

## Miner Rescued But Dies Later

**Trapped 14 Hours in  
Mine by Tons of Rock**

WINDBER, Pa. —UP— A coal miner rescued from beneath 25 tons of rock where he lay trapped for 14 hours died today eight hours after fellow workers brought him to the surface.

William Wallace, 27, lay beneath the crushing weight with only his head exposed as a rescue team labored to remove piece by piece the rocks which trapped him in a narrow entry of the Cairnbrook, Pa., mine of the Loyalhanna Coal Co.

As other miners worked to release him, Wallace pleaded desperately for his friends to "get this weight off me." He was taken to Windber hospital shortly after midnight, and doctors said he suffered extreme shock and other undetermined injuries.

### Brother-In-Law Escapes.

Wallace and his brother-in-law, Walter Gromack, were loading their second coal car of the day at 9 a. m. yesterday when the roof collapsed. Gromack had stepped away from the working place to adjust his lamp and wasn't hit.

Wallace apparently had the presence of mind to dive beneath the car but the weight of the fall crushed the car and pinned him beneath the frame, with only his head in the open.

The fall dammed mine seepage and the first job of a rescue team, summoned by Gromack, was to drill holes to drain water before it reached the level where Wallace was trapped.

Wallace lapsed into unconsciousness time and again as the 12 men that made up the rescue team took turns removing rocks from the narrow entry. They had to be careful they didn't "aggravate" the fall. The careless removal of one rock could have collapsed more of the roof.

Dr. E. Z. Eperjessy stayed near Wallace throughout the operations and administered morphine to deaden the pain of the crushing weight. In all, he gave four shots of the drug.

## 1949 Miner rescued after 14 hours dies later

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