

PRESS MINE RESCUE ATTEMPT

Axis Check
in
BasinAxis Grind
Forward West
to Kharkov Area

March 1—(P)—A late German effort to stop further disasters in the Donets apparently has the forces of General Vatutin in the Donets but the Russians, returning Monday the red army continuing to grind west of Kharkov to the junction of Poltava and the Dnieper river.

German high command, in a communiqué broadcast by the radio of Berlin, said and recorded by the Office of War Information, Monday, the forces had been attacking the Donets river from the north to the south across the Donets river to Krasnodon. Russian units are 70 miles from Poltava.

The Germans were

able to capture

the Donets

MINE TOLL MOUNTS STEADILY

eds Smash
seasoned
Jazi ArmyTimoshenko Leads
Sudden Thrust
On Broad SectorMarch 2—(P)—
ing to the forefront of
army's operations
and the Germans, Marshal
Timoshenko has driven
their positions on a
wind-swept sector of
the northwestern front in a
thrust that nazi armor
heavy mortar fire were
able to hit, and has
the seasoned
Sixteenth army, the Rus-
sians and their
army's main communists did
the fighting in the
sector of the Valdai hills, but
the dispatches indicated that
the Germans had not
been able to concentrate their
troops enough to
capture the 302
squares miles
and re-taking 302
in a sparsely-settled
commune. Mondayfirst told of the success of
an all-day offensive in which
the Germans reported killed
captured.

The first official mention

of the German offensive

was here as an indication

that nazi had

premier's military

sector of Germany's Six-
teenth army has not been revealed,

but the government news-

agents that "numerous Ger-

mans were defeated, even

of the German Sixteenth army

has kept the area well-

and with some fighters

and a year's rest from

the Russians last win-

dow in the region of Staraya

which they approached with

the German Sixteenth army

was west of the Valdai

which means that the Ger-

man offensive bar-

to operate.

The towns captured by

the Germans, which

are Demiansk, which

was captured in a strug-

gle with the Germans

and the German evacuation of

Demiansk.

The German Sixteenth army

has been retreating in the

region of Staraya, Russia

and the German high command

had been broadcast by the Ger-

man radio acknowledged Tuesday

the German evacuation of

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The German Sixteenth army

and

Guarded by United States soldiers with fixed bayonets, a long line of Germans marched to the rear following an allied raid on axis positions in Sened, Tunisia.

Smith Tunnel Gives Up 20 Of 74 Miners

Bearcreek, March 3.—(AP)—Working cautiously to avoid deadly carbon monoxide fumes, rescue crews Wednesday continued their grim search in the explosion-blasted depths of the Smith coal mine which has given up the bodies of 20 of the 74 miners entombed there since Saturday morning.

Oxygen-equipped experts probed laboriously through a labyrinth of tunnels in the sloping workings toward the shafts where the blast caused Montana's worst coal mine disaster, 500 feet below the surface and almost a mile and a half from the pit entrance.

Hope that any of the coal miners escaped death ebbed as the known death toll increased.

A 58-man crew which found the twentieth body deep in the mine early Wednesday morning, after "sweeping" carbon monoxide from the shafts with canvas, reported they detected no signs of life underground.

The explosion has been unofficially attributed to methane gas, and Assistant Mine Manager William A. Romek believes the victims died from carbon monoxide fumes—"white gas"—instead of from the blast's concussion.

Search for the others was suspended temporarily Tuesday night while federal bureau of mines officials inspected the emergency ventilation and circulation system which was installed by experts from the Butte metal mines to blow the gas out of the mine, a property of the Montana Coal & Iron Co.

Only two of the bodies have been removed from the pit. The others have not yet been identified.

The rescue crew on duty from midnight to 6 a. m. completed exploratory work in a gassy tunnel section but reported it found no additional bodies. The crew working from 6 a. m. to noon arranged to enter a different section of the mine and expected to locate several bodies there.

The bodies are being wrapped in canvas and lashed to boards by the rescue workers and will be brought out by the mine's electric train later.

Coroner Tom Olcott said an inquest would be held after the bodies have been recovered from the depths.

Identities of those found since Saturday were not announced. It was explained that most of the

(Continued on Page 3, Column 4.)

Drive Efforts Intensified

Red Cross Fund Totals \$7,153

Spurred by the slogan, "I'm giving double this year," Red Cross war fund workers intensified contact efforts, reporting a total Wednesday noon of \$7,153.80, S. Garfield Tonkin, campaign chairman, said.

Contributions Tuesday amounted to \$6,612.15, he reported.

Teams have been assigned to districts of the city and county in the most comprehensive canvass ever made, Tonkin said, pointing out wartime demands upon the Red Cross make the success of the drive imperative.

"It is impossible to reach everyone, he pointed out, adding those not contacted may send voluntary contributions.

Charles J. Carroll, assistant fund head, and chairman of the men's division in the city, asked team workers to complete assignments. Returns will be taken by R. M. Waters, treasurer, at the Commercial club.

Solicitations are being made throughout the county, Tonkin said, in an effort to give every family the opportunity to contribute to the Red Cross service to men of the armed forces. Reports will be available within a few days, he said.

Department Store Wagers Against Clothes Rationing

New York, March 3.—(AP)—A New York department store wagered \$5,000 Wednesday that clothes would not be rationed this year.

"Our best information from Washington as well as our own sources of information brings us definitely to this conclusion," read an adver-

the air ministry announced Saturday.

Doomed Men Chalked

Dying Notes

Three Miners' Messages Tell Grim Story

Bearcreek, March 6.—(U.P.)—Dying messages, chalked on rough boards by three of the 74 miners gassed or blasted to death in the Smith coal mine disaster here last Saturday, told a terse, grim story of waiting for the end they knew was approaching.

Bodies of all but two of the men have been located by tired, grimy miners who have now searched the entire mine. A new crew went down the two-mile shaft Saturday morning to retrace its steps in an effort to locate the other pair.

The vain rescue attempt, which has been going on continuously for seven days and nights, began shortly after a violent and as yet unexplained blast rocked the 50-year-old workings of the Montana Coal & Iron Co., at 9:30 a. m. last Saturday.

The messages were found in the last of many tunnels and passageways to be searched, along with seven bodies. The men had huddled together, but apparently made no attempt to blockade themselves away from the deadly gas fumes which spread quickly through the mine in the wake of the explosion.

"It was an easy death," Johnny Sudar, 28, one of the three, assured his wife and little girl.

This note bore the time "11:05." Mine officials believed this indicated the men lived only a little more than an hour after the explosion.

The other notes were written by Emil Anderson and Marcel Fages, both 40. Anderson simply told his children to "be good to your mother." Mine officials did not give out the text of Fages' note, but said it was similar.

Forty-nine bodies have been removed from the mine and 23 more were to be brought out later Saturday. They were taken to a Red Lodge funeral home pending arrangements for a mass funeral.

Mine officials believed the two men not yet found were members of a supply car crew. They said none of the would-be rescuers have reported finding the car, and it may be in some little-used channel which was overlooked in the haste with which the crews pushed through the mine.

It was believed that the worst coal accident in Montana history left a total of 58 widows and 124 orphans. Red Cross and state relief agencies have already arranged to come to their aid.

name Friday, seven miles to the west at Tamera, it was Saturday, but American elements had moved at the center and Pichon in which was regarded as the most important

The British with hard-contested Sedjeane Germans a total 200 along the Bizerte-N coastal road in sevening. Sedjeane pre-changed hands twice

The allied communists touch upon the First in that sector, saying northern Tunisia "was on a reduced scale

Pichon, which allied forces entered Friday west of the nazi base

The Americans rolled about 4:30 p. m. Friday almost all the territory the original axis drivers and to convert the top ridges of the second dorsal into a vast no

Allied forces had won the town when the was threatened by Rommel's thrust through Kasserine gap in north

Now concentrated line secor, Rommel's reported engaged in activity as he and General L. Montgomery positions.

The British shorter north, giving up a wide section of country here said was of no importance in the north Sedjenane.

As long as the blocked from Beja, 200 miles south which is the key to the Medjez-el-Bab, reverse means little equipment losses in equipment,

In the south, general Henri Giraud's eastward along the river Djerid salt marsh to 45 miles southwest of little opposition.

Thirty axis tanks to have been destroyed General Jurgen von Arnim's attacks in the north

Bad weather restricted activity Friday, the weather reported.

Mexican Mot

Children Bur

In One-Room

Gering, Neb., March 6.—A Mexican mother and her two children were burned to death Saturday. Their escape door blocked by flames, they died at the rear of the house.

Their charred bodies were beyond recognition, were a tragic heap. Jesus G.

husband, and the young

Jennie, 6 months, were

survivors. They are

severely burned but they may live.