

40 RESCUED IN MINE FIRE UNDER CITY

Volunteers Fight Burning
Coal 350 Feet Under
Center of Pottsville.

TRAPPED MEN BLOWN
TO SAFETY BY BLAST

Four Rescue Workers
Burned; Three Explorations
Rock Shaft.

POTTSVILLE, Aug. 13.—(T. N. S.)—With the Primrose vein of the Sherman Coal Company's mine turned into a glowing volcanic bar, 15 feet thick and 350 feet under the center of the city, local fire companies and volunteer fire fighters, directed by state mine inspectors, today kept a steady stream of water pouring into the mine hoping to quench the fire that followed in the wake of a triple explosion last night.

Four men were burned severely on the face and body when they entered the mine to rescue forty comrades who were trapped by smoke and after-damp in the Primrose vein. The injured are Harry Hilbert, foreman; W. C. Shott, engineer and Guy Irvin and Leo Berski, rescue worker.

Trapped for 90 Minutes
The forty trapped miners were rescued after an hour and a half of absolute horror and hopelessness. With characteristic stoicism, they had practically resigned themselves to their fate.

The Primrose vein is on the heart of three levels in the Sherman roller which is in the heart of the city. At 7:40 o'clock last night, when a large face of the vein had been cleared, a "shot" of dynamite was fired. A dull rumble immediately followed the blast and suddenly a cold sheet of flame shot along the gallery, setting fire to the vein, much in the manner of a lightning bolt.

All miners between the burning vein and the mine entrance rushed for safety. The escape of those beyond the fire, however, was cut off and a rescue crew was hastily organized.

Trapped by Second Blast
Grooping their way down into the smoke-filled mine, the rescue crew had penetrated only about 20 feet into the drift when a second explosion forced the gallery sending another sheet of flame roaring through the corridor.

This time saved the rescuers like a breath of hot air, as one of them explained they back to the surface and the four injured were rushed to a hospital.

Meanwhile efforts went forward to bring out the forty entombed men. Some of the latter escaped, choking and gasping, by creeping through a chute.

Save Shows To Safety
At this time, the third blast occurred literally blowing the imprisoned men through the chute to safety.

The men who had been creeping through the chute got only the force of the air current caused by this third explosion and escaped the flames that followed it.

All of the men who were in the mine made their way safely to the open, officials said, and, following a night of treatment, were believed to be as well as ever today.

Miners and mine officials alike agreed that the escape of the entire body of miners from the flames and gaseous fumes was miraculous.

40 miners rescued at Pottsville

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