

EIGHT MINERS VICTIMS OF DEADLY EXPLOSION IN TERRE HAUTE MINE

BY DALE BURGESS

TERRE HAUTE, Ind., May 1—(AP)—Eight of 11 men working in the Spring Hill coal mine near here were killed by an explosion yesterday.

The bodies, all brought to the surface during the night, were identified as Calvin Wilson, about 70, pit foreman, Steve Summers, about 55, Mort Gates, about 55, John Brown, 55, Fer Earhart, about 50, Barney Riggs, 67, Desire Lete, 58, and Chauncey Blackburn, about 50.

Dr. C. L. Puckett, mine physician, said none of the bodies showed any signs of burns but that Earhart's head was crushed.

Rescue squads said the bodies, found 15 feet apart, indicated the men were walking toward the shaft when the explosion occurred.

Work of bringing the bodies out of the mine had been delayed, rescuers said, by a smoke pocket which spread over the blast area. They said it was necessary to carry each body through circuitous, low, narrow passages more than a half mile to the mine shaft.

Three Escape Unhurt

Three men who escaped unhurt from the shaft said they were knocked to the mine floor by a dynamite blast which the miners 1,000 feet back in the tunnel were setting off just 12 minutes before quitting time.

Crowds awaited the appearance of bodies at the tippie in the warm moonlit night. The soft crying of women broke the quiet as each body was brought to the surface.

A rescue worker, Lucien Bussarre of Terre Haute, was brought to the surface himself, overcome by fumes in the dust-clouded mine. He was revived by artificial respiration.

The three who escaped promptly went back underground to try to rescue their eight co-workers. They were Adam Harmon and Everett Marshall, both of West Terre Haute, and Frank Pangrazio of Clinton.

Hoel Lenne, top man, said he saw clouds of dust roll out of the mine as he waited for the men to come up in the cage from the 85-foot shaft.

Lt.-Cmdr. C. E. Poe, federal administrator of mines for Indiana, said the mine has not been operating for production since the closing order issued by the government following the March 25 disaster in a Centralia, Ill., mine.

Under Special Agreement

The navy administrator said a "limited number" of men had been working in the mine under special agreement between the federal mine inspector and District 11, United Mine Workers (A.F.L.), to permit completion of a new shaft and for "general cleanup work" preliminary to a federal inspection.

Kerns told reporters the government had approved reopening of the mine, but he said production was being delayed until the new vein was ready. He said about 20 of a normal complement of 58 have been at work.

TRYING TO HEAD OFF SOLUTION

WASHINGTON, May 1—(AP)—Telephone strike leaders called on pickets to hold their lines today as United States government conciliators predicted an "important development" at negotiations going on in the capital.

The National Federation of Telephone Workers, directing the 25-day-old walkout, sent officials to New York in an effort to head off a back-to-work movement and persuade members of four independent unions not to accept a tentative settlement.

Peter J. Manno, a government conciliator, said a break might come at a conference here this afternoon between officials of the American Telephone and Telegraph long lines division and the American Union of Telephone Workers.

Strike settlements between the New York Telephone Company and four independent unions, and the Bell Telephone Company of Pennsylvania and another independent union, were announced early yesterday.

But by nightfall the New York settlement was in doubt. The Traffic Employees Association, with 18,000 of the 37,000 members affected, voted to observe picket lines and postpone returning to work for a few days. No decisions were announced immediately by the three other unions. These New York and Pennsylvania unions are not affiliated with the N.F.T.W.

BRITISH MISSION TO BE WITHDRAWN

LONDON, May 1—(Reuters)—The British military mission in Egypt will be completely withdrawn by Dec. 31 in view of Egypt's decision to dispense with its services, it was learned on good authority today. News that Egypt no longer wanted the mission was given in the House of Commons by Foreign Secretary Bevin.

WIDE NEW AVENUE