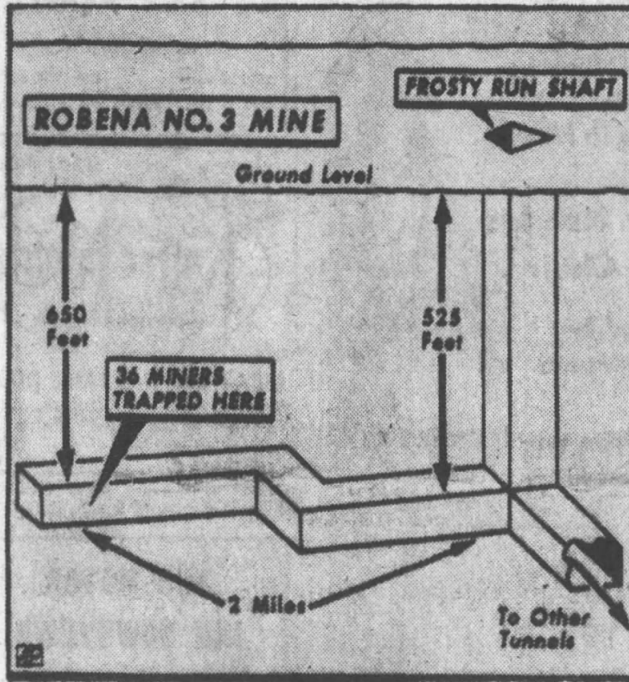


Hope Still Persists Blast Victims Alive

37 in Mine Almost Day, Rescue Efforts Bogging



MINE DISASTER—

—Associated Press Wirephoto
This diagram shows where 37 miners were trapped deep underground in the Robena No. 3 mine of U.S. Steel Corp., at Carmichaels, Pa. Rescue crews crept within less than 4000 feet of the trapped men today. There has been no contact with the men since they were trapped by a gigantic mine blast yesterday afternoon.

A Day of Infamy ..

By ROBERT MYERS

PEARL HARBOR, Hawaii (AP)—The "Day of Infamy" was marked quietly and without ceremony today while the Navy at Pearl Harbor turned its attention to sports.

completed. A Navy official said larger-than-usual crowds were expected to make the trip. Otherwise activity in the busy harbor was normal.

Veterans groups, other patriotic organizations and individuals planned to take flowers to honor

By BEN DeFOREST

CARMICHAELS, Pa. (AP)—Rescue workers dug to within some 4,000 feet today of 37 men trapped deep underground by a tremendous coal mine explosion.

U.S. Steel Corp., which operates the Robena No. 3 mine, said a recheck of its records showed a 37th man missing. A total of 36 men were believed trapped at first.

The men have not been heard from since the explosion at 1:15 p.m. Thursday.

Rescue crews had gone slightly more than half-way into the two-mile tunnel from the mine shaft after more than 22 hours of digging.

Lewis Evans, Pennsylvania secretary of mines, described the situation as "desperate," but held out hope the miners may be alive. "We hope the men built barricades to stop the flow of gas," he said.

Forty-four others working in another section of the pit walked out unhurt. Some returned to search for their colleagues who are 650 feet underground.

Slowed by deadly gas and tons of rubble that left shorings hanging like burnt matches, the rescue crews proceeded cautiously in the tunnel—its concrete walls buckled by the blast.

"Those men are looking into the barrel of a shotgun," said one union official. "With those fires smoldering down there, it could cause another explosion."

But the search goes on. So do the hopes and prayers of wives, brothers, sisters and relatives keeping a vigil in a corrugated metal building adjacent to the mine shaft. Ministers tried to comfort the grieving families.

The blast was the second in the

16-year-history of the Robena mine.

Evans, who is directing the operations, blamed it on a combination of gas and coal dust. He described the blast as one of tremendous nature.

The mine, one of the world's largest soft coal operations, is about 50 miles southwest of Pittsburgh. It produces coal for U.S. Steel's Clairton (Pa.) Works.

The mine shaft drops straight down 525 feet from the surface. At that point there is a sloping tunnel without branches extending

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Red Surprise Is Retracted

Claim Inspection Offer a Mistake

GENEVA (AP) — The Soviet Union today publicly offered and then backed off from—a proposal to allow international inspectors to check on robot seismographs placed inside Russia for policing a nuclear test ban.

The Soviet maneuver over the unmanned detectors — known as black boxes—came at the conclusion of the morning session of the 17-nation disarmament confer-

Mine

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two miles to the working face. The tunnel drops gradually from 525 feet to 650 feet. That's the point where the men are trapped. There is only one exit to the surface.

Mine officials said air coming up from the mine shaft contains large amounts of carbon dioxide, indicating there is fire in the blast area.

The first indication of anything wrong was the reported failure of an electric exhaust fan. It blew out, but was repaired in 10 minutes. Five minutes later it conked out again.

James Girod, an assistant mine superintendent, said the first crews down the shaft detected dust coming from all directions, indicating an explosion or fire.

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The major problem for the rescue teams was to pump bad air out and clean air in. Concrete ventilation shafts had buckled under the blast.

Inside a corrugated steel shack above the surface some three dozen relatives of trapped miners waited in bitter wintry weather for news.

Snow and ice created snarled traffic on roads leading to the mine. Some cars skidded into ditches; others stalled.

The mine was opened in 1946 and has produced as much as 20,000 tons of coal a day—enough to heat more than 2,000 homes for a winter.

The explosion happened on the 55th anniversary of the worst U.S. mine accident on record. On Dec. 6, 1907, a disaster in a mine at Monongah, W. Va., killed 361 persons.