

18 TRAPPED STATE MINERS RESCUED

Entombed In Harlan Pit For 20 Hours.

Harlan, Ky., (AP)—Eighteen men, trapped for nearly twenty hours in a fire-swept coal mine pit, returned to the surface late Saturday with rescue crews who had battled fumes and heavy smoke to release them.

One by one, the men left the mine, owned by Ridgeway Darby Coal company sixteen miles from here, to meet families and relatives who eagerly had awaited their rescue.

Only one man, C. C. Wills, Clover Fork, Ky., a veteran miner and former mine foreman, had to be carried from the shaft. Wills had been overcome by fumes but his condition was not listed as serious.

The first of the rescued group to leave the mine was Bill Hopper, closely followed by his brother, Herbert Hopper, a discharged serviceman who had been wounded in the battle on Guadalcanal.

The men, weary after their entombment, credited Wills and Clyde Gray, another of the trapped men, with bratticing off a section of the pit in which they lived until rescued.

Joe Anderson, a one-armed machine operator, said "we couldn't have stood it much longer." The gas and smoke, he said, were beginning to filter through the brattice when the rescue squad reached the men, trapped two miles inside the mine.

Mine officials and state inspectors began an inquiry into the cause of the fire.