

SIX RESCUED

From Flooded Mine

By Red Cross Official Using
Individual Surf Boards To
Bring Out Each Man.

Bridgeville, Pa., July 29—(INS)—
John Komp, a Red Cross official,
was the toast of Bridgeville tonight
after his ingenuity and courage led
to the rescue of six miners who had
been trapped for nearly 48 hours
in the flooded Federal colliery.

The marooned miners had de-
scended into the soft coal pit oper-
ated by the Ollett Coal Company
Tuesday midnight and were forced
to take refuge on a slight incline in
the shaft soon after when water
from the Toms River flooded the
working.

Without food save that in their
lunch-pails, the miners dared not
make a swim for it to the mine en-
trance, 500 feet distance, because
certain of the trapped men were un-
able to swim.

The dramatic rescue was ac-
complished by use of individual
make-shift surf boards, sent into
the mine by Komp, head of the Red
Cross water safety service for the
Pittsburgh area.

Komp went in and after securing
each man to a surfboard, one by
one he led them to safety, holding
each by the wrist.

As each rescued man came into
sight, hundreds of friends and rela-
tives gathered at the mine pit en-
trance sent up cheers of relief.
None was seriously affected by his
experience but all were rushed to
Woodville State Hospital for first-
aid treatment and rest.

Komp and E. E. Quenon, pre-
viously swam into the mine to en-
courage the trapped men with
promises of rescue as soon as a few
inches of water could be pumped
out of the pit. They also carried
food to the marooned miners.

The rescued men were: Henry
Rheinstadler, fire boss and leader of
the tiny group; Caesar Rua, Frank
Albertini, Peter Carroll, John Bon-
assi and Albert Long, all of Avella,
Pennsylvania.

The Cincinnati Enquirer
July 30, 1943

6 TRAPPED MEN FOUND SAFE

**But Miners and Mule
Won't Come Out Till
Water Recedes.**

BRIDGEVILLE, Pa., July 29.—(AP) —Six miners trapped in the Ollett Coal Company mine by a flash flood were found safe and well today after 43 hours underground.

After hearing their shouts, E. E. Quenon, U. S. Bureau of Mines engineer, swam 500 feet to reach the men, and found them sitting calmly on an upward slope above water level. Safe with them was a veteran mine mule, "Queenie."

"Because there is only six inches of clearance between the water and the mine roof, the men won't come out yet," Quenon said.

"One man said he didn't want to get wet. Another said-jokingly 'we'll get time and a half for over-time'."

All night long pumping crews worked doggedly to lower the water level enough to permit a rescue raft to enter the pit mouth. Quenon reached the men, however, before the water was low enough to send in a raft.

One of the group which waited through the night was 13-year-old George Reinstadtler, son of Henry Reinstadtler, a mine boss who was one of the six marooned.

F. P. Ollett, president of the Ollett Brothers Coal Co., operator of the mine, identified the others as Frank Albertina, Cesare Rua, Peter Carroll, John Bonassi and Albert Long. All live near the mine, which is 12 miles from Pittsburgh.

Lancaster New Era
July 29, 1943