

Rescue Work At Mine Ends

PINEVILLE, Ky., Dec. 31—
[UP]—Rescue work was abandoned in the flaming, gas-choked Kentucky Straight Creek coal mine today and it will be sealed on Wednesday.

The decision was taken by State Mine Inspector Harry R. Thomas. He had concluded: Fire and gas inside the mine were too great a hazard for volunteer rescue workers; the 16 men entombed, whose fate was not definitely known, must certainly be dead.

Thus the death toll was established at 24, to give Kentucky Straight Creek rank among the worst mine disasters. Thirty-one miners were at work when an explosion roared forth in the two-mile long tunnel at 8:30 a.m. last Wednesday. Nine were rescued Friday, of whom two have since died. Four bodies were removed from the mine yesterday. Two bodies were seen half buried in debris and were left as they were.