

**Bureau of Mines Bulletin 586:
Historical Summary of Mine
Disasters in the United States
Volume - 1 - Coal Mines
1810-1958**

**March 4, 1881; Almy Mine, Almy, Wyo.;
38 Killed**

(From the Cheyenne Weekly Leader, Mar. 10, 1881)

A terrific explosion occurred last night between 9 and 10 o'clock in the Central Pacific mine, killing 35 Chinamen and 3 white men. The mine was opened in 1869 and is nearly worked out. It is mine No. 3, Nos. 1 and 2 having been worked out. About 200 men worked in the mine by day and as many as 75 at night. Nearly the whole force was Chinamen. A fire had been raging in the mine for 5 years, but it had been hemmed in by stone walls. The supposition is that gas accumulated and in some way communicated with the fire. The explosion burned the surface works, and the mine slope was set on fire. Fifteen men were rescued alive from the fourth level, and 1 was badly injured from the north air course.

Bismarck Tribune
Bismarck, Dakota
March 6, 1881

A terrible explosion occurred in the Central Pacific coal mine at Almy in Wyoming Territory, killing thirty five Chinamen and three white men. There has been a fire raging in the mine for five years, but it had been walled in by a stone wall. The supposition is that gas had accumulated and in some way communicated with the fire, thus causing an explosion.

Defiance Democrat
Defiance, Ohio
Thursday, March 10, 1881

An explosion of gas in the Central Pacific coal mine at Almy, Wyoming, on Thursday evening, killing 35 Chinamen and three whites. Fire has raged in the mine for five years but it has been isolated by stone walls.

Butte Daily Miner
Tuesday, March 8, 1881

The bodies of all the white men and all but three of the Chinamen who were in the Almy mine, Wyoming at the time of the explosion, have been recovered.

The Evening Gazette
Port Jervis, N. Y.
Saturday, March 5, 1881

A HORROR IN WYOMING.

***TERRIFIC COAL MINE EXPLOSION.
AND GREAT LOSS OF LIFE***

TWO WHITE MEN AND THIRTY-FIVE CHINAMEN KILLED—THE MINE ALL ON FIRE. FRUITLESS EFFORTS TO RECOVER THE BODIES OF THE DEAD—NUMBER OF MEN INJURED.

SALT LAKE CITY, Utah, March 4 —A special from Evanston, Wy., to the *Tribune* says: "The gas in the Rocky Mountain Coal and Iron company's mine No. Two, at Almy station, on the Union Pacific road, exploded at 3.45 last evening, throwing the flames many hundred feet high out of the main slope, carrying away the buildings around the mouth of the shaft, and setting the machinery buildings on fire. About 15 minutes before the explosion from 10 to 30 white men and 50 Chinamen went down to work for the night. At two a.m. 17 Chinamen more or less seriously injured, had been rescued, many with limbs broken and badly scalded. About 20 dead Chinamen have been discovered, but have not yet been brought up. No white man has yet been found, and there are no hopes that any are alive. The jar of the explosion was plainly felt at Evanston."

A dispatch from Cheyenne says the night shift consisted of 50 Chinamen and five whites. Two of the whites were brought out in a crippled condition, and 15 Chinamen were rescued through the ventilating shaft, all of whom were more or less injured. It is believed that 35 Chinamen and two white men, are now in the mine which is on fire. The mine is owned by the Central Pacific railway, and was being worked at its full capacity. The accident will cause a suspension of work for a year.