



# Newspaper Accounts

**Short Creek**

July 3, 1909

# 17 Men Die By Explosion In Coal Mine

Cause of Alabama Disaster Is  
Thought to Have Been  
Windy Shot.

BODIES ARE RECOVERED.

BY ASSOCIATED PRESS.

BIRMINGHAM, Ala., Feb. 2.—Seventeen men are dead as the result of an explosion in the No. 2 Short Creek mines of the Birmingham Coal and Iron Company to-day. Five of the dead are white and 12 are negroes.

The explosion occurred just before noon and is thought to have been caused by a windy shot.

The mines are about 10 miles west of Ensley, on the Birmingham Southern railway, and are difficult of access. Seventeen bodies were taken from the mines this morning, and the rooms and passages are clear. The mine itself is practically uninjured.

Alex Bonnyman, manager of the company, was the first to leave Birmingham for the scene of the disaster, although Mine Inspectors Hillhouse and Flynn hurried to the scene to render what aid they could and to make an inspection. Officials of the company did not know the exact number of men in the mine at the time of the accident.

Ambulances were sent from Ensley and late to-night coffins were rushed to the ill-fated mine, which was running on short force.