

MINE BLAST KILLS EIGHT

Gases Prevent Removal of 4 Bodies

FROM LATE DISPATCHES

TERRE HAUTE, IND.—An explosion deep in the shaft of a small mine Wednesday killed eight miners. Deadly gases prevented the removal of four of the bodies last night by rescue teams.

Last hope that some of the trapped miners might be alive in remote passages of the Spring Hill mine were shattered when rescuers reported they had sighted all the bodies. Four were brought to the surface.

Two bodies were identified as those of Barney Riggs and Desire Lete, both 67.

Fresh air was pumped into the mine before rescue teams returned to bring the other bodies up the mine's lift.

One of three survivors, Adam Harmon, said he believed a dynamite charge ignited dust in the mine.

The rescue crews included men who helped recover bodies in the Centralia, Ill., mine disaster March 25. They groped through the rock-filled tunnel nearly eight hours before finding the bodies.

Gerald Kerns, mine owner, said that the government had approved reopening of the mine, closed for production since a federal order following Centralia disaster.

COAL MINE SEALED — The Terre Haute, Ind., coal mine where eight workers died in an explosion was sealed by federal inspectors. Darrell Kerns, mine manager, said the gas-filled shaft would be kept air-tight for 30 to 90 days while gasses slowly burn themselves out.

1947 Kerns Mine explosives disaster
NEWS

Clipped By:
usmra_rob
Nov 30, 2025