

80 British Miners Trapped, Killed

Creswell, England — (AP) — A raging underground fire trapped and killed at least 80 men today at the Creswell coal mine.

Caught behind a wall of flame from burning rubber and timber roof supports, they were choked to death by gas and fumes.

Another 120 men crept to safety their hands and knees.

An official death list issued this afternoon contained 80 names. Earlier estimates of the toll had ranged from 88 to 90.

Smoke and intense heat drove back rescuers and hope for the trapped men was abandoned at 1 p.m. when the fire had been burning for nine hours.

The decision to give up rescue attempts and seal off the burning section of the mine was announced by Sir Hubert Houldsworth, chairman of the East Midlands division of the National Coal board.

He said a check showed that 80 men were missing.

Got Through Smoke

More than half of the approximately 200 men working in the mine when the fire flared escaped, crawling through dense smoke and rubber fumes to reach the main shaft.

This afternoon Sir Hubert and the mineworkers union, in a joint statement, said despite rescue efforts "it was not possible to rescue any of the trapped men."

The statement declared:

"All possible steps were taken to combat the fire but it was impossible to prevent it spreading. After a full inspection underground it was the unanimous opinion that

there was no possibility of any of the men remaining in the districts affected being alive.

'Bound To Fail' . . .

"It was also considered that any attempt to recover the bodies was bound to fail and that such attempts would inevitably involve further loss of life.

"It was then unanimously resolved that no course remained except to seal off the affected part of the

pit. This work is now taking place."

A long moan went up from waiting wives and children of the trapped men when the decision was announced.

Virtually the whole community of 6,000 persons had been clustered around the pit head since early morning.

A rescue worker who came up at noon described the mine as "just

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Lt. Prebbanow Killed In Japan Plane Crash

Notice of the death of First Lt. James C. Prebbanow, 25, in a U. S. air force plane crash September 24 in Japan was confirmed in a telegram to his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Irvyn Prebbanow, 161 Sixteenth avenue north, late Monday.

Lt. Prebbanow is the first Wisconsin Rapids serviceman to be killed as a result of United States participation in the Korean war.

He was born June 27, 1925, in Wisconsin Rapids and attended local grade schools before entering Lincoln High school. In high school he participated in football, basketball and track. Lt. Prebbanow enlisted in the army signal corps May 24, 1943 and received his high school diploma while in the army.

After attending Northland college while in the signal corps, he was transferred to the air corps and received navigator's wings and a second lieutenant's commission at Selman field, La., on April 21, 1944.

While in the service, he also attended an air force instruction course at Knox college, Galesburg, Ill., and received a certificate in June 1944.

Lt. Prebbanow was married to the former Mildred Eswen of Wisconsin Rapids on December 25, 1944 at Selman field.

Electing to remain in the service after World war II, he was made a pilot in the regular air force in June, 1947 after training at Randolph field, Tex.

Until he was sent to Japan August 24 of this year, Lt. Prebbanow had been based at March field, Riverside, Cal., with the Rickenbacker, jet fighter squadron.

At the time of the fatal crash, See OFFICER—Page 11



LT. JAMES PREBBANOW

Hoffman to Resign as ECA Leader

Washington — (AP) — Paul G. Hoffman is leaving the multi-billion dollar economic cooperation administration (ECA) which he organized and headed for two and a half years.

President Truman has named William C. Foster, now deputy administrator of ECA, to succeed him.

Hoffman's resignation as administrator of the big agency which operates the Marshall plan was accepted by the president yesterday.

It had been widely anticipated for some time, as was the selection of Foster to succeed Hoffman.

In his letter of resignation, Hoffman wrote: "My resignation carries no implication that the usefulness of the

Murphy G Top Police Post in N

New York — (AP) —

Murphy, 44, a giant of a prosecuted Alger Hiss federal government, takes day as the new commis New York's graft-shaken parliament.

His first job—in the growing clamor—may be the 18,000-man department down and shake loose it apples." He apparently had to do so.

Commissioner William J. quit last night in the mi police-boogie scandal under a rackets-probing Brooklyn jury.

"I find my position commissioner untenable," 59-year-old O'Brien, son of man and a veteran of years on the force. He was charged of any dishonesty.

Acting Mayor Vincent Bellotti also said O'Brien was untenable, and both agreed a resignation order.

The acting mayor revealed decided definitely on the Murphy switch yesterday ceiving a communication Brooklyn grand jury.

The grand jury, by Brooklyn Dist. Atty. M. Donald and County Judge S. Leibowitz, curley civilian commissioner yes clean up "an awful mess."

Murphy sent in his r as a federal prosecutor a month, saying he had problems and wanted to private law practice.

Instead, he exchanged a year federal post for a year police commissioner

Report R Baltic 'W

Stockholm, Sweden — (AP) dish newspaper says Russia rying construction of an Baltic coastal defense line ing a triangle of fortification designed as a northern "C

An article in the Stockholm-Tidningen report Moscow is forging its "Baltic way" from Finland westward to the Baltic Sea.

Judge Rules Reds to Stay Free on Bail

Washington — (AP) — Justice Jackson of the supreme court has ruled that 10 U. S. Communist party leaders must remain free for the present because jailing them would violate American rights and might permit them to claim martyrdom.

He reasoned they could claim they were martyrs if they were jailed now and the supreme court later upset their conviction for conspiracy to overthrow the government.

Jackson late yesterday signed an order which continued their freedom on bail. It will remain in effect until the high court disposes finally of an appeal which the 10 men are expected to file shortly.

Open Second Intersection

The second intersection on West