

Blast Entraps 8 Miners; Rescuers Locate 5 Bodies

TERRE HAUTE, Ind., May 1 (AP)—Five bodies were found Wednesday night in an explosion-racked shaft of the Spring Hill Coal mine, and rescue squads expected to find the three other trapped miners momentarily.

Dr. C. L. Lockett, mine physician, said none of the bodies showed any traces of burns, and mining authorities surmised the dynamite the men were using had exploded dust in the shaft.

Fumes Oversome Rescuer

One of the rescue workers Lucian Bussarre of Terre Haute, was overcome by fumes in the mine Wednesday night. He was brought back to the surface and was revived by artificial respiration.

Harry Kerns, co-owner of the small truck mine four miles south of here, told newsmen the government had approved re-opening of the mine, closed for production since a federal or-

der following the March 25 disaster in a mine at Centralia, Ill.

Kerns said the mine, however, had not reopened for production pending work to open a new coal vein.

Three men who escaped unhurt from the mine said the explosion happened late Wednesday during blasting work for a new air shaft at a depth of 80 feet, about 1000 to 2000 feet away from the main shaft.

Dust Hampers Search

Evan Evans, superintendent of the state mine rescue station in West Terre Haute, said search for the miners was handicapped by clouds of dust.

Evans said other delays have occurred because of lack of sufficient brattices and curtains for protection of the rescue route.

Hundreds of miners from near-by shafts and wives of the trapped men crowded around the tippie Wednesday night.

Kerns said the three who escaped from the 2000-foot depth of the mine immediately after the blast said they heard a blast and saw smoke rolling down the shaft.

Kerns said his mine regularly employs about 25 workers.

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