

# Dense Gas Keeps Rescuers From Entering Tunnel

Hundreds of Relatives Gather Near Entrance; Crews Are Flown To Billings From Butte to Aid

Bearcreek, Feb. 27.—Seventy-five miners in the Smith mine of the Montana Coal and Iron company at Washoe were trapped about 10 o'clock Saturday morning and no contact

Smoke pouring from the mine entrance was the first indication of trouble. Gas was so dense that rescuers were unable to enter the mine up to early afternoon.

which has been rather inactive. One was dead and the other three in critical condition, Romek said. Another was known dead in a different part of the mine.

At Helena, Chairman J. Burke Clements of the state industrial accident board said he understood there had been an explosion.

## Seek to Grow Food for

# State Hospital

Bill Asks \$5,000  
For Leasing

## Of Needed Land

Helena, Feb. 27.—(AP)—The Montana house of representatives was asked Saturday to

The measure was introduced by Majority Leader Pulaski and passed by a vote of 10-4. The measure would appropriate \$5,000 for the leasing of farm land for production of food to be used by the state mental hospital at Warm Springs. The mine manager estimated the trapped men were approximately 500 feet below the surface. He identified one man dead as Ignace Marinchek, about 60, Marinchek, with three other men, in

Majority Leader Dillavou, Republican, Yellowstone, and Representative Oliver, Republican, Carter, under suspended rules.

It stated an "emergency" exists in that the institution does not

ave or control any good farm lands from which food crops may be produced. The state board of examiners would be authorized to lease the needed land.

Representative Dillavou said the institution has an opportunity to

ase, with an option to later buy, 50 acres of "good, irrigated farm and near the hospital."

He did not estimate the annual cost of the leased land.

The house also suspended the rule on transmission of bills and

# Income Tax Returns Drag

## Collector Urges Speed in Filing

The senate approved this bill Friday.

By a vote of 59 to 20, the house succeeded to senate amendments to bill authorizing, if approved by voters, the levying of a 5-cent-per-head county tax on

as compared to last year, Lewis Penwell, collector of internal revenue for Montana with headquarters at Helena, said Saturday. Penwell, in Billings for conferences with deputies, attributed the reason to the "pay-as-you-go" legislation pending.

Continued on Page 2, Column 6.)

# Federal Judge

... 231

Deputies will not be able to care adequately for a last-minute rush, he pointed out, adding taxpayers will save themselves long periods of

Ruling such powers unconstitutional, Slick dismissed a suit in which a tenant sought to recover

requiring him to pay rent in excess of the OPA ceiling as fixed April 1.

At Chicago, regional OPA Attorney Alex Elson said Slick's case conflicted with at least six

employed as deputies and office workers now, he reported, and more will be put on.

**Nazis Order Labor Mobilization**

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**Timoshenko Leads Sudden Thrust Back Sector**

**ANDY WAGON**

**Germans Lose 24 Tanks, 600 Troops in North**

**Official Says Bodies Found Aren't Mutilated**

**Kill Midnight  
Box Closing**

foreign relations committee to approve legislation extending the "drive laws" another year.

Meanwhile the house rules committee, by a unanimous vote Tuesday, He

London, March 2.—(U.P.)—British bombers made their heaviest raid of the war on Berlin Monday night, smashing

chrome mines and do not recognize the men they find. The bodies were left underground.

properly. It was impeded rescue

<p>to be worth the Vaidai to mean that the Gest to have this defense bar which to operate which to operate by which to operate by</p>	<p><b>Skip Clause</b> T L D</p>	<p>in a year to give those year, thousands of clau have been increased 2 1941. Everyone should donations comparable to</p>	<p>struck heavy blows at axis air ground strength Flying Fortress which are cut ting deeper almost every day tow ard the heart of the Italian war effort</p>	<p>37 times previously, never before such a great weight of demoli tion and fire bombs been dumped there "hunderbolt" assault wa re</p>	<p>Searchers said they expected to continue finding bodies in small groups. Entry crews in the mine were composed generally of seven men.</p>
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The standing vote was 36 to 34. The bill, requested by army authorities, was speeded through the senate last week but had been under consideration by the house committee for nearly a month. It would directly upon the men and women of the community. The American Red Cross funded to have its troops are stationed—it is the people, he said.

(Continued on Page 14, Column 4)

These men were in the main at the home of the survivors. The city block, and two-ton block busters were among the bombs rained on Berlin, the air ministry said. All participating planes were four-engined bombers, it added.

**Frank Maurich, 42; Jack Maurich, 36; Emil Anderson, 40; William De Bourg, 55; Leland Cline, 26; Jules**

**CD Director Plans Effort**

**DRINKING**—The bill Tuesday morning, with Representative Graybill, demonstrated that the committee proposed a change in the law to require that a person who has been convicted of a crime involving alcohol must not leave at midnight.

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It would amend the 1934  
banking act by specifically  
robbery and extortion in  
commerce. The new defi-

It is not necessary as military au-  
thorities could declare any place out  
of bounds and keep servicemen from  
going there, that there was no gen-  
eral demand for the bill but only

tax of 20 per cent—3 per cent on  
wages and salaries above \$100 a  
month of \$624 like the victory tax  
plus 17 per cent on wages and sal-  
aries above regular income tax ex-

of plastic material." shift hours.

(Continued on Page 14, Column 4)

and laid mines in enemy waters  
while fighters carried out intruder  
patrols over France, the air min-  
istry said.

The announcement that 19 bomb-  
ardiers estimated that these men

the number of active volunteers  
dropped to 25 per cent of the pres-  
ent total enrollment of more than  
5,000,000.

**Knox Questions Whether Bombing Sub**

London, March 2.—(U.P.)—The crew of the S. S. Champlain, a French liner, American-destroyed-is touchy about the "battle of La Sola Island."

last June off the north coast of Venezuela saw a low, dark shape loom up to the surface. "I was in a submarine alarm was sounded, and the Churchill swerved to ram the ship," said Byrd.

the 100 per cent utilization of the manpower resources of the submarine turned out to be La Sola island, 10 feet high and 200 feet long. The archbishop will go to Seville, north Africa, and then to England, the French broadcast said. Asked whether there was any evidence of an increase in the U-boat force now on active operations, one questioner asked whether German naval officers in the Italian service legislation pending before the congress could "make the Italians fight." comment at this time "on national keeping fighting and called on the people to throw all their resources into the war effort."



Guarded by United States soldiers with fixed bayonets, a long line of German soldiers 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 Olcutt 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-

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# 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.

Friday, 1941, at Tamera, it was Saturday, but Allied elements moved forward at the center of the front. Pichon in which was regarded as the most important of the front.

The British with hard-contested Sedjeane. Germans a total of 20,000 along the Bizerte-Montenap coastal road in several days. Sedjeane previously changed hands twice.

The allied command touched upon the First Army in that sector, saying the northern Tunisia "was on a reduced scale."

Pichon, which allied elements entered Friday west of the Nazi base.

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

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

Now concentrated in the line sector, Rommel's reported engaged in activity as he and General L. Montgomery moved to new positions.

The British shortened the front, giving up a wide section of country here said was of no importance in the winter. Sedjenane.

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

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

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

Bad weather restricted activity Friday, the war reported.

## Mexican Mother Children Burned In One-Room

Gering, Neb., March 6.—A Mexican mother and her children were burned to death in a one-room house here Friday. Their escape door blocked by flames, they died at the rear of the house.

Their charred bodies beyond recognition, were found in a tragic heap. Jesus Garcia, 35, husband, and the young Jennie, 6 months, were survivors. They are severely burned but probably may live.