ambern.

Four were not identified.

LIST OF INJURED.

The injured, all in Grace hospital, included:

Lester Mathes, 33; Welch; Oscar Chandler, 23, Havaco; Luther Hampton, 36, Roderfield; James Cragett, 23, Havaco; James Bell, 30, Roderfield; Jack Tolley, 26, Welch; Cass Frazier, 56, Havaco; James Williams, 23, Havaco.

Sol Goins, 49, Havaco; James Z. Bridgeman, Havaco; Pete Wimmer, 58, Hensley; George Day, 29, Welch; Charles Dixon, 41, Hensley, Jerry Hatmaker, 50, Roderfield; Oliver Mabry, 43, Welch; Clarence Hale, 24, Havaco, and Estel Murphy, no address available.

Whether any other dead will be found in the mine remains to be seen but E. L. Chatfield, inspector-at-large of the State Mines department, indicated they did not expect to find any more.

Rescue workers, with Chatfield in charge, entered the workings without the traditional gas masks, the inspector explaining that the air below was unusually good.

General Manager P. P. Kerr of the company declared it was a miracle that more were not killed.

Eastern area headquarters of the Red Cross at Washington reported it was shipping 200 units of blood plasma to Welch for use in treating victims.

The organization said that Welch physicians had requested the material.