

Q. And you were there on the 27th?

A. No. I was down at 5 butt for two days. The 25th was the last I was up there.

Q. On the 25th there had been no cave-in?

A. No.

Q. On the crosscut between 8 butt and 14 butt?

A. No.

Q. That is all, thank you.

Cross-examination by Mr. Smith:

Q. Speaking of a fuel cap, if your fuel is rich you could get one with a safety lamp right in this room?

A. Yes.

Q. Or outside in the fresh air?

A. Yes. You could get one behind the lamp cabin door.

Q. That is all.

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CHARLIE GRESL, having been first duly sworn, examined by Mr. Wilson testified as follows:

Q. Mr. Gressl, you are employed in the Coalhurst mine?

A. Yes.

Q. And were on December 9th?

A. Yes.

Q. And how long have you worked in the mine up there?

A. Fifteen years.

Q. Fifteen years?

A. Yes.

Q. How long have you worked as a miner altogether?

A. Beg pardon?

Q. Have you had all your experience in this mine or had you other experience?

A. Well, I worked in No. 6.

Q. No. 6?

A. Yes.

Q. How long have you worked as a miner altogether?

A. About sixteen years altogether.

Q. About sixteen years altogether?

A. Yes.

Q. I understand that you were the captain of the rescue team at Coalhurst?

A. Yes. No, I wasn't the captain.

Q. You weren't?

A. No.

Q. You were a member of the rescue team?

A. Yes.

Q. And were you working in the mine on the day of the explosion?

A. I was night shift.

Q. You were on night shift?

A. Yes.

Q. When did you first learn of the explosion?

A. About twenty to four.

Q. About a quarter to four in the afternoon?

A. Yes.

Q. Were you called to the mine at that time?

A. Yes.

Q. By whom?

A. Well, I went down with the fire boss.

Q. By the fire boss?

A. Yes.

Q. I see. Will you just describe what you did at that time?

A. Well, we went inside, and then I was sent out for the rescue team.

Q. You were sent out for the rescue team?

A. Yes, and then I went on top to get my machine, and I was so mixed up that I went back myself.

Q. You got your machine on and came back with the other members of the crew?

A. No, I went myself.

Q. And where did you go to?

A. Well, I went right inside where Mr. Davidson was and Thompson and Alex Birse, the fire boss.

Q. You went inside with Mr. Davidson, and with White, the fire boss?

A. No, Alex Birse, fire boss.

Q. This rescue apparatus is kept at the top of the mine shaft, is it not?

A. Yes.

Q. And consists of a mask and tanks of oxygen which pass through a sodium solution?

A. Yes.

Q. And before you go into the mine what do you have to do with the rescue apparatus?

A. Examine it.

Q. What did you have to do before you went into the mine?

A. It was ready for me.

Q. It was ready for you?

A. Yes.

Q. You just put it on and go down?

A. Yes.

Q. And what condition did you find in the mine when you went down there?

A. Just smoke.

Q. Smoke?

A. Yes.

Q. And you went in with Mr. Davidson and assisted him carrying on rescue work?

A. No, we waited until the whole team came down.

Q. Waited until the whole team came down?

A. Yes.

Q. And then what did you do?

A. Then we went in--Mr. Davidson and Mr. deHart went in and we followed them.

Q. You were unfortunate enough to lose three of your brothers in this disaster, were you not? Your three brothers?

A. Yes.

Q. What have you to say, Mr. Gresl, regarding the condition of this mine as to gas?

A. Well, I don't know of any gas.

Q. Have you ever found gas in the mine at any time?

A. No.

Q. Have you ever had any complaints to make to the officials regarding conditions in the mine? At any time?

A. No.

Q. Did you consider that there was any dangerous condition in this mine at all?

A. No.

Q. You had nothing to complain about?

A. No.

Q. All right.

Cross-examination by Mr. Shaw:

Q. Just one question. I believe that you were the driver boss?

A. Yes.

Q. And have you ever worked at the mine face?

A. Yes.

Q. How long ago?

A. Fourteen years ago.

Q. But since that you haven't worked as a loader or miner?

A. No.

Q. All right.

Cross-examination by Mr. Smith:

Q. You know that crosscut, don't you, with the door in it going from the full road to the empty road?

A. Yes.

Q. And it is necessary for your drivers to pass through that door?

A. Yes.

Q. And I think you were in this mine on the Saturday before the Monday of the explosion?

A. Yes.

Q. Was that door in good working order?

A. Yes.

Q. And these drivers who have been killed, two of them were your brothers, that is true?

A. One.

Q. One of your brothers was a driver?

A. Yes.

Q. And those would be the persons who would be using that door?

A. Yes.

Q. Did you ever see that door left open by the drivers unnecessarily for any length of time?

A. No.

Q. What is the usual thing, to open it and pass through and close it?

A. Yes, and close it.

Q. That is the sensible thing for any man to do who has got the safety of his fellows at heart?

A. Yes.

Q. That's all.

THE COMMISSIONER:

Q. It was on Saturday, that was on December 7th. The explosion took place on the 9th, didn't it?

A. Yes.

Q. And it was on December 7th that you were at this airway crosscut?

A. Yes.

Q. And you saw that door?

A. Yes.

Q. And was the door closed?

A. Yes. I went through it.

Q. Tight?

A. Yes.

Q. How was the roof?

A. Good.

Q. The door could be closed?

A. Yes.

Q. And opened?

A. Yes.

Q. And you saw it closed?

A. Yes.

Q. And you went through it?

A. Yes.

Q. And closed it after you?

A. Yes.

Q. All right.

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ALEXANDER HUNTER, having been first duly sworn, examined by Mr. Wilson testified as follows:

Q. Mr. Hunter, you worked in the Coalhurst mine?

A. Yes.

Q. And you were working thereon December 9th, the day of the explosion?

A. I went down in the afternoon.

Q. How long have you worked in the mine?

A. Forty-five years.

Q. Forty-five years?

A. Yes.

Q. And you have a third-class certificate, have you?

A. Yes.

Q. Fire boss( certificate?

A. Yes.

Q. What was the nature of the work that you were doing prior to