

EXPLOSION BLASTS 9 MINERS TO DEATH

**Nine Other Hard Coal Men
Burned, or Overcome by
Gas, Rescued Alive**

EXETER, PA., April 10—(AP)—The nation's second coal mine explosion in little more than two weeks killed nine anthracite diggers, and injured nine others as they worked 350 feet underground today.

The blast — attributed to gas — brought no immediate comment from John L. Lewis, United Mine Workers chief, who closed the country's bituminous workings in mourning after 111 died in the March 25 tragedy at Centralia, Ill. However, an immediate report was asked in the Pennsylvania legislature.

The government operated the Centralia mine as it does some 2,500 other bituminous workings, but has no hand in anthracite setup centered chiefly in Eastern Pennsylvania.

The explosion, so terrific that it splintered supporting timbers and crumpled mine chamber walls, came soon after the day work crew reported at the Schooley shaft of Knox Coal company.

Dust and smoke rose from the pithead, as rescue forces rushed into the operation near Wilkes-Barre. Two bodies were removed immediately. Injured were speeded to nearby Pittston hospital where doctors said some had been burned, others overcome by fumes.

Within several hours, while anxious-eyed relatives and tense fellow miners stood by, the other bodies were recovered from mounds of debris.

1947 Nine miners burned or overcome by gas rescued from Schooley mine

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Sun, May 30, 2021