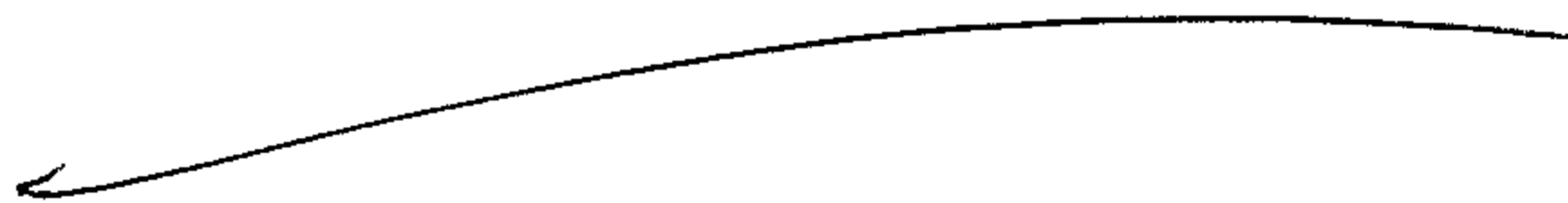


1974, 1975, 1976

Mining: Accidents



Star Mine fire  
22/4/75  
sealed off

A fire which was discovered yesterday between the 27 and 28 levels of No 5 shaft of the Harfebesfontein gold mine is now being sealed off

Work on 17 of the shaft's 21 contracts was suspended yesterday. Today, the mine's production should be down by 20 percent, but the loss should be reduced to 10 percent tomorrow.

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R.D.M. 7/15/75  
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# Miners killed

TWO unidentified Shangaan mineworkers at the Kloof Gold Mine near Western Areas were killed in a fall of rock yesterday, a spokesman for Gold Fields of South Africa said. The accident occurred near the mine's No 1 shaft at a depth of 1 898 m. — Sapa.

STAR 26/6/75  
**Miner killed**

An unidentified Black man was killed in a pressure burst at Western Deep Levels number three shaft yesterday. Two companions working in the vicinity received light injuries.—Sapa.

26/6/75

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# Miner honoured for death-risk rescue

Staff Reporter

A STILFONTEIN miner, Mr Sarel Dumond, was yesterday presented with a bravery award for risking his life to rescue an African several thousand metres underground.

After receiving a gold watch from the president of the Chamber of Mines, Mr A. W. S. Schumann, at a function at the Vaal Reefs Mine near Stilfontein, Mr Dumond said: "I would do it again — the

colour of the man does not matter."

In December last year an African supervisor fell 70 m down the main shaft ore pass while attempting to remove an obstruction. It was not known whether he was alive.

Officials in charge of the rescue operations debated whether they should try to draw off the ore with the hope of recovering the miner from the nearest level, or ask for a volunteer to be lowered into the ore pass.

It was accepted that the chances of the miner having survived the fall were small and a rescuer could be risking his own life.

A timberman agreed to go down, but after two unsuccessful attempts to keep his balance while being lowered, he lost courage and declined to make further attempts.

Mr Dumond was then summoned and told of the situation and the implications.

"He volunteered to take over the rescue without any hesitation," said a mine spokesman yesterday. Mr Dumond told the officials that as long as there was the slightest hope of his colleague still being alive, he was prepared to risk his life.

Tied to the end of a rope and pulling an air hose with him, he was lowered from level 64 to a few metres above level 66 before finding the miner. The man was dead. Mr Dumond insisted on recovering the body as planned by the rescue team.

It took him three hours in extremely hot and dangerous conditions.

The first attempt failed when the body became detached from the rope and fell back into the ore pass. Mr Dumond went back and succeeded in bringing the miner to level 64. He then collapsed from exhaustion.

The spokesman said, Mr Dumond took the risk of being overcome by the heat and lack of air, or being killed by a rockfall.

RDM  
24/8/75

# Groans, screams — panic

Cape Times Correspondent

JOHANNESBURG. — Minutes after the first pressure burst underground at the East Driefontein mine's No 1 shaft near Carletonville yesterday there were screams and shouts and general panic, according to one of the survivors.

A second burst followed in the ceiling of the tunnel and more rock crushed workers.

Groans and screams were heard by one survivor.

Mr Mahlahle Ntjoba of Lesotho, who has been working on and off for the mines for three years, said:

"We went down at about 11am and

loaded what the crew before us had mined. The sinkers moved in to work and I was sent to fetch a measuring tape when the first burst occurred.

"I felt stones fall on me as I stood in the shaft and the earth was trembling. I panicked and thought the end of the world had come."

He received a slight cut on his forehead and bruises on his back.

Mr Ntjoba said: "How long we remained in there, I cannot tell. To me it seemed like a long time, although later, on looking at the watch, not much time had elapsed."

He said he felt very lucky to be alive.

# Hope for trapped men fades

Cape Times  
27/6/75

Cape Times Correspondent

JOHANNESBURG. — Eleven miners were killed and eight are missing, believed dead, in two mine disasters on the Witwatersrand yesterday. The deaths occurred in pressure bursts at East Driefontein gold mine near Carletonville and ERPM near Boksburg.



Shocked survivor Mahlahle Ntjoba after the pressure burst.

At East Driefontein the bodies of nine African miners have been recovered and hopes of rescuing another eight trapped men were dim last night. One of the missing miners is a White man, Mr Martiens van der Merwe, 42.

Eleven Africans were injured in this accident.

At ERPM a pressure burst at noon yesterday killed two miners and seriously injured six on the 45 level of the south-west shaft.

The explosion of rock sent a vast tremor of rock throughout the mine, and workers at other levels had to dash for shelter.

Proto teams were working throughout the night last night in desperate efforts to reach trapped men.

The East Driefontein tragedy occurred at 12.40 am yesterday at a depth of 2 500m in a 17m drive at the shaft bottom. The night shift had just gone underground.

Early this morning, the names of the dead men had still not been released because all the next of kin had not been notified.

At this mine the rescue workers spent all day yesterday putting up supports and started digging for the missing men shortly after 10pm.

Early this morning there was still no sign of life—no signals or other sounds—of the missing eight men at East Driefontein.

Mr Charles Parson, 25, gave the alert at ERPM when flying rock slabs killed and maimed African workers under his command. Proto teams went to the rescue within minutes.

The dead men at the Carletonville mine were shaft sinkers who are believed to have all come from Lesotho.

The bodies of the two dead men at ERPM were recovered by 7pm the burst occurred about 2 800m underground.

Mr G. J. van Tonder, an underground manager at East Driefontein, said that the first rescue shaft had surfaced nearly yesterday afternoon and had been replaced by other rescuers from the mine who were still underground.

The dead and injured were being brought to the surface and taken to ambulances through a tunnel on the surface which was used by miners entering and leaving the mine.

Last night hospital authorities described the condition of the six men as satisfactory.

## Anxious wife waits, hopes

Cape Times Correspondent  
CARLETONVILLE. —

Mrs Emma van der Merwe, wife of Mr Martiens van der Merwe, 42, who has been trapped underground at East Driefontein Mine spent yesterday in bed waiting for news and hoping that her husband is still alive.

But relatives said last night that they had accepted that Mr Van der Merwe was dead — and were waiting for official news before informing his wife, who has received treatment for shock.

The mine management was giving the family reports on progress made by rescue teams struggling feverishly more than 2 000m underground to reach the trapped miners.

Mrs Van der Merwe's brother, Mr Bob van der Westhuizen, was probably the last of her relatives to have seen her husband alive. Mr Van der Westhuizen was the hoist driver who took Mr Van der Merwe underground just before the rock burst.

According to him they

chatted for a few minutes before Mr Van der Merwe left for the shaft to be taken underground in the hoist.

Mr Van der Westhuizen said last night: "When returning the hoist to the surface I felt the force of the bump — and immediately knew that my brother-in-law was in danger. I was shocked when told shortly afterwards that he was one of the missing miners."

(212)

STAR 26/6/75

# burst

Seven Black miners died, 11 are injured and nine men — one a White — are missing after a pressure burst on the East Driefontein mine today.

The accident happened at 12.40 am at 2 518 m underground where men were working on a horizontal drive. Rock buried 10 m of the drive.

Shortly after the accident it was found that 11 men were missing. But rescue workers, who have been working non-stop to clear the fallen rock, reached two Black miners. The two were dead.

The missing White miner is shaft sinker Mr M C van der Merwe (42), of 299 Eagle Road, East Village, East Driefontein. He is married and has two daughters and a son.

The 11 injured were only slightly hurt and not taken to hospital.

Rescue teams are still working to reach the missing.

## All possible

"We are doing everything possible to get them out and our task is being made easier by the fact that there is plenty of air, lighting and equipment at the site of the pressure burst," a spokesman for Gold Fields South Africa said.

The accident has not stopped production as it was in a non-production part of the mine.

The names of the dead miners will be released as soon as their next-of-kin have been informed.



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# Eight still trapped in mine shaft

RDM  
27/6/75 By MERVYN REES and ANDREW McNULTY

**HOPES OF rescuing eight miners trapped after a pressure burst which killed nine and injured 11 at the East Driefontein Gold Mine near Carletonville yesterday, were fading last night.**

Rescue teams worked throughout the day and night to clear tons of rock at the bottom of the mine's No 1 sub-vertical sinking shaft.

But the senior consulting engineer, Mr D. Savile-Davis, said the trapped men's chances of survival were "very remote."

Mr J. J. Moller, public relations officer, said it was unlikely anybody in the vicinity escaped uninjured.

Mr G. J. van Tonder, an underground manager at East Driefontein, said the first rescue shift had surfaced early yesterday afternoon. They had been replaced by other rescue workers who were still underground.

Last night hospital authorities described the condition of the six men as satisfactory.

Shocked relatives of Mr Van der Merwe gathered at the missing miner's home in Eagle Road, East Village, East Driefontein, yesterday to comfort his wife and three children.

Mrs Van der Merwe was in bed and in a state of shock.

● See Page 2

The missing men — seven unidentified Black mineworkers and a White shaft-sinker Mr Martiens van der Merwe, 42, — have been buried under tons of hard quartzite rock, about 2,3 metres high, since 12.40 am yesterday.

They are trapped 2516 metres below ground, in a 17,4-metre-long horizontal tunnel at the bottom of the shaft.

Mine officials said production at the mine was not affected.

The pressure burst occurred shortly after the night shift went underground.

The shaft sinkers, all of them employed by the East Driefontein Gold Mining Company, one of the mines in the Gold Fields group, are believed to be mainly Basotho.

A Gold Fields spokesman said yesterday the names of the dead and injured would not be released until their next of kin had been informed.

Of the 11 injured men rescued by nightfall, six were detained at the Leslie Memorial Hospital. The other five were treated and went back to the mine compound.

Mr Savile-Davis said the pressure burst was a "most unusual incident."

## Tunnel

He was unable to forecast when the men would be reached, but said the rescue operation was relatively simple, because the rescuers could work from the bottom of the shaft

# Earth trembled as the stones fell

RDM  
27/6/75

the survivors, Mr Mahlehe Ntjoba of Taung, Lesotho, who has been working on and off for the mines for the past three years.

### SINKERS

"We went down at about 11 am and loaded off what the crew before us had mined. The sinkers moved in to work and I was sent to fetch a measuring tape when the first burst occurred.

"I felt stones fall on me as I stood in the shaft and the earth was trembling. I panicked and thought the

end of the world had come," said Mr Ntjoba, who survived the accident with a slight cut on his forehead and bruises on his back.

Mr Ntjoba said that at this stage, hydraulic drills had hardly been touched.

"How long we remained in there, I cannot tell. To me it seemed like a long time although later, on looking at the watch, not much time had elapsed."

Mr Ntjoba said he felt very lucky to be alive when others had not made it.

By MARTIN MAHLABA  
MINUTES after the first pressure burst underground at the East Driefontein mine's No 1 shaft near Carletonville yesterday, there were screams and shouts and general panic as stones and dust showered on the workers, according to one of the survivors.

A second burst followed in the ceiling of the tunnel and more rock crushed workers. Groans and screams were heard from the crash scene by one of

# Mine death toll now 19

STAR 27/6/75

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The death toll in the past two pressure-burst accidents on Transvaal gold mines yesterday has risen to 19, and the number injured is now 40.

At the East Driefontein Gold Mine near Carletonville 17 miners died, and two were killed at the ERPM Mine near Boksburg.

The final death toll at East Driefontein, where rescue teams worked throughout the night to reach eight missing miners, rose to 17 today when the bodies of four miners, one a White, were recovered at 7.20.

The White miner is Mr M C "Martiens" van der Merwe (42) of Eagle Road, East Village, East Driefontein. The names of the Blacks have not been released.

Two miners were killed and 30 injured in a pressure burst at noon yesterday in the western section of the main reef pillar between the 44th and 45th levels of the ERPM Mine. They were all Blacks.

## ANOTHER BURST

Another Black miner was injured in another pressure burst today at the mine's Hercules 1 shaft. He has been brought to the surface, put on a saline drip and taken to the mine hospital in Boksburg.

He was given medical treatment while trapped under rock from the waist down before being rescued.

Several other Blacks were injured in the 73-76 stope of the Hercules Shaft area. Five have been described as stretcher cases.

## UNSTABLE

The two pressure bursts on the ERPM mine occurred about 3,5 km apart and further smaller bursts are expected in the area where conditions are now unstable.

# Mine toll now 19

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(From Page 1)

followed by a second burst.

"The roof and walls of the tunnel collapsed — the lights went out and I heard groaning," he said.

"God help me — it was a miracle I got out while others died," he said.

At East Driefontein proto teams worked the whole of yesterday and last night to get to the missing miners who were buried under rock in a 17 m tunnel 2 518 m underground, and today it became clear that none was alive.

The accident on East Driefontein took place at 12.14 am yesterday shortly after the night shift had gone underground.

By late yesterday afternoon it had been established that nine men had been killed and eight, including Mr van der Merwe, were still missing.

Early today four more bodies were recovered. Later the remaining four bodies, including that of Mr van der Merwe, were found under tons of rock.

Rescue workers had to remove heavy rock to get at the missing men and, at the same time, put up wooden supports in the short tunnel.

The alert at ERPM was given shortly after noon by Mr Charles Parson ((25).

Production at neither mine was affected by the accidents.

(See Page 7)

According to East Driefontein Mine secretary, Mr J Albrie, said the men were killed as the roof of a tunnel they were working in collapsed, crushing them under tons of rock.

Seven of the injured Black miners were admitted to the William Leslie Mine Hospital and their condition is reported to be satisfactory.

A shocked survivor, Mr Bagiso Mkonya (49), told The Star that he was working in the 17 m-long tunnel when the burst occurred. It was almost immediately

To Page 3, Col 1

Cries

for

help, <sup>STAR</sup> 27/6/75

water

Before crawling about 50 m through rough and almost impassable rubble and rocks, two survivors in yesterday's East Driefontein mine disaster said they heard voices shouting for help and water.

Mr David Molisa (39), a father of four from Lesotho, and Mr William Chetephe Luvhemphe, a 28-year-old bachelor from Malawi, said they heard huge rumbles and saw rocks crashing around them.

Mr Molisa said: "I was fortunate because where I stood there were only a few rumbles, but then I was covered up to my waist. I struggled through the unbearable heat that was generated by the burst to set myself free.

#### MAN DEAD

"There was another man next to me dead. His head had been crushed by a large rock. I was flabbergasted and did not know what was happening.

"I dug away at the rocks with my hand and finally got free. But I did not feel alive until one of the rescue team members touched my hand."

Mr Luvhemphe said he was "getting ready to die" under a rock which had trapped his hand and part of his chest. Then there was another burst and the rock tumbled away.

#### SAW OPENING

"I saw an opening and started crawling up it. I heard voices far away from where I was shouting for help. Another one from a different direction shouted for water."

Both men sustained severe cuts. Mr Luvhemphe has a fractured hand, bruises and a deep gash on his head.

Mr Molisa said he would resign from underground work even if it meant having his wages cut by about 15 percent.

A mine spokesman said workers could change from underground shifts if they wished to do so.

# Bodies are recovered from mine

ARGUS 27/6/75

(212)

JOHANNESBURG. — The bodies of the last four mineworkers missing after the pressure burst near the No 1 sub-vertical shaft of the East Driefontein gold mine yesterday were recovered about 7 am today, a Goldfields spokesman said here.

The final death toll was therefore 17 — 16 Blacks and one White — he said.

The White miner killed was Mr. Martiens van der Merwe (42). The names of the Blacks are not yet known.

The spokesman said that rescuers were able to see the bodies of the four miners shortly after midnight last night, but were unable to reach them until early today because the rock was in a badly fractured state.

For their own safety they had to put in supports before they could get to the bodies and remove them, he said.

At the ERPM mine near Boksburg yesterday, a pressure burst at noon killed two miners and seriously injured six.

## HEARD SHOUTS

Two survivors of the East Driefontein disaster said today that before crawling about 50m through rough and almost impassable rubble and rocks they heard voices shouting for help and for water.

Mr. David Molisa (39), a father of four from Lesotho, and Mr. William Chetephe Luvhemphe, a 28-year-old bachelor from Malawi, said they could remember seeing only huge rubble and rocks crashing around them.

Mr. Molisa said: 'I was fortunate because where I stood there was only a little rubble, but I was covered up to my waist. I struggled through the unbearable heat to set myself free. There was another man next to me, dead. His head had been crushed by a large rock.'

## 'DUG AWAY'

'I dug away at the rocks with my hands and finally got free. But I did not feel alive until one of the rescue team members touched my hand.'

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# Miners tell of rock burst horror

Natal Mercury 28/6/75

Another miner was trapped on the 76th level but freed soon after. Proto teams battled for over three hours to free the miner. A saline drip was then given to him and he received first aid attention. Four and a half hours after the burst he was hauled to the surface central shaft with his head heavily bandaged and rushed to the ERPM hospital.

He has cuts on his head, above the eye, and a gash on his heavily swathed arms after being dug out.

"I did not hear any sounds but felt rocks falling on me. There were screams all around and as the stones hit me I said to myself: 'This is it. Lord please let me die and not be maimed'."

"I have seen people who had come up after such accidents and I did not want to be like that."

"I saw some of my colleagues dead."

"No one could do anything to help another, let alone himself. I thought that mine would be our grave," he said.

Asked if they would return underground, both said they were not scared of going back.

Mercury Correspondent

**JOHANNESBURG** — Two survivors dug out of the East Driefontein mine rock-burst spoke yesterday of the screams and howls after the tunnel caved in.

The two Basotho, veteran shaft sinkers from the 1950s, said this was the first underground accident they had had.

Mr Ezekiel Molefi, a Lesotho from Hohaleshoek, said: "The tunnel had just been cleared of the previous shift's blasting and we were preparing to move our tools into the tunnel."

"We were all going busily about our business when suddenly heavy rocks fell on us. I was hit on the head, face, arms, body — in fact, everywhere, and I thought that was the end."

"Screams, howls and general shouting filled the tunnel. Our lights went out with only the main light in the horizontal shaft remaining on."

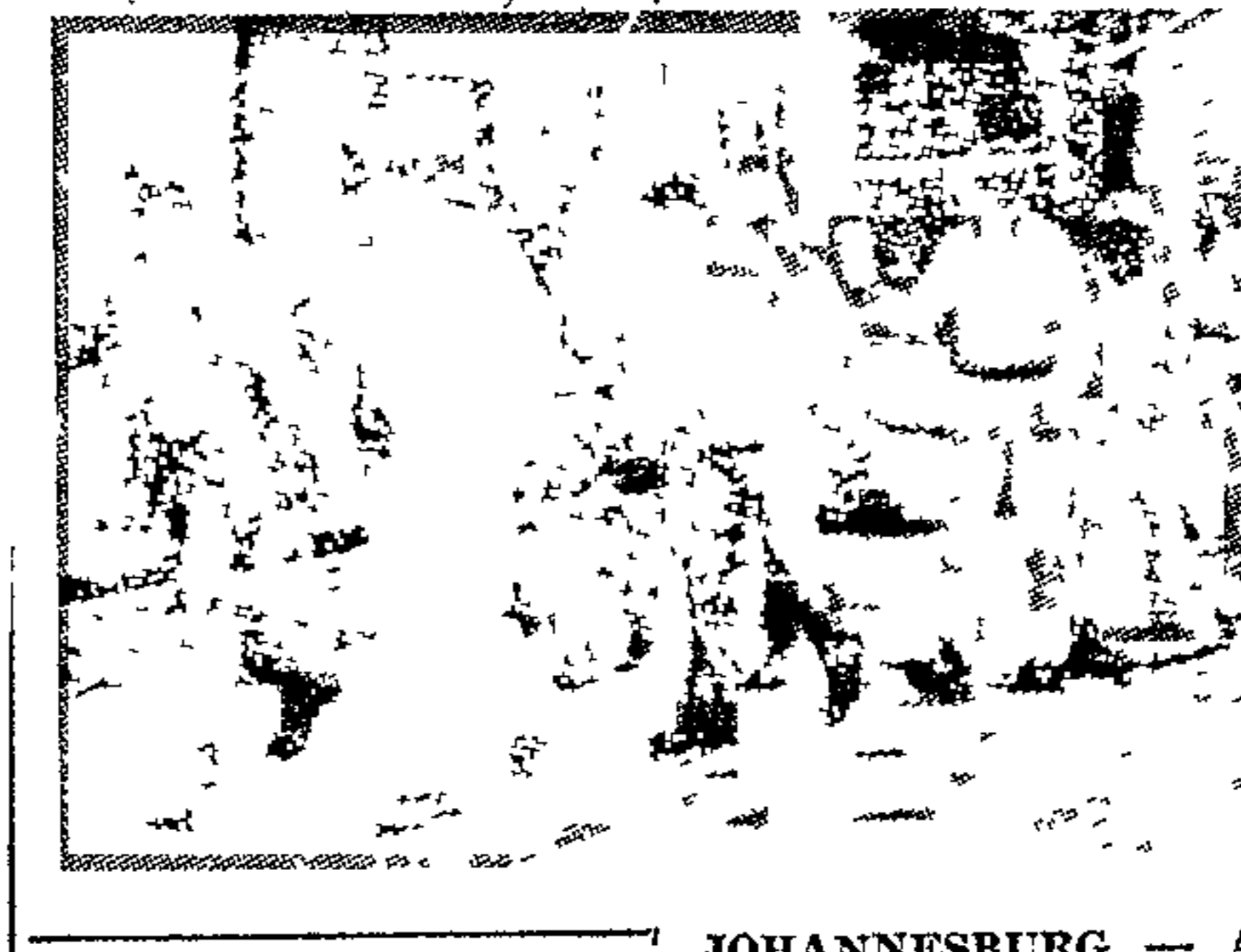
"I found myself standing over others and, I don't know how it happened, one of them under me was obviously dead."

Mr Molefi said he could not move the lower part of his body which was pinned by rock, but all he has now is a slight pain on his right knee which he thinks was twisted.

Mr Molefi said he had to be dug out.

The screams, he said, made the ordeal worse.

Mr. Rampine Phe



**JOHANNESBURG** — A 20 year-old miner from Mozambique (on stretcher) was yesterday hauled to the surface in Boksburg after being trapped for about four and a half hours in the world's deepest stoping mine—ERPM. The miner and five others were injured in a pressure burst 1500m below sea level. The burst sent a tremor through Boksburg and Benoni and trapped the miner on the 73rd level.

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# ERP M <sup>KDM</sup> 28/6/75

By MARSHALL LEE, NAT DISEKO and ROY DEVENISH

**ONE MINER** was trapped 3 200 m below ground and others clawed their way to safety yesterday following the second pressure burst to hit the ERP M mine at Boksburg within 24 hours.

A rescue team battled for three hours to extricate the 20-year-old miner from Mozambique, whose name was withheld by the mine authorities.

He was rushed to hospital where his condition last night was said to be satisfactory.

Five others were also taken to hospital, raising the total of injured at the ERP M mine to 33.

Two miners were killed in Thursday's burst which some believe may have been triggered by yesterday's earth explosion about 500 m away — between the 73rd and 76th levels of the Hercules East One shaft.

And at East Driefontein gold mine, Carletonville, the bodies of the last four mineworkers missing after the pressure burst near the No 1 sub-vertical shaft early on Thursday, were recovered yesterday morning, a Goldfields spokesman said in Johannesburg.

The final death toll was 17 — 16 Blacks and one White, he said.

The spokesman said all the Black mineworkers who died in the tragedy were Basotho, reports Sapa.

Their names were being withheld until their next of kin had been informed, and would not be released for publication before Monday afternoon.

At ERP M one of the injured miners, Mr Ernesto Maphose, 25, from Mozambique, said the tunnel he was working in was checked before they moved in. They had not been told of the earlier tragedy.

"Suddenly there was an explosion and the roof came in, trapping two of us," he said.

Panic-stricken, the miners fought to free themselves.

## Cut off

"When we heard the explosion there was general panic and people ran in all directions. Some sheltered behind some mine trolleys," said Mr Maphose.

Speaking from his hospital bed he said he did not know how many miners were in the tunnel when it collapsed.

"A rock fell on my head and I realised we were trapped. We started groping around, pulling away the rocks. My friend managed to get out somehow and started pulling out some more rocks in order to free me.

"I then got out. One miner who saw the roof collapsing on us went for help. I was lying on the ground and my right ear was bleeding a lot," he said.

"Someone bandaged me and later we were taken out on stretchers."

Mr Tothanza Mbenzazi, 23, another survivor who was brought to the surface said he was with a number of miners when the roof burst. A rock fell on his foot, but he managed to walk to the end of the tunnel for first aid.

"I only realised when I took my boot off that part of one toe had been completely cut off and another partly so," he said.

According to the hospital authorities none of the injuries caused by the burst, which sent a tremor through Boksburg and Benoni, was serious.

The trapped miner suffered a broken arm, cuts and bruises. He was jammed by rocks from the waist down.

Mr A. J. Tyser, general manager of the mine, said it took 40 minutes to expose him. He was given first aid and a saline drip before being hauled to the surface at 12 25 pm, four-and-a-half hours after the burst.

At ground level there was no indication of the drama below.

"It was all in a day's work," said Mr Tyser, who grew up on the ERP M mine where his father was manager before him.

Mr Tyser said he had been in a few pressure bursts himself. They just happened without warning.

"If we knew when to expect them, they wouldn't happen," he said.

"It is beyond us to even 'guesstimate' when and where a pressure burst is going to take place."

He said it was not possible to say whether yesterday's burst was associated with the earlier one, but it probably did affect the general stability of the area and could set off a series of lesser events.  
Mr Tyser said it was not necessary to evacuate the mine. They only pulled out of the affected area — other work went on as normal. He estimated 24 hours was enough to allow the affected area to settle down before moving in again.  
● See Page 2

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# We thought it was the end, say survivors

RDM 28/6/75

By MARTIN MAHALABA and ANDREW McNULTY

WITHOUT warning, the roof of an East Driefontein mine shaft caved in, pinning down screaming workers, said two survivors who were dug out of the mine on Thursday.

The two Basotho, who were veteran shaft sinkers said this was the first time an underground accident

had taken place on their shifts.

Mr Ezekiel Molefi, said "The tunnel had just been cleared of the previous shift's blasting and we were preparing to move in.

"Suddenly heavy rocks fell on us. I was hit on the head, face, arms, body — I thought it was the end. Screams filled the tunnel. Our lights went out I found myself standing over others—I do not know how it happened. One of those under me was obviously dead."

Mr Molefi said he could not lower his body as it was trapped by fallen rock.

Mr Rampine Phenyane, 40, said: "I did not hear any sounds but felt rocks falling on me. There were screams all around and as the stones hit me I said to myself: 'This is it.' I am lucky to be alive. I saw some of my colleagues dead.

"No one could do anything to help another, let alone himself. I thought that mine would be our grave," he said.

Asked if they would go back underground, both men said it would depend on the extent of their injuries. But they said they were not scared of going back underground.

The names of the Black mineworkers who died in the pressure blast will not be released before Monday afternoon.

Their names are being withheld until their next of kin have been informed, a Gold Fields spokesman said yesterday.

One White miner, Mr Martiens van der Merwe, 42, a shaftsinker, died in the rockburst.

All of the Black dead or injured were Basotho

The 11 injured who are all being treated at the Leslie Williams Memorial Hospital at Carletonville, are:

Mr Augustinus Kotlolo, Mr Rampine Phenyane, Mr Ezekiel Machitje Molefi, Mr Moses Sebakeng Po-betsi, Mr Koloti Pamara, Mr Simon Motsetse, Mr Johannes George Chota, Mr David Ramoepane Mokoka, Mr Abiel Pakiso Mokonyana, Mr Zakaria Mahlehle Nchoba, Mr Petrose Molupe Male-sela and Mr Malefetsane Khomela.

New

burst

traps <sup>Cape Times</sup> 28/6/75

shocked

miners

Cape Times Correspondent  
JOHANNESBURG. — One miner was trapped 3 200 metres below ground and others clawed their way to safety yesterday following the second pressure burst to hit the ERPM mine at Boksburg within 24 hours.

A rescue team battled for three hours to extricate the 20-year-old Mozambique miner. He was rushed to hospital where his condition last night was said to be satisfactory. Five others were also taken to hospital, raising the total of injured at the ERPM mine to 33.

Two miners were killed in Thursday's burst, which some believe might have triggered yesterday's explosion.

#### "EXPLOSION"

One injured miner, Mr Ernesto Maphose, 25, also from Mozambique, said the tunnel he was working in was checked before they moved in. "Suddenly there was an explosion and the roof came in, trapping two of us," he said.

"When we heard the explosion, there was general panic and people ran in all directions. Some sheltered behind some mine trolleys," said Mr Maphose. Speaking from his hospital bed he said he did not know how many miners were in the tunnel when it collapsed.

"A rock fell on my head and I realized we were trapped. We started groping around, pulling away the rocks. My friend managed to get out somehow and started pulling out some more rocks in order to free me. I then got out. Later, we were taken out on stretchers."

#### SURVIVOR

Mr Tothanza Mbenzazi, 23, another survivor, said he was among a number of miners when the roof burst. A rock fell on his foot, but he managed to walk to the end of the tunnel for first aid.

"I only realized when I took my boot off that part of one toe had been completely cut off and another partly so," he said.

According to the hospital authorities none of the injuries caused by the burst was serious.

All of the eight bodies buried in the tons of rubble at the entrance to the tunnel at the bottom of the mine's No 1 sub-vertical shaft were found by 7.20am yesterday.



# Dead miners STAR 1/7/75 named

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Gold Fields of South Africa has released the names of the men killed by the pressure burst at East Driefontein last Thursday, Sapa reports

The White South African miner killed was 43-year-old Mr C M van der Merwe. The 16 Basotho Africans who died were:

- Tsietso Lerontsi (26); Valentinus Ralimpe Tlhabi (40), Jafete Tshleho Nthapeleng (59), Mahleke Chitja (32), Lekhotle Tseole (40), Justinus Molula Seetsa (28), Mphlomi Mpkhele (30), Malimabe Mokhethinyan (43), Tseliso Moeletsli (34), Nthako Malefane (39), Thabo Monyane (37), Kornel Kelemane Letsae (38), Thabo Mbiko (36), Abiel Fusi Moshele (37), Ramoshololu Roboto (30), Khutlang Mokone (35).

Lost straw

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RDM  
4/7/75

# R300 'not enough for a life'

'Mail' Africa Bureau

MASERU. — While 16 Basotho miners, victims of the East Driefontein gold mine disaster, were being buried at their home towns in Lesotho yesterday, it was announced that talks were going on between the Lesotho Government and the South African mining authorities for improved compensation in such cases.

The Deputy Prime Minister, Chief Sekhonyana Maseribane, said R300 was nowhere near enough compensation for what a man would have earned in 20 years of working life.

The government also wanted Basotho mine-workers to be given private accommodation, so that their wives could visit them. Mineworkers, he said, should be treated like adults and not children.

page on the same issue on

# 5500 die in decade of gold mining

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R.D.M.

15/7/75

**Labour Correspondent**  
IN THE past 10 years 5500 men have died in gold mining accidents in South Africa — last year 485 men died, at the rate of nine a week, the second lowest fatality rate on record.

In addition there were 22222 men injured on gold mines last year

These are termed "reportable accidents" in which mineworkers are laid off for 14 or more shifts. The accident rate was 56 men per thousand, while the death rate was 1.22 per thousand

On the coal mines, 44 men were killed and 876

injured, while in 1973, 21 were killed and 855 injured. The rise was due to a gas explosion at the Albion Colliery in which 13 men were killed and 95 injured

According to statistics published by the Underground Officials' Association, there was an 8.3 per cent decrease in the number of accident fatalities in the gold mining industry from 529 in 1973 to 485 last year. At the same time there was a drop of 6.3 per cent in the average labour employed in the industry — from 422653 to 395963 people.

Major causes of fatalities in gold mining were: rockfalls 289 deaths, truck and

tramway accidents 85, falling material 19, explosives nine, falling in shafts and excavations 25.

In the coal mines 14 men died in rockfalls and 10 in trucks and tramway accidents

The record shows that the highest death rate on the gold mines was in 1909 when 997 men died — a rate of 5.26 per thousand workers

The deaths in the past 10 years were. 1965, 619, 1966, 584; 1967, 607; 1968, 492, 1969, 624, 1970, 512; 1971, 542; 1972, 500; 1973, 529; 1974, 485 — giving a total of 5494 killed.

There have been five major groups of accidents on the mines in the past 18 months:

- The Albion Colliery explosion in January last year killing 13 and injuring 95.

- Rockfalls on the Kloof Gold Mine in March last year in which five men died after 212 were trapped; and on West Driefontein where four men lost their lives.

- A pressure burst on Western Areas Gold Mine in May last year, in which 31 mineworkers were injured, seven seriously.

- The bursting of a slimes dam at the Impala Platinum Mine in which 15 men lost their lives

- Rockfalls on East Driefontein and ERPM mines in June this year in which 19 were killed and 40 injured.

About 400000 Africans and 40000 Whites are employed in the gold and coal mines.

N. Mercury 19/7/75

## Killed in mine shaft accident

JOHANNESBURG —

An African mineworker was killed and three others injured when a brow collapsed during shaft sinking operations at Lorain Gold Mine, Free State, No. 4 shaft yesterday, an Anglo - Vaal spokesman said here.

The names of the dead man and those of the injured are being withheld until their next-of-kin have been notified.

The mineworkers were employed by the shaft sinking contractor working at Loraine. —  
(Sapa.)

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## Miner killed

STAR 23/7/75  
A machine-handler has been killed in a rockfall at Stilfontein Gold Mine this morning, a spokesman for General Mining said today.

The dead man's name is being withheld until his next of kin have been notified —Sapa

# Miner died <sup>RDM</sup> under rocks <sup>22/7/75</sup>

By JOHAN STOLTZ  
KLERKSDORP—A Klerksdorp court found yesterday that a miner, Mr J F S. Muller, 23, suffocated and died after a rockfall thousands of metres underground at a gold mine near Stilfontein last month.

The magistrate, Mr G J. Schoeman, heard that Mr Muller had probably suffocated while some of his colleagues tried to free him from under the fallen roof hanging

Three African miners were injured in the accident which happened at the Orangia Shaft of the Buffelsfontein Mine on June 3.

Mr D R. Smith, who had

been an underground electrician at the time, told the court that Mr Muller and the African miners were waiting in a gully while he was preparing the installation of an underground winch . . .

"The hanging suddenly fell without any warning. Mr Muller was almost completely covered by the rocks and one of the Africans had his foot trapped," said Mr Smith.

He had managed to free the African shortly afterwards and then assisted other miners in a desperate attempt to rescue Mr Muller. But Mr Muller was already dead when he was extricated

## <sup>RDM 29/7/75</sup> Miner killed

AN AFRICAN winchdriver was killed underground yesterday while barring down a loose rock and making safe a workface at Buffelsfontein Mine near Klerksdorp, a General Mining spokesman said. His name is being withheld until his next of kin have been advised. — Sapa.

(212)

# Burst 1500m down kills six miners

STAR 31/7/75

## East Rand Bureau

Six mineworkers have been killed in a pressure burst 1500 m below the surface at the south-west vertical shaft of East Rand Proprietary Mines near Germiston.

Rescue teams are searching for a trapped man, but it is feared he will not be found alive.

One man had a "miraculous" escape, walking away virtually unscathed. "I was trapped by falling rock but luckily I managed to free myself," Mr

Timothy Madaka, of Rhodesia, said

"I heard one man next to me die," he said

Mr Madaka tied his belt round an injured arm to ease the pain

He is in hospital with six other Black mineworkers

The pressure burst — the second fatal accident of its kind in just over a month — occurred shortly after midday yesterday.

### BODIES FOUND

Last night, four dead and one injured man were recovered. Two more bodies were found this morning

All the dead were Black men, a statement by Rand Mines said

The names of the dead, all from Mozambique, will be released when the next of kin have been informed

The general manager of the mine, Mr Clive Knobbs, said the accident would not affect production

"This was a normal pressure burst," Mr Knobbs said

Two men died and about 30 were injured in a pressure burst in the western section of the main reef pillar between the 44th and 45th levels of ERPM last month

The accident happened within 24 hours of a pressure burst at the East Driefontein gold mine near Carletonville in which 17 men were killed

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# Eight die in gold mines' black days

## Staff Reporters

It has been a black two days on the gold mines, where eight African miners have been killed and four injured in three accidents

A rockburst at the Blyvooruitzicht Gold Mine 2100 m below the surface yesterday killed a 21-year-old unmarried Xhosa and slightly injured two other Blacks, a spokesman for the mine said.

An African timberman was killed underground when a rock dislodged from a sidewall in the Stilfontein Gold Mine near Klerksdorp yesterday, a spokesman for General Mining said

The biggest accident was

at the East Rand Proprietary Mine, Boksburg, where six died and two others were injured in a pressure burst on Wednesday

Rescue operations there are still under way, and hopes of getting a trapped Mozambican miner out alive from under tons of rubble 1 600 m below the surface faded last night

At first it was thought that only eight miners were missing

One of the men managed to walk out of the mine, and was treated for general bruising

Another was freed after being trapped by the rock and is said to be in a satisfactory condition after undergoing an operation for a fractured elbow

All six bodies recovered so far are those of Mozambican miners.

The missing miner was employed as a timberman and rescue teams have been battling to find him for more than 18 hours

Had the accident happened about half an hour later there would not have been any casualties.

At the time of the burst, according to survivors, the last holes were being drilled and the area was due to be cleared.

Possibly the luckiest man was the as yet unnamed White miner who left the stope to supervise work on another section of the face only minutes before the burst

Mine authorities are withholding the names of the dead miners until next-of-kin have been informed.

Pressure bursts at ERPM have claimed 11 lives in the past two years, and caused 47 serious injuries.

The mine is prone to pressure bursts due to its depth of more than 3 000 m. Science has not developed any way of predicting pressure bursts, though experienced miners claim warning is given by changes of pitch in the creaking of the rocks.

On January 9, 1974, a Black miner was killed by a fall of hanging at the mine

On June 13, 1974, two Malawians were killed in a rock fall.

On June 29, 1974, two pressure bursts 3 250 m underground claimed the lives of six Black miners and injured 11.

On June 26 this year two Black miners were killed and 30 injured in a rock fall in the western section of the main reef pillar between the 44th and 45th levels. Another rock fall the next day injured six Black workers in the Hercules I shaft

A week later two White miners left a work face after hearing "rock talk," and escaped being trapped in a rock fall by half an hour.

The mine has also had its share of labour unrest.

Malawian nationals rioted on October 13, 1974, leaving one miner dead and 23 injured. Almost 1 500 Malawians stopped work and demanded

Police were called out to put down a riot of 1 000 Shangaan miners on October 21 1974. They demanded repatriation to Mozambique, and 200 were flown home. On November 20 1974 3 000 Malawians demanded repatriation, though 2 000 of these later decided to stay. But by the end of the year almost the entire 3 000 initially involved had been repatriated

# Mine death toll rises to seven

(212)

Staff Reporter  
THE DEATH toll following a pressure burst at the ERPM's South-West Shaft at Germiston has risen to seven.

The last body, that of a timber man, was pulled from rubble 1640 metres below the surface late on Thursday night

RDM 2/8/75

Their names had not been released late last night.

Earlier rescue teams had found the bodies of six other Mozambique miners

Rescue teams battled for over 30 hours to clear hundreds of tons of rubble from the stope face in an effort to find the missing miner

Working in relays the men refused to give up hope for the missing miner but had at last to concede defeat when his body was found.

The other two miners who were slightly injured in the rock burst are making satisfactory progress



# Disaster at mine to be probed

6/8/71  
Mercury Reporter

AN INQUIRY is to be held shortly into a rockfall at the Northfield coal mine near Glencoe, on Sunday in which two people were killed and eight injured, the Chief Inspector of Mines in Natal, Mr. H. MacGillivray, said yesterday.

Mr. MacGillivray and other mine officials visited the scene of the accident on Sunday afternoon.

"I was at home when we got the call and immediately left for the site. It appears that a section of the roof collapsed, but the full facts will only be known when the official inquiry is held," he said from his Dundee office.

Mr. Christiaan Mulder Viljoen (37), of 340 Northfield and an African miner, whose name has not yet been released, died in the accident.

Seven Black miners are in the Dundee hospital. Mr. J. Cornelius, of Northfield, who was also injured in the accident, is in the Dundee Hospital, but is expected to be transferred to a Johannesburg hospital tomorrow.

# Miner gets award for bravery

ARGUS 13/8/75

JOHANNESBURG — Mr Gary Seymour Peters, an East Driefontein miner, has been awarded the Chamber of Mines award for outstanding bravery by Mr. R. S. Lawrence, president of the chamber.

On April 3 Mr Peters, risking his life, climbed down an orepass to give first aid to a fellow mine-worker, Mr. Alpheos Makhanya

Mr Peters was lowered down the orepass on a steel rope to examine the injured man. He climbed back up to collect a stretcher and bandages, and then went back to Mr Makhanya. Minutes after Mr Peters had lowered the injured man out of the orepass and climbed out himself, the area was filled with ore which had 'hung up' in the south leg of the orepass — Sapa

# Mud rush in mine kills 4

14/8/75

The Argus Correspondent  
JOHANNESBURG —  
Four miners — one White  
and three Black — were  
killed and nine injured  
when they were trapped  
in a mud rush near No 2  
shaft on the East Driefon-  
tein gold mine.

The dead White miner,  
Mr L van Rensburg, a  
shaftsinker foreman, of  
Banfield Street, Carleton-  
ville, was killed by the  
mud rush when he and  
three Black miners were  
inspecting a stoppage in  
an orepass between 14  
and 16 levels, 1 490 metres  
underground.

Earlier the miners had  
blasted a rock which was  
blocking the pass and  
when the mud and rubble  
were still not running  
freely, Mr van Rensburg

decided to make an in-  
spection to see if the  
blockage could be levered  
loose

### LUCKY

Underground manager,  
Mr Gert van Tonder, one  
of the injured, of Pro-  
tea Avenue, West Village,  
was near Mr van Rensburg  
when the mud rush  
occurred and was lucky  
not to have been killed.

Another White miner  
injured was Mr B. T. du  
Toit of Protea Flats,  
Carletonville. He is in Bly-  
vooruitzicht Hospital.

All the other injured  
were treated and dis-  
charged.

The names of the dead  
Black miners will not be  
released until their next  
of kin have been informed.

# Four miners die in rock-burst

Cape Times Correspondent

JOHANNESBURG. — Four miners died in a burst of rock and water at East Driefontein gold mine near Carletonville yesterday.

Nine others were injured — one of whom is in hospital after being swept 200 m by the flood

Mr L van Rensburg, 43, a shaft-sinking foreman of Banfield Street, Carletonville, was the only White killed. The three Blacks who died included two Basotho, aged 26 and 30, and a Shangaan, aged 25

Their names will be released once their families have been informed.

The cause of their deaths was explained by a mine spokesman after rescue workers had hauled the injured to safety.

## FAILED

Mr Van Rensburg and his team were investigating a blockage of rock, sand and water in one of the ore-passes about 1500 m underground," he said.

"After blasting had

failed to dislodge the blockage he re-entered the pass. Suddenly the blockage came loose."

The miners were swept down the steep incline by the ore. As the mass of rock passed the 16th level it burst the restraining walls and spread along the tunnel, injuring Mr P J du Toit, a timberman. Also injured was underground manager, Mr Gert van Tonder. Of the seven Blacks none was seriously injured.

# Four miners die in rock burst

RDM  
15/8/75

By CHRIS SMITH

FOUR MINERS died in a burst of rock and water at East Driefontein Gold Mine near Carletonville yesterday

Nine others were injured—one is in hospital after being swept 200 m by the flood.

Mr L van Rensburg, 43, a shaft-sinking foreman of Banfield Street, Carletonville, was the only White killed. The three Blacks who died were two Basotho, aged 26 and 30, and a Shangaan aged 25. Their names will be released when their families have been told.

## CAUSE

The cause of their deaths early yesterday morning was explained by a mine spokesman after rescue workers had brought the injured to the surface

"Mr Van Rensburg and his team were investigating a blockage of rock, sand and water in one of the ore-passes about 1 500 m underground," he said.

"After blasting had failed to dislodge the blockage he re-entered the pass. Suddenly the blockage came loose"

The miners were swept down the steep incline by the ore.

As the rock passed the 16th level it burst restraining walls and spread along the tunnel, injuring Mr P. J. du Toit, a timberman

Also injured was an underground manager, Mr Gert van Tonder. None of the seven Blacks was seriously injured.

Mr du Toit, of Protea Flats, Carletonville, was transferred to the Chamber of Mines Hospital in Johannesburg. He has severe leg injuries.

A Rustenburg miner, Mr J. H. Nel, 33, died in the Bafokeng platinum mine on Wednesday night. He was killed by a fall of hanging rock in a tunnel about 50 m below the surface.

## PROTEST

Meanwhile, no attempt has been made to arrest any of the approximately 200 Black miners who protested at a delay in being hoisted to the surface at Randfontein Estates Mine on Wednesday night. A mine spokesman de-

scribed the stone-throwing incident as "a collective action, which does not require anyone to be isolated"

Teargas was used to control the miners after they smashed a number of windows. No one was injured in the disturbance.

"Everything is back to normal," the general manager, Mr W Nairn, said yesterday.

# MOEDER-DRAAWA IN WYN

## <sup>21<sup>ste</sup></sup> Vier sterf in stik

Rand T 17/8/75

IN 'n moddermassa het die veertigjarige mnr. Gert van Tonder Don-  
derdag onder die aarde in 'n myntonnel na sy span van twaalf wer-  
kers gesoek. Sy bril het voor sy oë versplinter. Sy lyf was vol kneus-  
plekke van klippe, sy agterkop was oopgesny.

*Vol bloed en modder is hy later deur 'n reddingspan na veiligheid gebring  
Die wond aan sy kop is met vyftien stekke toegewerk. Toe het hy gehoor dat vier  
van sy werkers — 'n blanke en drie swartes — in die stikgolf omgekrom het.*

Vrydag het die gewese  
Transvaalse rugbykaptein en  
Junior Springbok Gert van  
Tonder gesê. "Ek het 21 veil-  
lige jare onder die grond ge-  
had. Nou kom die ongeluk.  
Maar om mynwerker te  
wees, is 'n man se werk. Ek  
is soos die Engelse sê 'n  
'mining man'... en ek sal  
dit altyd wees."

Mnr. Van Tonder is onder-  
grondse bestuurder by die  
Oos-Driefonteinmyn naby  
Carletonville. Hy en nege  
ander mynwerkers het Don-  
derdag 'n modderdood vry-  
gesprings.

Hy vertel. Die eerste ge-  
dagte wat my getref het,  
was dat iets geweldigs gebeur  
het. Toe het ek skielik ge-  
dink aan al die ander wat  
saam met my in die tonnel  
was. Ek het in die modder  
rondgeploeter en na hulle  
gesoek.

Hy vertel van die magtige  
stikgolf wat skielik deur die  
dubbele muur voor hulle ge-  
bars en alles oorstrom en  
meesleure het.

"Ek het weggeduik en  
langs die voorste muur plat-  
geval. Dit het blykbaar my  
lewe gered. Klippe het my  
teen die kop en lyf getref  
en my bril het in die slag  
gebly."

Toe hy bogrond kom, is  
mnr. Van Tonder huis toe.  
Tuis het hy die lig in hul

slaapkamer aangeskakel en  
aan sy vrou, Nell, gesê:  
"Moenie skrik nie — dis  
ek."

### Berigte: IAN SMITH Foto's: LOUIS FOUCHÉ

Mev. Van Tonder sê sy het  
nie geskrik nie. "Ek het al  
geleer om met vrees saam te  
leef. Ek weet my man is ge-  
lukkig in sy werk en ek be-  
sef ook die gevaar wat daar-  
aan verbonde is, maar dit  
is die risiko wat 'n mens  
loop."

"Gert was in sy jong dae  
'n Transvaal-sot en ek het  
hom ná rugby dikwels veel  
meer bebloed gesien.  
Toe moes hy ook stekke kry  
en eenkeer het hy sy arm ge-  
breek."

Die Van Tonders het ver-  
lede naweek in 'n huis op  
die myndorp West Village  
by Oos-Driefontein inge-  
trek. Alles is nog deurne-  
kaar van die trek. "Die men-  
se is baie gaai, maar die or-  
geluk by die myn bederf sa-  
ke 'n bietjie," sê mev. Van  
Tonder.

'n Ander oorlewende,  
mnr. Kobus Engelbrecht,  
vertel:

"Donderdag was die mees-  
te van ons se skof teen elf-  
uur verby. Mnr. Van Ton-  
der het gevra ong moet aan-  
bly om die herstelwerk klaar  
te maak. 'n Basoeto-werker  
het voor die myn gestaan,  
toe Louis van Rensburg, mnr.  
Van Tonder en toe ek."

"Omtrent twaalfuur het  
die muur gebreek. Die mod-  
dergolf het my heeltemal  
weggespoel. Ek het 'n hele  
ent verder tot stilstand ge-  
kom, met die silik tot om my  
knies. Mnr. Van Tonder het  
my gewaar. Hy het my aan  
die arm beetgery en uitge-  
trek," vertel mnr. Engel-  
brecht.

### Uitgrawe

"Toe sien ek twee ander  
swart werkers wat in die  
modder vassit. Net hulle  
koppe het uitgesteek. Ek en  
twee ander swart werkers  
het hulle met ons hande uit-  
gegrawe."

Mev. Nita Engelbrecht  
was baie bekommerd toe Ko-  
bus Donderdagnmiddag nie  
betyds opdaag nie. "Hy's al-  
tyd betyds," vertel mev.  
Engelbrecht. "Ek het nader-  
hand bekommerd geraak,  
maar toe hy uiteindelik die  
ene modder opdaag, was ek  
baie dankbaar."



"OM mynwerker te wees, is 'n man se werk," sê die on-  
dergrondse bestuurder van Oos-Driefontein. Donderdag  
sê moddergolf het hom geensins afgeskrik nie. Dié oud-  
slot van Transvaal het met 15 stekke in sy agterkop en 'n  
paar diep skraps daarvan afgekrom.



MNR. KOBUS ENGELBRECHT veilig by sy vrou, Nita, en Madeline, 2, en Adri, 4  
"Ek is seker Madeline het aangevoel iets het verkeerd geloop. Sy was die hele Don-  
derdagnmiddag onrustig totdat Kobus veilig terug by die huis was," sê mev. Engel-  
brecht.

# Gesin kan dit nie glo

**LOUIS VAN RENSBURG**, 48, het al talle menseleuens in myne gered. Hy was kaptein van 'n protospaan by 'n Zambiese myn wat met hope veiligheidsprofesie weg-geloop het. Sy base het hom altyddeur as 'n "bale versigtige, bekwame werker" bestempel.

Donderdag is die man wat



OP die agtergrond die trofee van die man wat byna sy hele lewe aan die veiligheid van ander mynwerkers gewy het. Wyle mnr. Louis van Rensburg was ook 'n ywerige sportman, soos sy oudste dogter Elsie, links. Regs voor is mev. Van Rensburg en agter haar Hester, 16.



gesê het hy sal nooit sterf in 'n skag wat hy gesink het nie, in 'n sliksloed in die Oos-Driefontelnmyn dood. Drie swart mynwerkers het saam met hom gesterf.

Sy gesin wat agterbly, is verslae. Sy oudste dogter, Elsie, 17, sê: "Ek kan dit nog nie glo nie. Ek verwag dat Pappa elke oomblik by die voordeur moet instap."

Mnr. Van Rensburg was dertig jaar mynwerker. Twintig jaar daarvan was hy 'n meester-skagsinker van die Nchanga-kopermyn in Zambië. Daar het hy en sy protospaan baie veiligheidsprofesie gewen en vasgekeerdes in myne gered. Hy was kaptein van die myn se rugbyspan.

## Gesinsman

"Louis was eenvoudig 'n wonderlike man," sê mev. Van Rensburg. "Die mynbestuur het altyd van hom gepraat as 'n bale versigtige werker."

"Hy was altyd die ideale gesinsman Saans, wanneer hy moeg van die werk af kom, het hy altyd met my, en die kinders op die sitkamer mat gespeel. Louis het net vir die kinders en vir my geleef," sê sy.

Die Van Rensburg-gesin sal in die huis in Pretoriusrus, Carletonville, aanbly. Die vier kinders is almal nog op skool en die oudste, Elsie, lê aan die einde van die jaar haar matriekeksamen af.

Die begrafnisdienis word Woensdag op Carletonville gehou. Mnr. Van Rensburg word op Krugersdorp veras.



Die veiligheidsman Louis van Rensburg met een van die trofee wat hy en sy protospaan in 1963 op Kirtwe gewen het.

## Onderzoek

Die Engelbrechts se jongste dogtertjie, Madeleine, 2, was die dag van die ongeluk vreeslik onrustig. "Van elfuur af het sy aanmekaar geskreu," sê Nita. "Sy het eers bedaar toe Kobus vieruur se kant by die huis kom. Ek is seker Madeleine het die ongeluk op die een of ander manier aangevoel."

Kobus was ongedeerd. Hy het Vrydag weer ondergronds gaan werk, maar hy sê hy voel nog nie te lekker oor die ongeluk nie. "As ek inhoudend daaraan. Die ongeluk knaag aan my, maar dis seker een van daardie dinge. Dit sal my nie van werk laat verander nie," sê hy.

'n Kommissie van die Kamer van Mynwese sal die ongeluk Donderdag ondersoek en die oorsaak probeer vasstel.

17/8/75

RAPPORT

# Dead miners named

RDM 27/8/75

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## Staff Reporter

THE NAMES of five African miners killed in a rockburst at the Western Deep Levels, Gold Mine near Carletonville, last week, have been released after a week-long struggle to trace their families.

An Anglo-American Corporation spokesman said in Johannesburg yesterday it had been difficult for officials of the Mine Labour Organisation to contact the relatives since many lived in remote areas.

The dead miners were Mr Robert Sikhuleni (from Swaziland), Mr Absalom Igeki (KwaZulu), Mr Senofi Matletsa (Botswana), Mr Khoto Letsaba (Lesotho) and Mr Masolara Gubelegoba (Transkei).

The rockburst occurred more than three kilometres below the mine surface in a long wall stope at the 107 level of the No 2 shaft.



# Mine fire MERCURY 26/8/75 controlled

WELKOM—Two fires broke out at the weekend underground on Free State gold mines. One, at President Steyn, is under control and the other, at President Brand, has been extinguished.

The fire at President Steyn was detected on Friday night in a stope in No. 4 shaft about 2 000m below surface. The mine's ventilation system has been reversed to isolate the fire and proto teams are installing water sprays to extinguish the blaze.

An electrical fire in the hoist chamber basement at No. 1 shaft at President Brand was extinguished by the Welkom Municipal Fire Brigade late on Friday.

Extensive damage was caused to the hoist electrical cable reticulation system, putting all three hoists out of action.

Two were repaired at the weekend and the third will be out of action for several days.  
(Sapa.)

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# Mine fire STAR 4/9/75 being

## sealed off

The fire which broke out at President Steyn gold mine in the Free State 13 days ago is being sealed off to allow it to burn itself out.

The fire — between 56 and 60 levels of the mine's No 4 Shaft, about 2 000 m below surface — has been isolated and under control for the past week, according to a spokesman for the Anglo American Corporation.

He said there was no danger of the fire spreading to the adjoining President Brand gold mine.

President Steyn's two other shafts were fully operational and production continued below the affected levels at No 4 Shaft.

The 1 300 workers from the affected area are being employed elsewhere on the mine.

# 'Rockbursts are root of mining woes'

STAR 11/9/75

212

At the present time, when the price of gold is under attack, and a more critical look is being taken both in and outside of South Africa at South African gold mines as an investment field, two problems, the outcome of which cannot be forecast with certainty, must weigh heavily in the balances.

The first, the ability of the industry to recruit an adequate supply of labour with the requisite skills

The second, the ability of the industry to devise and implement methods and equipment which, by reducing labour requirements, will curb the steeply rising working costs.

A major barrier to the overcoming of both prob-

lems is the failure of management to reduce the occurrence of rock falls and the fatalities and serious injuries arising from them.

Between 1906 and 1943 fatalities per 100 000 employees per annum from this cause were reduced from 120 to 70. Between 1943 and 1974 the figure has ranged from slightly above to slightly below this level.

Particularly disturbing is the increasing percentage of fatalities occurring as the result of rockbursts. In 1961, 48, equal to 18 percent, were from this cause. In 1973 the number had increased to 106, equal to 38 percent.

The prevention of such rockbursts is dependent

on the design of the mining excavations and the design and specification of the support system.

At present neither management nor the Government hold the mining engineer in charge to be legally responsible for the prevention of rockbursts.

While this situation prevails mining employment will become increasingly unpopular and it will be uneconomic to risk the loss of expensive equipment necessary to mechanise stoping operations.

Dr W L Wilson, until recently strata control engineer with a large mining group, is forthright on the specification of support systems to prevent uncontrolled rockbursts.

In his doctoral thesis, "The design and support of underground excavations in deep level hard-rock mines" he states: "A relationship has been established between rockbursts and hanging wall sag, which takes place when the material within the fracture dome settles away from the periphery of the stress dome. Bursting tends to follow the withdrawal of confinement of the stress dome.

"The stope support must not only be capable of carrying the weight of the detached hanging wall, but must also reduce the displacement (to that) forced upon the hanging wall by the elastic movements of the rock mass."

It would seem that while sufficient knowledge exists to permit the prevention of catastrophic rockbursts, this knowledge is not being applied

Until it is the prognosis for increased labour supplies (particularly for the new and developing deep level mines) and the introduction of mechanised stoping operations are not hopeful.

Jack Curtis

Westcliff

# Miners in death fall

*RDM 8/9/75 (212)*  
KIMBERLEY — Two De Beers miners plunged more than 1 000 metres to their death at the Wessington mine on Tuesday, a mine spokesman announced yesterday.

They were a White shaft timberman, Mr Siegfried Odendaal, and his African assistant, whose name is being withheld until next of kin has been informed. The accident happened at about 6 pm. The two men were working in a shaft when they fell and were killed instantly.

The circumstances of the accident were under investigation, the spokesman said — Sapa

## Miners killed

TWO African miners were killed by a fall of rock at the Stilfontein Gold Mine yesterday, a spokesman for the mine said in Johannesburg. Their names are being withheld until their next of kin are told. — Sapa

RDM 24/9/78

(212)

# Miner crushed to death <sup>RJM</sup><sub>2/10/75</sub>

AN African loco crewman died after an accident at the Buffelsfontein 23 level yesterday morning, the mine management announced

The man whose name is

being withheld till next of kin are informed, was returning with an empty span of hoppers He was jammed between two hoppers when the first one derailed —Sapa

( 212 )

RDM 8/10/75 (212)

## Immigrant

### miner dies

A 31-YEAR-OLD Portuguese immigrant, Mr B J. de Franca, was killed at the Blyvooruitzicht Mine near Carletonville yesterday when he was struck by a skip while working in an incline shaft. He leaves a wife and three children — Sapa.

STAR: 6/11/75  
**Hopes dim  
for trapped  
miners**

The chances of finding alive three men trapped by a rockburst in the Durban Deep mine, Roodeport, were considered small today as rescue teams prepared to clear away rocks. One man was killed and four were injured in the rockfall, which occurred 2132 m below the surface. "Rescue workers are now working from both sides of the rockfall and should meet today," a spokesman for the mine said, adding that the rescue operation had continued round the clock. The names of the men involved, ~~that~~ of them Black — are being withheld pending notification of their next of kin.



# Eerste Rapport 16/11/75 dag in 212 myn sy laaste

'N DAG nadat hy sy opleiding by 'n mynskool voltooi het, is mnr Bob van Niekerk, 19, Vrydag in 'n mynongeluk dood. Sy vader, wat gedink het sy seun is net beseer, het by die ingang van die myn gestaan en wag toe Bob se lyk na die oppervlak gebring word.

Bob het Vrydag begin werk as 'n afbouer. Hy en drie swart werkers was besig met werk in 'n uitgewerkte deel van die myn toe die dak skielik instort. Bob is dood weens kopbeserings. 'n Swart werker het ook gesterf en die ander is beseer.

Bob laat sy jong vrou en 'n baba van 'n paar weke agter.

(212)  
**Mine death**

RDM 2/11/75

STILFONTEIN. — A mining trainee, Mr S. P. van Niekerk, was killed in a rockfall at the Stilfontein gold mine last week.

A mine official said yesterday he was killed by a fall of hanging during sweeping operations —

Sapa

212

# Twelve die, 4 injured in mine explosion

R.D.M.

70/11/75

212

TWELVE Black mine workers were killed and four were injured in a methane explosion 1993 m underground early yesterday at the Kloof Gold Mine near Westonaria, a company spokesman told Sapa

The injured men are in hospital. Last night a hospital spokesman said one was in a serious condition. The other three were "satisfactory".

The bodies of the dead men have been recovered, but their names and the names of the injured are being withheld until their next of kin have been notified.

The mine manager, Mr J. Oberholzer, said the mine had been sealed off to eliminate the threat to other mineworkers, reports UPI

The blast occurred at 8:15 am and the men killed were unable to escape in time.

Mr Oberholzer said the explosion took place "despite of stringent precautions."

# Mine death explosion still mystery at Kloof

Star 20/11/75

212

## Labour Reporter

The methane gas explosion which killed 12 Black members of a tunnelling team and injured four others yesterday was the first of its kind at the Kloof gold mine.

This was announced by Gold Fields today as investigations into the explosion continued.

No fire or rockfall resulted and all work in the immediate vicinity of the explosion was stopped, the spokesman said.

All of the men involved were from the Transkei.

One of the four injured is in a serious condition and the others suffered less serious fractures, cuts and bruises.

All are in the Gold Fields West Hospital.

The White miner in charge of the development end was beyond the reach of the explosion and escaped injury.

Stringent precautions against explosive gases were the rule in all tunnelling operations at gold mines in South Africa, said the Gold Fields official.

## SAFETY "LACK"

The manager of the mine, Mr B. C. Oberholzer, said last night the exact cause of the accident was not known.

"The matter is still being investigated."

Lourenco Marques Radio claimed today that the high number of victims was due to a complete lack of safety measures.

The Star's Africa News Service picked up the following comment from the radio station.

"It is to be stressed that any increase of safety measures in the mines is not envisaged by the South African racist Government which is only interested in protecting the interests of the big capitalist groups."

"Also important is the fact that the families of African victims do not receive any compensation in case of death or permanent incapacity."

# Inquiry into 12-death mine blast begins <sup>RDM</sup> 2/11/75

Labour Correspondent

THE Government Chief Mining Engineer, Mr E Mead and an inspector of mines, yesterday started the preliminary on-site investigation into the methane explosion at Kloof Mine which claimed 12 lives.

The mine manager, Mr J. C. Oberholzer, said yesterday the names of the 12 dead could not yet be released. All the families of the victims had first to be informed.

He said post mortems were being conducted on the dead and an inquest hearing was due to be held next week.

Mr Oberholzer said most of the equipment and air vents in the tunnel where the blast occurred on Wednesday morning had already been replaced.

Two of the four survivors of the explosion yesterday spoke about their escapes.

The other two, whose injuries were more serious, could not be interviewed, on doctor's orders.

Mr Khotso Setenane, 31, who sustained a fractured arm and minor head injuries, said he did not remember clearly what happened. "I am a machine operator and I was busy drilling when I suddenly fell violently to the ground.

"I lost consciousness. When I came to, I found I could not move my legs. They were buried under rubble.

"I was scared and I started pushing the rocks off with my right hand, which was unhurt. I could not see. The whole place was full of fumes. I groped my way through the fumes until I came to a drilling platform.

"I came across a drilling platform and I saw a man lying on top. I touched him, but he didn't move. Another man was trapped underneath.

"I walked on in a panic until I saw lights. An hour could have elapsed since the accident. I was then taken to the surface," he said.

The other injured man, Mr Andre Chauke, 19, is from Mozambique. He is employed as a track cleaner.

"We were still busy working when I heard a big explosion. I thought the roof had fallen on us. I passed out and when I regained my senses, I found myself minus my tin hat and belt.

"My shirt was torn. I was scared and confused. I walked in the direction of the locomotive. I then came across a group of people working. This is when I received help," he said.

# Mine victims named

Staff Reporter

THE NAMES of the 12 miners killed in a methane gas explosion at the Kloof Gold Mine last Wednesday were yesterday released by a spokesman for the mine.

They are: Mr Moisis Tivona, 22; Mr Elberto

RDM 25/11/75  
Bela, 29; Mr Motebang Mkesane, 35; Mr Nettleton Dwayi, 24; Mr Siomon Sekhoka, 23; Mr Mpotzi Peyimani, 50; Mr Borges Ibralimo, 30; Mr Simone Mabunda, 24; Mr Antonio Massingue, 39; Mr Hakavthu Kativa, 33; Mr Jeremiah Seftlane, 40; and Mr Josiah Buthehzi 37

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*Mercury 5/12/75*  
**Mine death**

JOHANNESBURG — An African miner was killed when a hopper derailed in a shaft of the Stilfontem General Mining Company, a statement by the mine disclosed. — (Sapa).

~~212~~

212

# Two miners tell of shaft blast

Star 8/12/75

212

A victim of the Klóof Gold Mine explosion on November 19 said in the Goldfields West Hospital today that there was a violent explosion and he fell to the footwall screaming. The victim, Mr Mokotan Maboto, a Shangaan, was

one of three mine-workers in the hospital who gave evidence today at an official inquiry into the explosion.

The three men were all injured in the explosion and members of the inquiry team visited them in hospital.

Twelve Black mineworkers died in the explosion in a tunnel on the 24th level at a depth of 1993 m on November 19.

Mr Maboto said he was drilling in the tunnel with a team when the explosion took place.

### CALLED OUT

"I started calling out when my team leader found me he took me to the miners' box," he said.

Another victim Mr Tseliso Gamuthla, said he was drilling at the face and the team was nearly ready to charge up when the explosion took place.

"I did not know what happened. My hard hat was blown off and it felt as if the roof was falling in. I fell to the ground and don't remember what happened next.

(Proceeding)



212

Cape Times 12/12/75  
**Miners killed**

JOHANNESBURG — Two mineworkers were killed in a fall of rocks in the stoping area of the SA Lands Mine near Brakpan on Tuesday.  
A spokesman identified one of the dead men as Mr W H van Staden, a stoper. He is survived by his wife.  
The identity of the second man killed in the accident will not be disclosed until his next of kin have been informed.  
— Sapa

13. General comment

12. Should there be more or fewer tests? Essays and tutorial exercises?

have you found staff and tutors. Comment

## Miner killed

A BLACK miner was killed when he fell off a guard stool and down an ore pass at Buffelsfontein gold mine on Wednesday, a spokesman for General Mining announced. — Sa-  
pa

212

RDM 12/12/75

~~212~~

3. Are there any topics you feel should be added to the course? dropped from the course?

4. Are you satisfied with your present tutor? Yes/no  
Comment

5. (a) What in your opinion should the aim of tutorials be

(b) Do you feel these goals were achieved during the year?

# Sandwich saved life <sup>away.</sup> of miner <sup>9/10/75</sup>

212

JOHANNESBURG — A 49-year-old mine overseer, Mr. Paul Stephanus Grobelaar, told an official inquiry into the Kloof Gold Mine explosion here yesterday that had he not paused to eat a sandwich before going to mark up charge holes in the face, he would have been killed in the explosion which took place on November 19.

Mr. Grobelaar said that he was in charge of the tunnelling team who were involved in the explosion and that 12 of his men had been killed.

Just before the explosion his learner miner approached him and said he should mark up the charge holes. "I stopped to eat a sandwich and we discussed the work and as we got up to go to the face there was a tremendous explosion

"I saw my team leader, Jack, who lost an arm, running towards me and he told me there had been a terrible accident and he thought that people were dead," Mr. Grobelaar said.

He later worked in the smoke and dust to get at the injured, the dead and the dying.

He said that the fumes which rolled past him in the dust did not appear to be explosive fumes.

He added that he had the key to the explosives

store but one of his dead men may have had another key of which he was unaware.

A victim of the explosion said in hospital yesterday that there was a violent explosion and he fell to the footwall screaming on the day of the accident.

The victim, Mr. Mokhotan Maboto, a Shangaan, was one of three mine workers in hospital who gave evidence yesterday.

Mr. Maboto, who told an interpreter that he was still deaf from the explosion, said he was drilling in the tunnel with a team when the explosion took place.

"As I lay screaming I got a strong smell of blasting (gelignite) fumes and I could not see at all

"I started calling out when my team leader found me and took me to the miners box," he said. Mr. Maboto's right hand is still in plaster.

The evidence at the hearing ended yesterday and it was announced that the finding would be made public later

In earlier evidence a drainage operator told the Chairman of the inquiry, Mr. H. D. Edmeades, Chief Inspector of Mines, that before the explosion he saw two scotch carts going into the tunnel. One was loaded with two acetylene tanks and a torch and the other with two and half cases of gelignite

Another victim, Mr. Tseliso Gamuthla, who suffered a fractured femur, said that he was drilling at the face and the team was nearly ready to charge up when the explosion took place.

"I did not know what happened. My hard hat was blown off and I felt as if the roof was falling in. I fell to the ground and don't remember what happened next." — (Sapa.)

head

# Miner dies in blast

RIM 12/12/75  
212

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- Own Correspondent

KIMBERLEY — One man died and six others were injured in a blasting accident at the 785 m level of the Wesselton Diamond Mine, near Kimberley, early yesterday.

The men were installing explosive charges in a production drift

All the men were Africans. They have been admitted to the De Beers Mine hospital for treatment.

The name of the dead man, who was a Transkei resident, will not be released until his next-of-kin have been informed.

The cause of the accident was being investigated, said a De Beers official.

RDM 19/12/75  
**Miner killed**

(212)  
AN African was killed in a rockfall accident at Winkelhaak Mines Ltd yesterday morning, a company announcement said. His name has not been released. — Sapa.

RDM 20/12/75  
**Miner dies**

(212)

AN African mineworker from the Transkei was killed at Western Areas yesterday, according to a spokesman for JCI. His name was not released as his next of kin have yet to be notified — Sapa.

# Mine hero

## stuck for

STAR 23/2/76

## 38 hours

212

### Pretoria Bureau

A 41-year-old mining foreman put the lives of three Black miners before his own and was trapped 500 metres below ground for 38 hours.

From his bed in the Cullinan Mining Hospital today, Willie Thomas of Cullinan, gave a resigned "well you have to live with these things" smile and said that what had worried him most during his ordeal at the Premier Diamond Mine was the total darkness and lack of air.

"I was scared, but I didn't panic I got a little worried about the shortage of air and the darkness was terrible But you can't panic If you are alone you can go crazy.

"When the rescue team drilled that hole and made contact with me—that was nice Then I could talk—I talked for two hours"

When the steel support and chains holding the soil back began to give way at 1.15 am on Saturday, Mr Thomas's thought was for his team of three Black workers They reached safety in time

As Mr Thomas climbed a ladder to the second level his legs were trapped in tons of sludge. Only

when the first level collapsed, and some of the sludge drained, was he able to reach the second platform

There he stayed until he was helped to safety at 4 pm yesterday.

"A lot of that time I knew that rescue operations were on the move It was comforting to know that the team was there."

When he eventually got out his wife and five children, and the three men whose lives he had put before his own, were there to greet him.

Mr Thomas wants to get cracking with repair work at the spot where he nearly lost his life "I wanted to get back to work today but the doctors said I have to stay put until tomorrow."

Rescue workers reached Mr Thomas by boring a hole directly above where he disappeared The first attempt missed, but the second time they found him

*Notes  
Mercury  
23/2/76*

# No hope for miner

212

Mercury Correspondent  
PRETORIA, — Rescue squads were called off yesterday after struggling for more than 24 hours to dig through and save a Premier Diamond Mine shift boss who is buried in a rockfall 500 metres underground.

Hope has been given up for Mr. Willie Thomas, a father of five children who was trapped when a tunnel collapsed. Three African workers with him escaped as the ground started to subside.

Rescue squads tried to reach Mr. Thomas from both sides of the tunnel, but without success.



ARGUS 23/2/76

# Miner is rescued after 38 hours

212

The Argus Bureau  
PRETORIA. — A shift boss was rescued yesterday from the Premier Diamond Mine near Cullinan after being trapped 500 metres beneath the surface for more than 38 hours.

Mr Willie Thomas (40) was trapped by mud on Saturday. Rescue teams worked throughout the night.

Early yesterday the team made contact with Mr Thomas and found he was safe.

The team reached Mr Thomas by boring a hole directly above where he disappeared, although the first attempt missed Mr Thomas.

On their second attempt, however, they located the trapped man and, after widening the hole, began passing Mr Thomas water and cigarettes.

The hole was gradually enlarged to enable Mr Thomas to climb free of the mud and rocks that had enombed him for 38 hours.

# Miner misses being buried by seconds

RDM 24/2/76

712

## Staff Reporter

A PREMIER Mine miner, Mr Alwyn Kok, described yesterday how he escaped by seconds being buried with his shift boss and close friend, in the Cullinan mine accident at the weekend.

Premier Mine Hospital authorities refused the Rand Daily Mail permission to interview the shift boss, Mr Willie Thomas, who spent 38 hours huddled on a tiny shelf 500 m underground under tons of rock, before being rescued.

Matron J. Prinsloo refused permission to see Mr Thomas, the father of five children, at a time when he was being interviewed for television.

However, near the mine Mr Kok, still clearly upset by the accident, had been told by doctors he was not to go underground for the time being.

Mr Kok said he and Mr Thomas were close friends. They were working to-

gether minutes before the underground collapse.

"One of us had to attend to something at another level, and he told me to go. At that stage there was a trickle of water and sand coming down the shaft where we were working.

"I went off, and seconds later my bossboy came running to me to tell me that he and two other Africans had been sent to safety seconds before tons of rock descended on Mr

Thomas", said Mr Kok.

"I immediately gave the alarm and helped start digging to reach Mr Thomas. At first a shaft was drilled to establish if he was still alive, and it was found he had succeeded in getting shelter on a small shelf.

"He was cheerful, and we were determined to reach him as quickly as possible. Eventually, and before they reached him, I was taken off by the medics," Mr Kok said.

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# Knee-deep in mud and rocks KEPT A COOL HEAD

Staff Reporter

PREMIER — "It was terrible torture to hear the rescue team searching for me and not be able to contact them to tell them where I was."

This is how Shiftboss W.G. Thomas (40) described his ordeal last week when he was trapped underground for about 36 hours

He was interviewed while in hospital for observation

At 23h00 on Friday he and three Black workers went to a vertical orepass to inspect it and clear away the mud on the first platform, caused by heavy rains. This was at about 500 metres

While they were clearing away he noticed that the pressure caused by the build-up of excessive mud was about to burst through the restraining chains

He immediately ordered the three workers to escape through the manhole and down the ladder. As his Bossboy went down last, Mr Thomas saw that he himself would not be able to get clear, so he ran across to the ladder leading up to the second platform

But by the time he had climbed a few rungs, the mud and rocks burst past the chains and trapped him knee-deep.

The first platform then filled up with mud and the weight of it caused the platform to collapse.

This freed his legs and enabled him to climb to safety on the second platform

Mr Thomas said he checked his position by torchlight and switched off to conserve batteries. He had no idea how long he would be stuck there. He could hear rescue workers trying to reach him, but he could not communicate. He sat in absolute darkness and only occasionally switched on the light to see if his position was still safe

At about 11h00 on Sunday, on their second attempt, rescuers managed to get a 5 cm hole drilled through to his position

"It was a great relief to be able to communicate with the outside world again," he said. Mr Thomas said he spoke to the rescue team leader for a while. The hole was then en-

larged to about 10 cm in diameter and air was pumped through and he was passed food and water

At about 15h00 he was brought out after lashing operations had exposed the box brow.



Mr. Thomas recuperating in hospital after being rescued from the underground accident in which his chances of survival were one million to one

# Never before such camaraderie

Staff Reporter

PREMIER — "It was a chance in a million that Mr. Thomas survived. The time to reach the ladder to the second platform was only

"The natural way was to try to get down through the manhole. Instead Mr. Thomas used his head and climbed up the ladder to the platform from

A lot of the success was owed to engineers who had to service the machines which had to work under great speed and strain.

Never had he come

A drill rig had to be set up to make the hole. This in itself was a major feat as it had to be done on top of the mud so that the drilling squad could get close enough.

of camaraderie

"His survival is attributable to his cool presence of mind, as he had only seconds to decide on his escape route," says Section Manager C.A.F. Sweet, who was in charge of rescue operations

The rescue team brought in loaders and a train to clear away the debris down the mine. Rescue operations continued round the clock, with shifts changing every eight hours.

It was decided to drill a hole through to above the second platform to try to make contact with Mr. Thomas, although they didn't hold out much hope for his survival, Mr. Sweet said.

Under extremely difficult conditions, they drilled the first hole which was too high. The second was drilled lower and they made contact.

They pumped air through the 50 mm hole and passed a hosepipe through to provide Mr. Thomas with water. The hole was enlarged to 100 mm to pass through food.

In the meantime they continued excavations on the west side of the ore-pass until they reached the level of the first platform. They passed a rope through the 100 mm hole on the east side, which Mr. Thomas secured on to the second platform, and then lowered himself through the opening excavated on the west side.

Mr. Sweet said that all this time Mr. Thomas had directed operations from his trapped position and had stayed calm throughout.

Mr. Thomas climbed down to safety at 15h15 on Sunday.

Footnote. — Mr. Thomas has an 18-month accident-free spell on Premier. When they got him out his first words were: "I haven't ruined my accident record yet."

**5 miners killed**

DD 27/2/76.  
KRUGERSDORP — Five  
mineworkers died in a  
pressure burst yesterday  
at the West Rand Con-  
solidated Mine yesterday.

One mineworker was  
seriously injured and  
several others suffered  
minor injuries, a  
spokesman for general  
mining said yesterday. He  
said the damage was still  
being assessed and  
production may be  
affected. — SAPA.

912

# 'Industrial chest': new evidence

STAR 5/3/76

The incidence of "industrial chests," silicosis and mixed dust pneumoconiosis, was relatively high among workers in different South African industries, according to the SA Medical Research Council.

The latest evidence of the relatively high rate of occupational disease in

the country was gathered by the National Research Institute for Occupational Diseases of the SA Medical Research Council

A statement released by the council disclosed other causes of "industrial chest" included exposure to diatomaceous earth, tin, cobalt, asbestos and quartz dust when repairing furnaces

The functions of the National Research Institute for Occupational Diseases include research work and statutory services on pneumoconiosis for the Department of Mines; studying the problem of asbestosis and related malignant tumours in workers in the mining and non-mining industries.

A careful watch is being kept on the toxic effects associated with the manufacture and possible industrial use of polyvinyl chloride

This project is financially supported by one of South Africa's largest producers of the chemical

Marked central nervous system changes had been found in a few employees exposed to manganese, but the manganese could be removed from the body with prolonged therapy

Pollution studies have also been carried out into the number of asbestos fibres present in the Johannesburg atmosphere.

(1) 131  
(2) 212

# Mines twice as safe as the roads

Staff Reporter

JOHANNESBURG. — Road accidents killed twice as many members in service than did mine accidents during the five years 1970—1974, says the Mines Death Benefit Fund.

The Fund's report for 1974 shows that 186 members in service died in road smashes in the five-year period. Ninety-one members died in mine accidents.

Deaths due to road accidents (186) and to "other violent causes" (88) in the five years were three times the deaths among "active"

members ascribed as being due to mine accidents.

An analysis of the deaths over the past five years according to cause shows that once again "heart and blood vessels" has accounted for at least 40 per cent of the deaths among "active" and "continuation" members.

The next highest number of deaths was that due to "cancer and non-malignant tumours", being 12 per cent of the total of all deaths.

The Fund had 46 253

members at the end of 1974.

Its monies come from the monthly contribution rate of R1 per active member, which is paid by employers only. Members make no contributions.

The MDBF provides a R700 death cover for members.

Employers contributions during 1974 amounted to R477 330.

The number of deaths during 1974 was 620

MINING  
NEWS  
212 26/3/76

# THERE'S A SAYING MINING NEWS 26/3/76 (212) AMONG MINERS..

Staff Reporter

**HARMONY.** — A Miner who was taken for dead after being hit and buried by a rock weighing approximately five tonnes, is alive — thanks to the fast action of his Black team and the capable hands of Cottesloe's doctors.

The accident occurred last month, only ten days after 21-year-old Charles Loxton was married.

Accompanied by a member of his Black team he entered his stope at 7 30 a.m. and was still doing his early morning checking when the rock came down on the two of them.

Seeing only their feet sticking out from under the huge boulder, the other team members assumed that both had been killed instantly.

Sending someone to call the Shiftboss the rest meanwhile dug the trapped men out and found that Mr. Loxton, though badly hurt and bleeding profusely, was still alive. The only injury to his assistant, who was treated in hospital and discharged, was a facial bruise. He was saved by Mr. Loxton falling on top of him.

By the time the Shiftboss arrived all possible first aid had been administered by the team of Blacks.

Mr. Loxton was taken to the mine's hospital for Blacks where doctors worked on him to prevent further deterioration in his condition. From there he was first sent to Welkom Hospital and then rushed to Cottesloe where he underwent a series of operations.

His injuries included severe fractures of the skull, facial fractures and lacerations and a badly contused spine.

"Though he will be in hospital a long time we know he'll be all right. There's a saying among miners that if you're breathing when you get to Cottesloe, you'll be fine," said Safety Officer Jock McLernan afterwards.



211  
212

5 APR 29/3/76

# Working costs the key to gold quarterlies

The amount of revenue received by the mines from gold sales for the quarter to the end of March will probably show little change on income from the last quarter of 1975. But the vital question for investors is how working costs have performed

Reserve Bank operations on the free market are likely to have been more finely tuned, but foreign exchange requirements necessitated the disposal of all newly mined gold

Krugerrand sales have been erratic, with January a particularly poor month. The recent European currency upheaval stimulated demand but it looks as though the total for the quarter will be lower than for the final three months of last year.

It must be borne in mind that payment to individual mines varies quite widely in the short-term, but the average could work out at around the equivalent of 130 dollars (R113) an ounce produced.

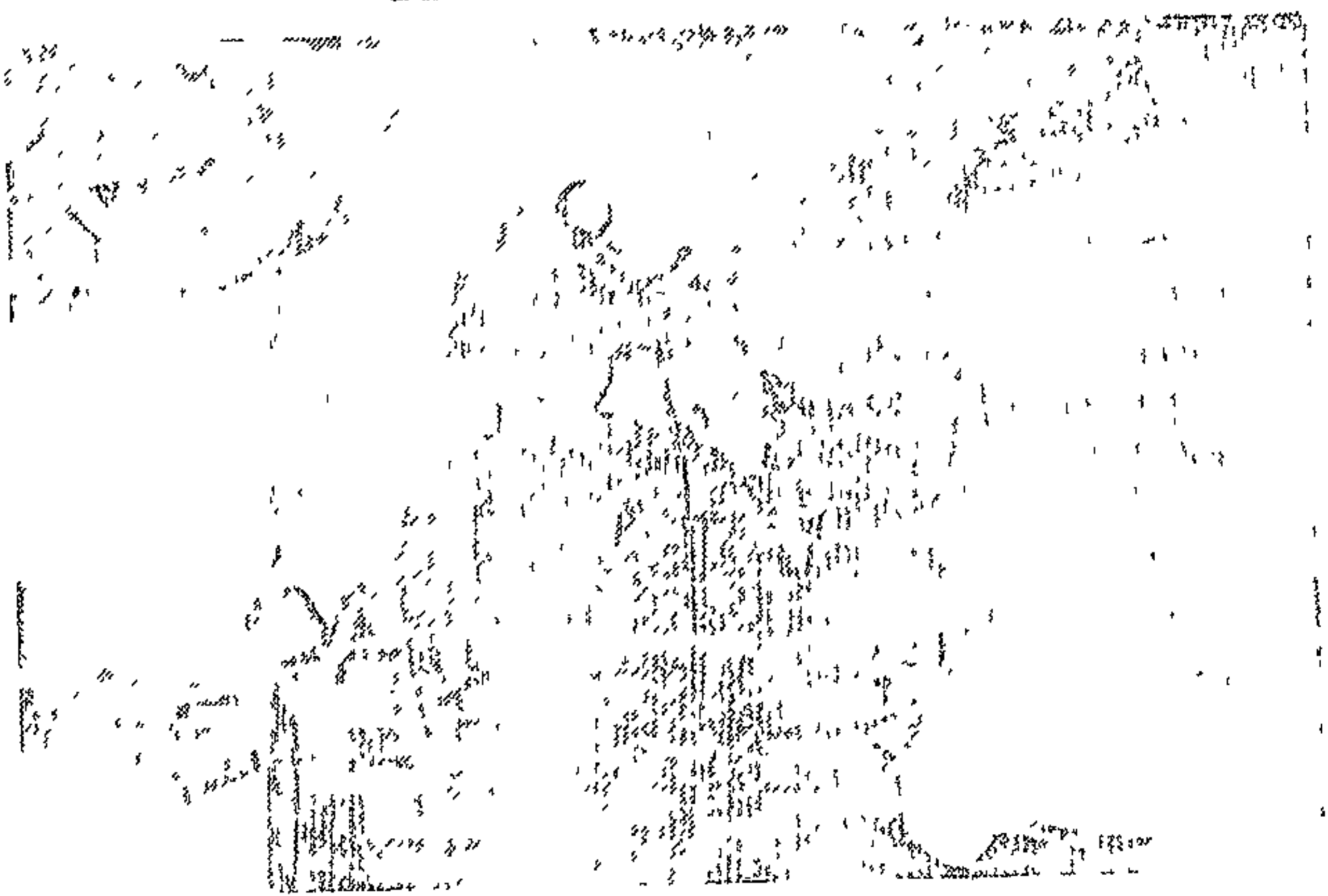
## CHEERING

The most cheering aspect of the December quarterly reports was the slowdown in the rise of working costs

The industry's average increase for the last quarter was 4 percent an ounce produced, against 5.1 percent in the previous period and 6.4 percent in the quarter to June last year

One of the main reasons for this was the improvement in the number of Black underground workers from its nadir of 78 percent of requirements earlier in the year. This trend has continued and the labour force now stands at 98 percent

There has also been an



The miners are happy . . . but what's in store for investors?

the Chamber of Mines, are benefits from the overall productivity programme started two years ago

With mill throughputs recovering from the effects of last year's labour shortages, the wage and salary component of unit working costs is now relatively static. This exerts the most influence on stabilising costs

**April 13 is when the first of the gold mining quarterlies will be published. Will it be unlucky 13 or an Easter surprise? MAC THAIN assesses the prospects.**

because it accounts for 56 percent of expenditure.

Other costs are, of course, subject to various price increases, but the industry is keeping a watch for unjustifiable rises by suppliers

The high level of capital expenditure during the 1974-5 period has tapered off, partly because programmes are nearing completion. In addition, the lower gold price caused the reassessment

and the cost of this has been hoisted by devaluation. Even before September 19, prices of capital items were rising rapidly and the industry had adopted a policy of forward purchases — notably on heavy items which would not be installed for some time

Depending on what is happening on individual mines, overall capital spending could be down, which would raise distributable profits.

Some uranium producers could provide the icing on what promises to be a plumless cake. With growing demand and rising prices, they may have enjoyed "special" sales in recent months. Special sales of uranium increased in the second half of last year to bring aggregate profits for 1975 to R18m. However, there is no set pattern with these sales

The performance of the

gold price remains the dominant factor in quarterly results. Cost increases could well be kept down over the next three months, but after that they are likely to come under pressure as the five-day week is introduced in the industry

There are hopes that the short week will not slow production, but teething troubles seem inevitable.

## JOKER

Senator Horwood might pull a Budget joker out of the pack. It seems unlikely that mining taxation will be increased, mainly because this would hit overseas investors, who are already unhappy over the effects of devaluation

We might come up with a loan levy, justifying it on the grounds that it is only a deferment of distributable profits.

212

RDM 13/4/76  
**Miner dies**

AN African miner was killed at the Stilfontein gold mine yesterday, a spokesman for the company said in Johannesburg. The name has not been disclosed. The man died of multiple injuries after a fall of ground in 23/48 south centre gully, Margaret Shaft east sub vertical. — Sapa.

# Safety on mines 212 tops: Bird

MINING NEWS 28/5/76

Staff Reporter  
JOHANNESBURG —  
"South Africa's mining industry is second to none in the world when it comes to the application of modern safety techniques."

This is the opinion of Mr Frank Bird, Executive Director of the International Institute for Loss Control and an expert in the field of industrial safety

Earlier this month Mr Bird spoke here at a seminar on loss control. It was arranged by Anglo American Corporation for senior Group officials

He explained that loss control techniques are used by management to eliminate risk, to prevent losses through injury, industrial disease, fire, theft, vandalism and other causes, and to reduce the extent of losses which do occur.

"Frank Bird has reiterated that safety plays an important part in the management control system," said Mr Heinz Strohbach, Safety Engineer at Anglo American, who organised the seminar.

"In the past safety tended to concentrate more on the conservation of people

By practising loss control safety is extended to equipment, materials and the environment, all of which contribute to our income and profitability," he said.

Mr. Bird lectured at Vaal Reefs and Western Holdings. He said he was favourably impressed by the care mine managements took regarding the safety and living conditions of employees.

He also had praise for the general level of management of mines which were on the same level of development as those of other modern countries

"In all places I saw the modern manner in which mines are managed and the latest safety control methods applied," Mr. Bird said. "I saw the most modern mining safety techniques on various mines and feel that those which do not apply all the best regulations, simply have to look to the leaders in this field and follow their examples."

Mr. Bird referred to political criticism South Africa has to endure over a wide front.

"I have had the opportunity of taking a close look at certain of your problems," he said, "and feel that there are many positive things that can be said for South Africa."

# Five feared dead in mine blaze 8/6/76

Staff Reporter *ROM* on Sunday morning A "help" call was made to other mines and a total of 39 proto teams responded.

FIVE proto team members are missing presumed dead, in an underground fire which has been raging at the Western Deep Levels gold mine near Carletonville since Sunday

The men, all members of a proto team from Stilfontein gold mine, had been called in to assist in fighting the fire

They were Mr J. P. Vorster, 28, Mr S. H. Naber, 40, Mr P J J Roux, 37, Mr W. A. Rider, 19, and Mr V G. Watts, 24. They were all married, but it is not yet known how many dependants there are.

"It would be a miracle if they were still alive," a spokesman for the mine said last night

The fire broke out at No 3 Shaft at the 86th level, 2 500 m underground,

At noon yesterday the Stilfontein team entered the fire area. When they went in they told the team behind them: "If we're not back in three-quarters of an hour come and look for us"

When they had not reappeared within the stipulated time a back-up team entered the area where they discovered a body. The back-up team was forced to leave the area because of the heat and were unable to recover the body. The other four men are still missing.

Other proto teams continue to fight the fire which is being contained in a relatively small area.

# Fire 'holla' for missing miners

Own Correspondent

**JOHANNESBURG.**—Proto teams were working round the clock at No. 3 shaft, Western Deep Levels gold mine, last night to extinguish the fire at 85 level which has apparently consumed all five members of a proto party.

Early yesterday rescuers recovered the body of Mr J P Vorster, 28, one of the members of a proto team from Stilfontein which had been fighting the fire 2500 m below the surface. The fire started on Sunday.

Still missing last night were Mr S H Naber, 40, Mr P J Roux, 37, Mr W A Rider, 29, and Mr V G Watts, 24.

"It's a tragedy. We don't know what happened — these people were specially trained for this kind of work, so something strange certainly took place," Mr Ben Petersen, personnel manager at Western Deep Levels, near Carletonville, said yesterday.

He said it appeared that the team, one of six in the mine at the time, went into a section to open valves for water hoses when they disappeared.

"When they did not return after 45 minutes, a search was launched. Mr Vorster's body was found 60 m along a cross-cut section. Now teams are fighting the fire and trying to clear the smoke

in that section to find the missing four," he said.

The mine, deepest of its kind in the world, had 30 fatalities last year.

He added that with a population of about 16 300 the mine's death figure was not excessive.

Yesterday 195 men, in 39 proto teams, were working in relays to beat the fire. "They might put it out within a day — but then again it might burn for a week. Meantime, the teams are fighting as hard as possible," he said.

STAR 9/16/76

# Mine fire recovery bid ends

## Carletonville

The blazing section of the Western Deep Levels gold mine has been sealed off, entombing the bodies of four proto team members, and the 62 proto teams fighting the fire have been withdrawn for their own safety.

This was announced today by Mr Eric Bereton, general manager of the gold mine, the world's deepest mine. "We have reached this decision with the deepest regret," he said.

"There was no alternative. The fight to contain the fire was unsuccessful and the sudden deterioration was posing a serious threat to the lives of the proto team members.

"The high temperatures and concentration of gases in the fire area left those in charge of rescue and recovery operations in no doubt that the missing men could not have survived for so long."

The fire is still burning on the 86th level at No 3 shaft and Mr Bereton has no idea when it will burn itself out. He could not estimate what the mine's losses would be.

### Body found

The five members of the Stilfontein proto team entered the mine on Monday and, after not returning, another team was sent to look for them. A body was found but could not be identified.

This body, that of Mr J B Vorster, was recovered yesterday morning.

"I extend my heartfelt sympathy to the wives, families and relatives of that gallant Stilfontein team," Mr Bereton said.

He also paid tribute to the "ceaseless and magnificent" effort of the many proto teams who had responded to the call for assistance over the past three days.

Failure to recover the missing men was not due to any lack of effort on their part.

● Men of the protos— Page 25.

● Pictures and diagram — Page 3; and "Men of the Protos" — Page 5.

# Search for proto bodies called off

RD 10/6/76

## Staff Reporter

THE search for the bodies of the four members of the Stilfontein proto team at Western Deep Levels mine was called off early yesterday

A sudden deterioration of the situation 2500 m below the surface prompted the decision

Mr Eric Brereton, general manager of Western Deep Levels Gold Mine, said all the proto teams fighting the blaze on the 86th level had been withdrawn and the affected area was now being sealed off.

The fire started on Sunday, and the Stilfontein proto team, one of six in the mine at the time, disappeared at noon on Monday.

One of its members, 28-year-old Mr P. J. Vorster, was found dead 60 m in a cross-cut section early on Tuesday

Mr Brereton yesterday said high temperatures

and concentration of gases in the area left rescuers in no doubt that the missing men could not have survived

Those missing are Mr S. H. Naber, 40, Mr P. J. Roux, 37, Mr W. A. Rider, 29 and Mr V. G. Watts, 24

"We reached the decision to suspend the search with the deepest regret. There was no other alternative open to us. Failure to recover the bodies of the missing men was not due to any lack of effort," Mr Brereton said. He paid tribute to the "ceaseless and magnificent efforts" of the proto teams

Meanwhile, a spokesman for the Chamber of Mines yesterday said the families of the five victims would be compensated

"There are substantial benefits from various sources connected with mine employment," he said. The amounts involved were a private matter and disclosure was not in the public interest, he added

## Teams fight

### new mine fire

ROM 11/6/76

A FIRE was discovered at West Driefontein Gold Mine early yesterday, Gold Fields has announced.

The fire is in the No 5 sub-vertical shaft at a depth of 1 823 metres.

Efforts were being made to put it out by direct attack with Proto teams, a statement said.

It said production loss of about 10 per cent could be expected.

Nobody has been affected by smoke or fumes. — Sapa.



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~~CHANGES~~  
**Miners killed**  
RDM 12/6/76  
TWO Africans were killed by a rock fall at Buffelsfontein Gold Mine on Thursday. A spokesman for General Mining said it was caused by a seismic disturbance.

**Mine fire**  
*RDM 15/6/76*  
**controlled**

**THE FIRE** which broke out in the West Driefontein Gold Mine recently has now burnt up through the mined-out workings to above the elevation of the current underground production, according to a statement yesterday by Goldfields of South Africa.

Underground production returned to normal on Saturday and the fire was not expected to have any additional effect on operating conditions. — Sapa.

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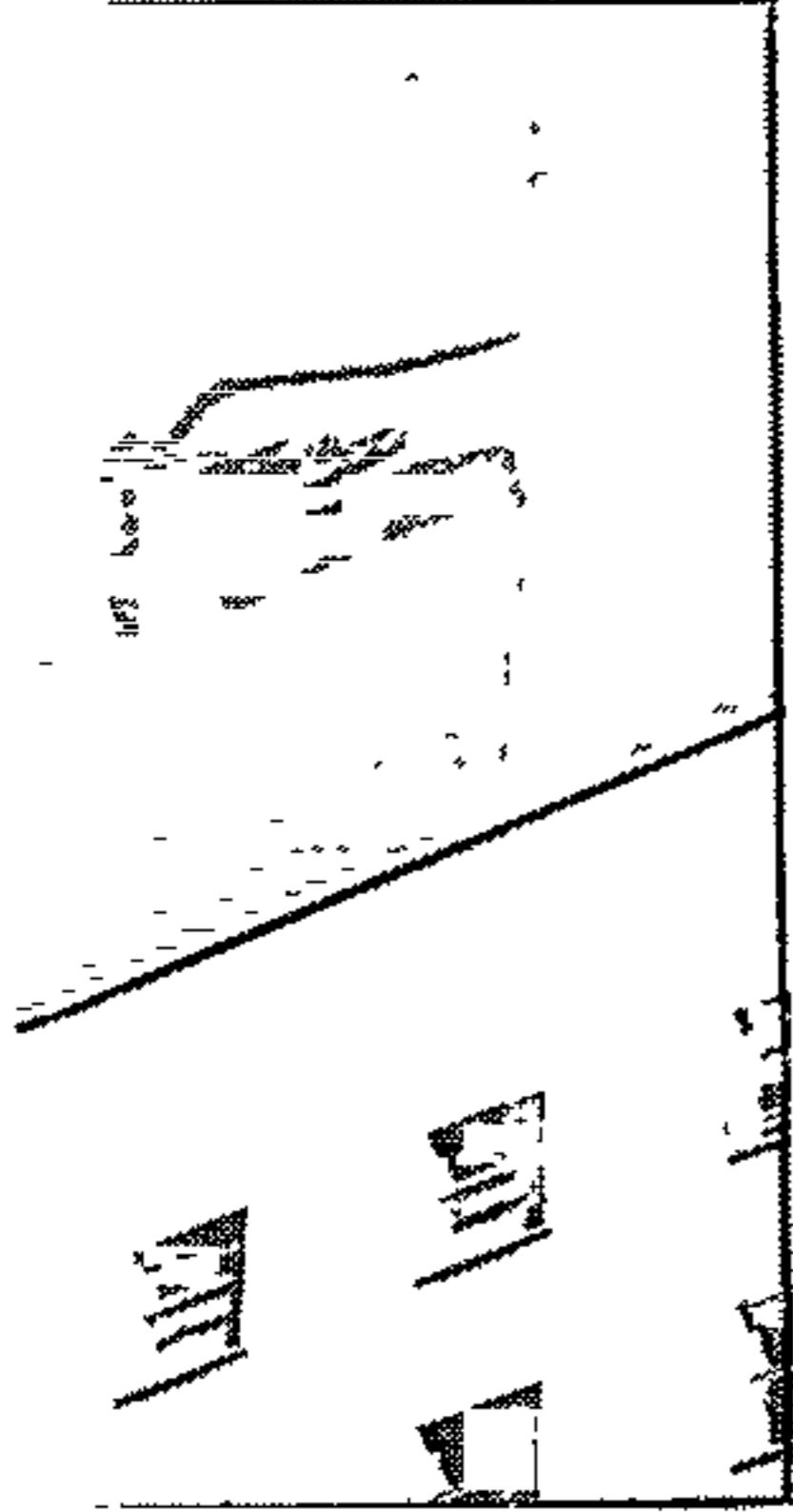
### Miner killed

ROM 17/6/79  
AN African was killed in an underground accident at the St Helena Gold Mine, a mine spokesman announced yesterday. His name has not been disclosed — Sapa

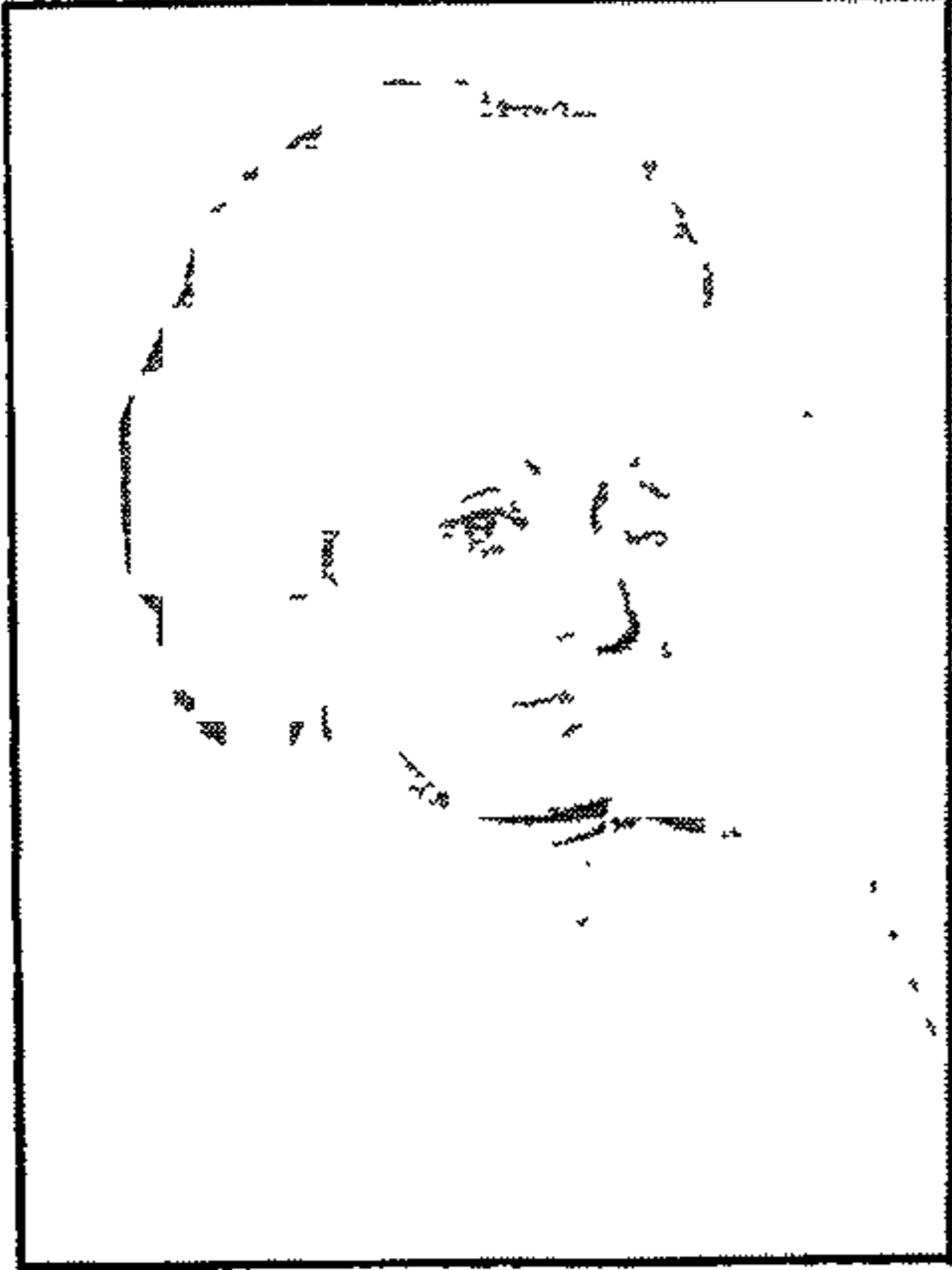
212

# Mine death

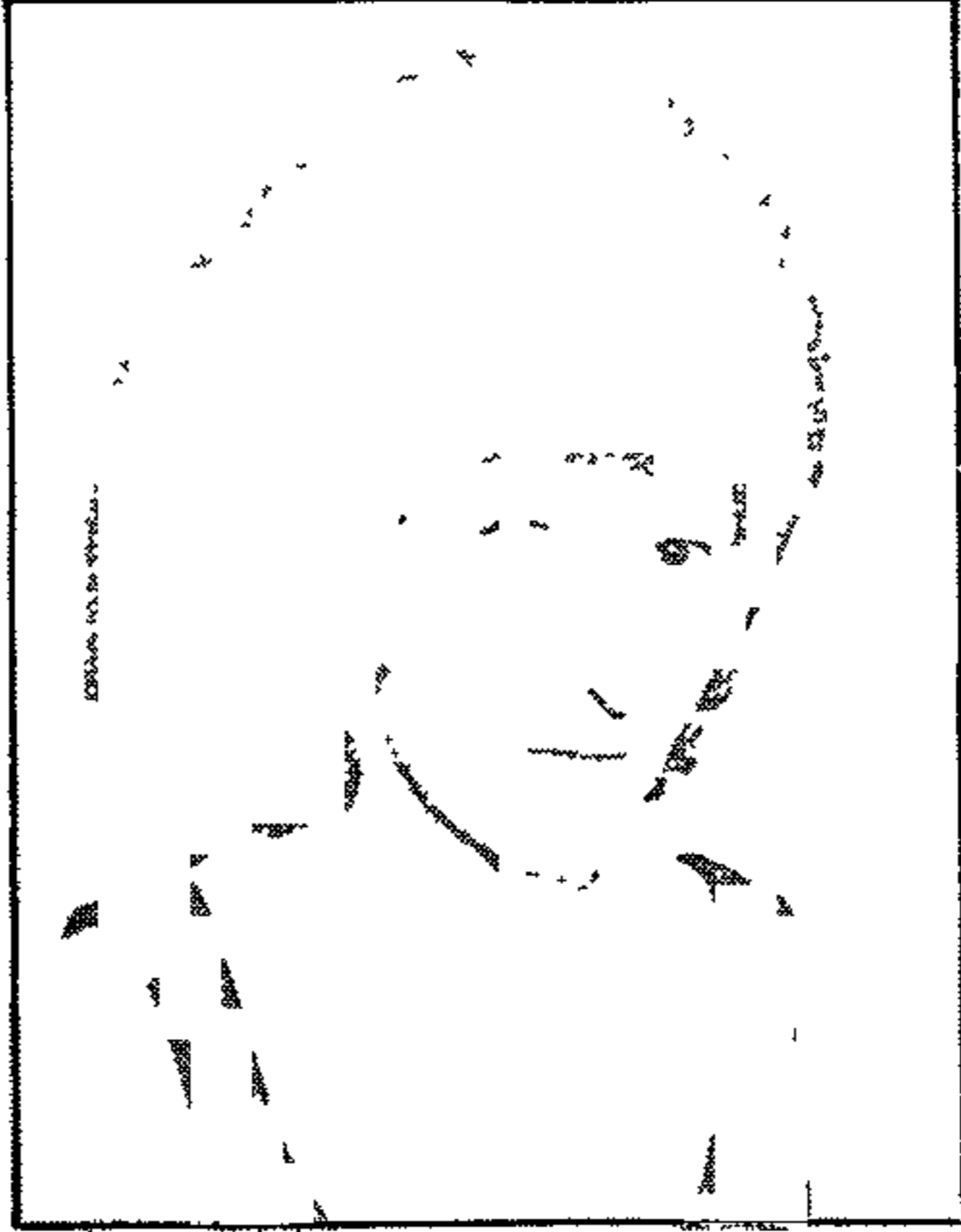
RD 19 29/6/76  
AN African worker was killed in a trammimg accident yesterday at the Grootvlei Mine a company spokesman said The man's name was not released —  
Sapa



The flag on the roof of General Mining's head office flew at half-mast as a mark of homage



Mrs Marie Roux



Mrs Merril Rider



Johannes Petrus Vorster died 11 days before his 27th birthday. He was the father of two children. Mr and Mrs Vorster were photographed while on holiday.

# 18 CHILDREN LOSE FATHERS Five widows start

## reorganising lives

Staff Reporter

STILFONTEIN. — "I am proud of my husband. He laid down his life for his adopted country."

Mrs Leone Naber, widow

### HOUSING FIXED

Staff Reporter

STILFONTEIN — Mrs Merril Rider, widow of Proto Team Member W A Rider, will have no problem with housing for herself and her four children. The management of Buffelsfontein, where Mrs Rider is employed in the Data Processing Office, have allocated her a house as breadwinner of her family.

The other widows living in mine houses, Mrs E Vorster and Mrs L. Naber, will be allowed to remain in their houses until they are able to make other arrangements.

of Proto Team Member Siegfried Naber, was expressing her feelings in the lounge of her Stilfontein home. There were many neatly arranged bouquets and cards, tokens of sympathy from numerous friends and relatives. She is one of the wives of the five Scott Proto Team men who died on June 7 in the raging fire on 86 Level of Western Deep's No 3 Shaft.

"My husband, who emigrated from Germany 21

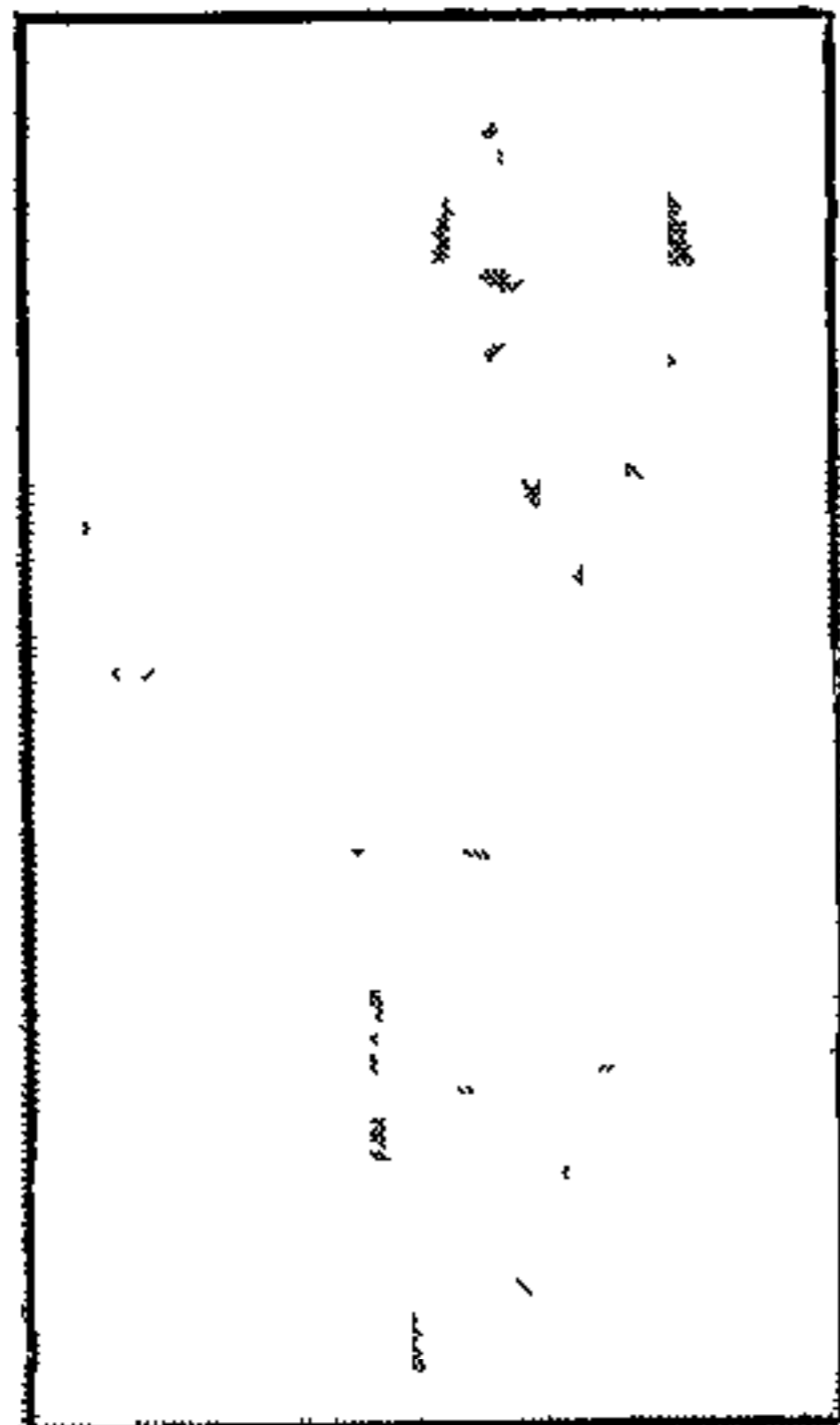
years ago, had explained Proto work and I was fully aware of the dangers," Mrs Naber said. "He regarded it as part of his job, and he was not a person who panicked easily. I am proud of him."

turn by 1 30 p m, it was assumed that they had died. The Libanon Proto Team which stood by as the support team then entered the blazing area. They found the body of acting captain J P Vorster. Dangerous conditions prevented them from penetrating further into the area to recover the other bodies.

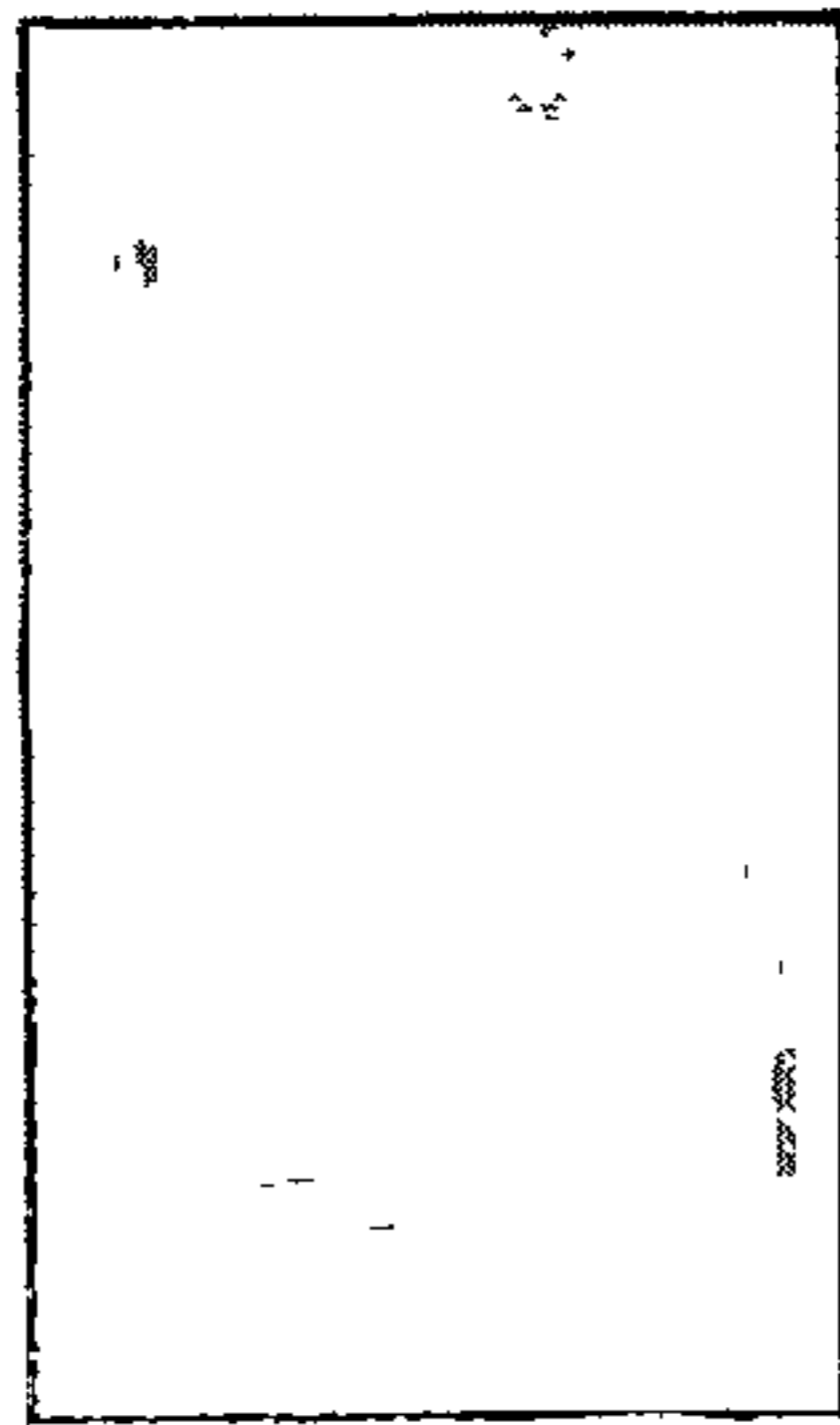
Hoerskool, will continue teaching until the end of the year, and will then live for some time with her parents who are farming at Sasolburg.

Mrs Mane Roux will stay on in her home in Adamayview which she and her husband bought 15

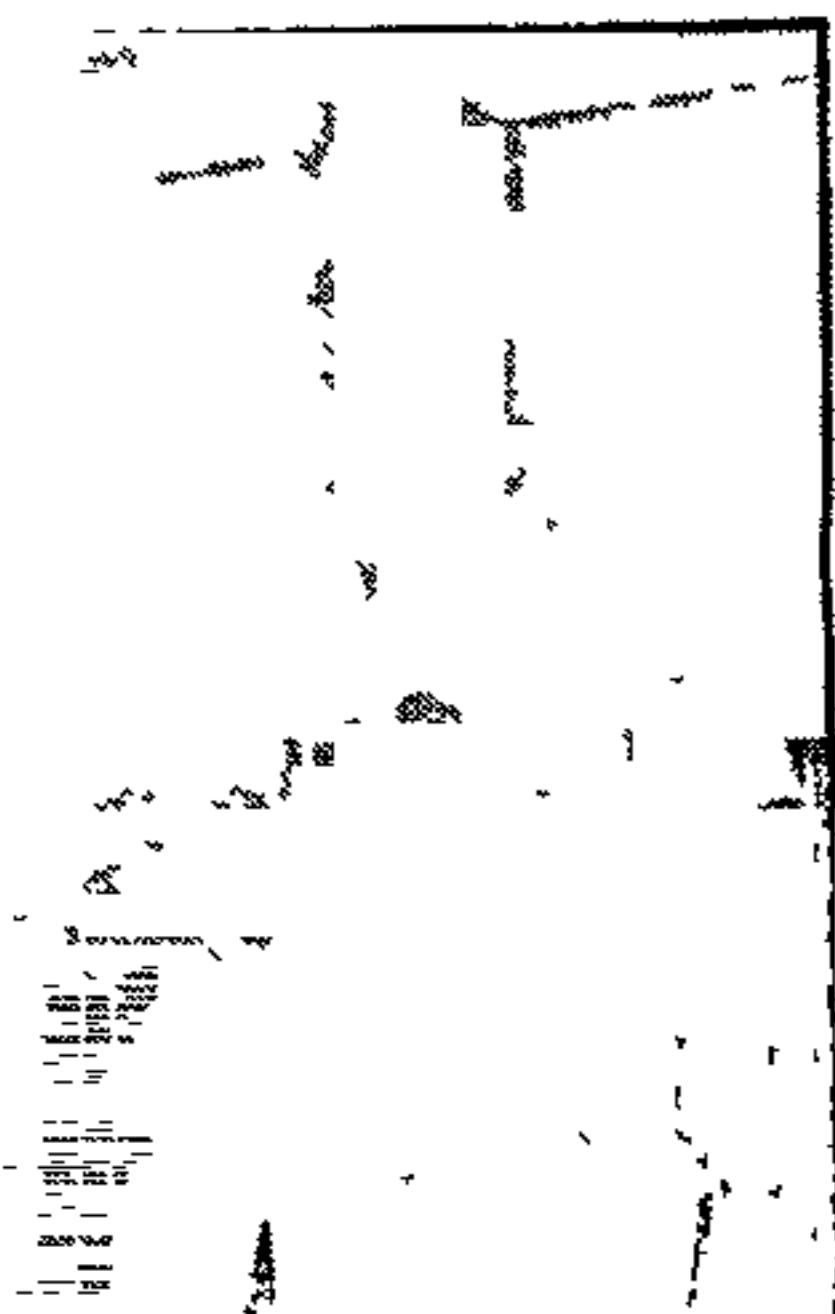
years ago. When Mining News visited Stilfontein Mrs. Emmie Vorster had already left for the Eastern Cape where she is temporarily staying with her parents. The funeral of Mr. Vorster took place in Stilfontein on June 11.



Siegfried Horst Naber, 40, father of five daughters.



William Alfred Rider, 29, father of four children.



Johannes Vorster, 36, father of six children.

### DURBAN DEEP

The disaster is regarded as one of the worst in the history of the industry. In 1966 six members of a Proto team died in Durban Deep.

Other members of the Stilfontein team were Mine Captain J P Vorster, Shiftboss P J Roux, Underground Electrician W A Rider and Shiftboss V G Watts.

### HESITATED

Mrs Marie Roux has a clear recollection of the events of Sunday afternoon, June 6. "I had a strong feeling that something caused my husband to hesitate before going out after he received the call to fight the fire," she said. "He just sat quietly for a few moments after receiving the call, and asked me to bring him another packet of cigarettes. Only then did he leave. He normally left immediately after receiving a Proto call."

### NO RETURN

The team was called out about 5 30 p m. They went underground the following morning at 5 30 a m and left for the scene of the fire an hour later. When they did not re-

### INQUEST

At the time of going to press the fire had still not been brought under control and the bodies of the other four team members had not yet been brought to surface.

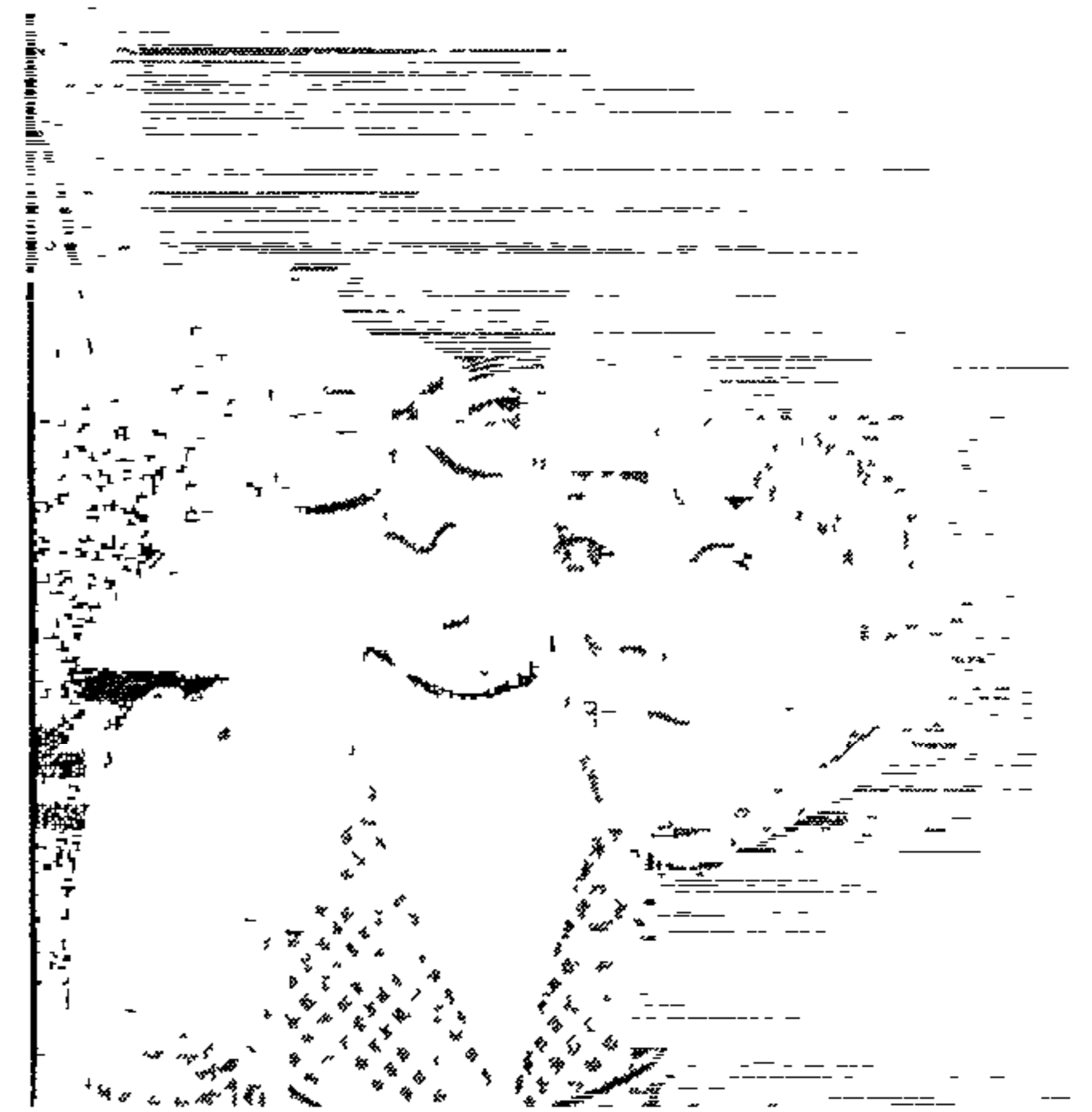
A post-mortem on Mr Vorster revealed that he died of carbon monoxide poisoning.

An inquest into the deaths has been started, but will not be completed until the remaining bodies have been recovered.

### REORGANISING

The five widows now face the formidable task of reorganising their lives. In this they are being assisted by mine management to alleviate unnecessary distress.

Mrs Leone Naber will remain in her mine house for the time being. Mrs Sandra Watts, who is a mathematics and science teacher at the Stilfontein



Mrs Leone Naber and her youngest daughter, Tracey.

## TWICE SAVED COLLEAGUES ...

Staff Reporter

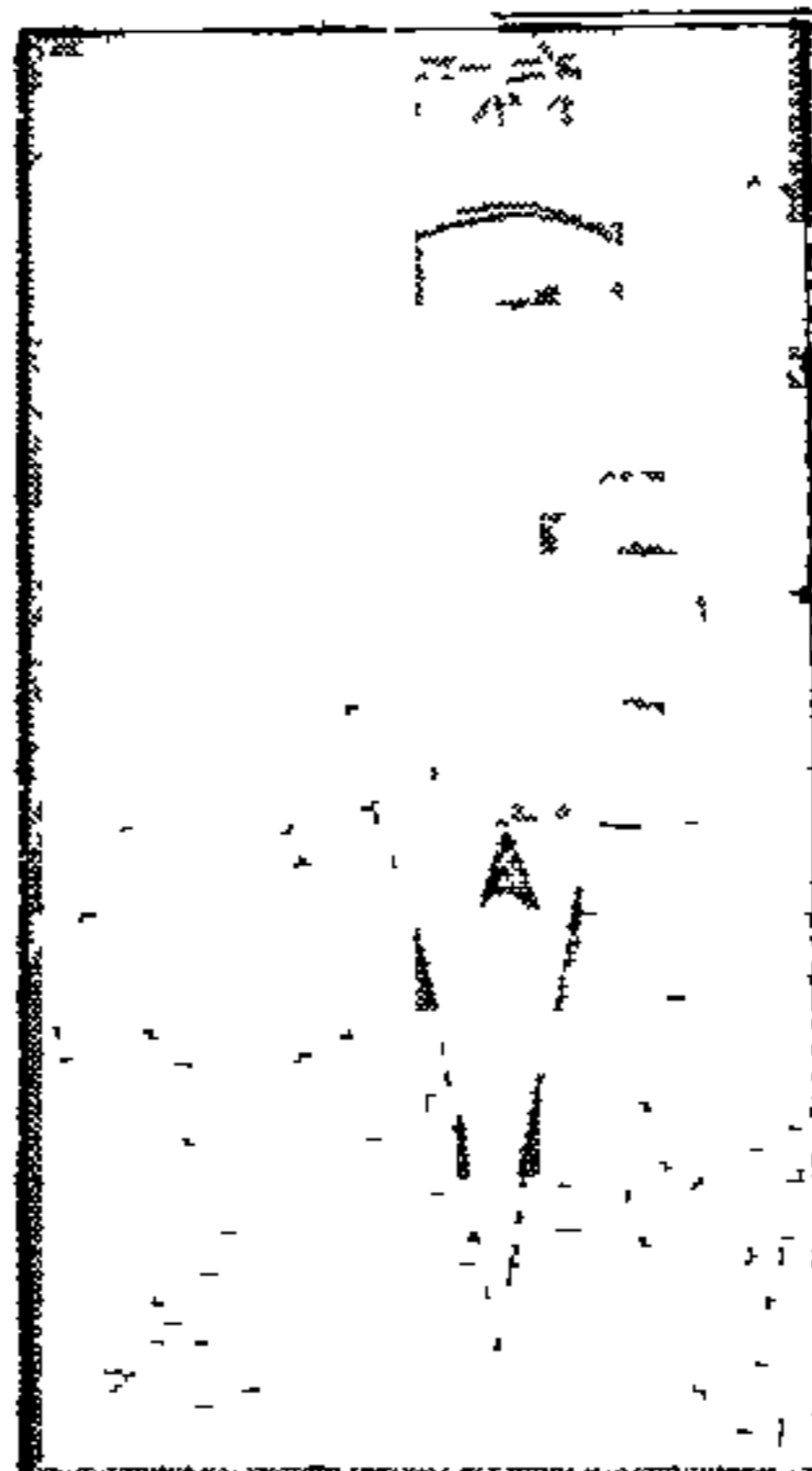
STILFONTEIN — Vic Watts, who died earlier this month in the Western Deep fire, will probably be honoured posthumously for his act of bravery when he rescued a Black worker on May 22. A week later he assisted in the rescuing of a White colleague.

The management of Stilfontein recommended that he receive an award for bravery. To reach the Black worker, who had fallen

down an orepass, Mr Watts volunteered to be lowered into the orepass on a scraper. He tied the injured man to his back and they were pulled up to a ledge. Mr. Watts then roped the Black worker who was pulled to safety after which he was brought out.

### SIMILAR

A week later he was a member of the team which rescued a White worker from a similar situation. An award has been recommended for this action as well.



Victor George Watts, 24, father of one child.

## In their footsteps ...

Staff Reporter

STILFONTEIN. — A number of applications have already been received from personnel to join the Scott Proto team which lost five members

on June 7, says Mr V.F. Irsigler, Assistant Mine Manager (Productivity) and Proto Liaison Officer.

Asked about this the Superintendent of the Rescue Training Station, Mr. J N Bryce, com-

mented: "The spirit revealed by these men is admirable."

"It has been a terrible tragedy for the mine," Mr Irsigler said, "but the response has been very good to fill the gap that has been created."

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# Bodies of 4 miners found

STAR  
15/7/76

The bodies of four Stilfontein proto-team men, entombed 2 500 m down Western Deep Levels gold mine since June 7, were recovered last night.

A spokesman for the Anglo American Corporation said today the bodies were recovered by four Western Deep Levels proto teams which entered the blazing area at No 3 shaft, sealed off after the tragedy.

The bodies were those of Mr S H Naber (40), Mr P J Roux (29), Mr V G

Watts (24) and Mr W A Rider (29).

The body of the Stilfontein proto captain, Mr J Vorster (28), was recovered soon after the accident.

At least 18 children were left fatherless with the deaths of the five would-be rescuers

### STILL BURNING

At the inquiry into the tragedy last month, Mrs Leone Naber, mother of five and widow of one victim, asked whether "the bodies of our men will be recovered"

The mine's manager, Mr C W Brereton, said the bodies would be recovered as soon as the underground fire had burnt out, but the proto men reached the bodies though the fire was still burning.

Before funerals are arranged post-mortems have to be made to establish cause of death

# Bodies of miners recovered in shaft

Cape Times  
14/7/76

212

JOHANNESBURG. — The bodies of the four Stilfontein proto team members who died in the fire fighting operations at the Western Deep Levels Gold Mine on June 7 had been recovered, a spokesman for the Anglo American Corporation announced here yesterday

The bodies were recovered by four proto teams from the mine who entered the sealed-off area of the mine's number three

shaft on Wednesday afternoon.

The bodies of Mr V G Watts, Mr S H Naber, Mr W A Rider and Mr J J Roux were brought to the surface on Wednesday night

The body of the captain of the Stilfontein proto team, Mr J P Vorster, was recovered on June 7.

The spokesman said that the fire area remained sealed and the workings would be re-entered after the fire had been put out — Sapa

# First Chamber award to

# 3 Natal heroes

MINING NEWS  
3/9/76  
212

Reporter

VRYHEID COR — The Chamber of Mines Award for Outstanding Bravery is to be awarded on Thursday to three colliery men for their heroic attempt to save the life of a colleague.

The three men, Mr Tony Bower, Mr Charles Clarkson and Mr Mofihl Sekati, bat-

ted in perilous conditions for more than four hours to free their fellow worker who had been trapped by a rockfall

The presentation will be made at Vryheid Coronation

colliery

It is the first Chamber bravery award won by employees of a Natal colliery and reflects the closer association between the Chamber and Natal collieries in recent years



# Father of 30/10/76 11 dies in nm mine burst

**JOHANNESBURG** — Goldminer Jack Smith pushed his wife out of bed as usual yesterday morning so that he could spend an extra few minutes in bed cuddling his seven-week-old son Jacko while she made coffee for him and their 10 other children.

At 12.30 p.m., officials from the Western Deep Levels gold mine came to Mrs. Smith's Fochville home to tell her that her husband had been one of three miners killed in a rockblast during the morning.

Yesterday a heart-broken Mrs. Sus Smith, surrounded by family and friends, fed baby Jacko and said: "Life must go on. With God's help, I will have to find the strength to face this as I have had to face tragedy in the past."

Mrs. Smith spoke about the man who married her 18 months ago and became father to her five children from a previous marriage.

"It was also Jack's second marriage and we each had five children. Jacko is ours," she said.

Mrs. Smith is determined to keep the family together in Fochville, though she does not know how she will manage.

"We are living in a mine house and, according to the regulations, we may stay for three months more. I don't know what will happen then," she said.

Mr. Smith (41) died with two African mineworkers when the rockburst buried them nearly 3km underground.

Seventeen other African mineworkers were injured, two seriously.

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3 killed,  
30/10/36  
STAR. 17 hurt  
in mine

One of the three mine-workers killed in yesterday's rock burst at Western Deep Levels Gold Mine, Mr Jack Smith (41), was a husband and father of 11 children.

Mr Smith, of Fochville, is survived by his wife, five sons and six daughters, the oldest of whom is 19.

A stopper, he was killed with two African miners, whose names have been withheld until next of kin have been notified. Seventeen other miners were admitted to hospital, but it is understood none of them is in a serious condition.

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*Cape Times*  
**Rock burst 30/10/76**  
**kills 3 miners** —  
 JOHANNESBURG —  
 Three mineworkers were  
 killed in a rock burst at the  
 Western Deep Levels gold  
 mine near Carletonville  
 yesterday, an Anglo-  
 American spokesman said.  
 Seventeen other miners  
 were admitted to hospital —  
 Sapa

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212

## Majority of gassed <sup>17/11/26</sup> miners out of hospital <sup>CT.</sup>

JOHANNESBURG — Only 65 of the nearly 800 miners affected by poisonous gas at Bracken Mines, near Evander, this week, were still in hospital last night — but two of them are seriously ill

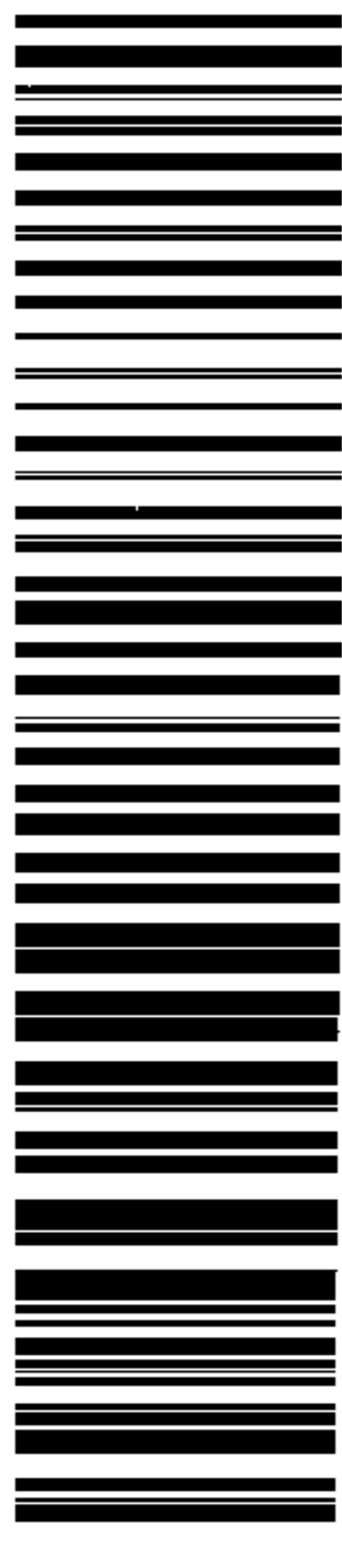
The death toll from the disaster remained at 12 yesterday and last night the two seriously ill patients were described as "holding their own"

All but 34 of the original 359 African miners admitted to the Winkelhaak Hospital were released yesterday but another 30 miners who had been treated at the mine were later transferred to the hospital, swelling the numbers to 64

The other case, a White miner, was kept under observation at Evander Hospital yesterday after 27 other Whites were discharged

There will be two inquiries into the tragedy which occurred when explosives ignited 800 m underground and sent clouds of toxic nitrous fumes swirling through a large section of the mine

Union Corporation, owners of the mine, will hold one investigation and another will be conducted by the Department of Mines



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NW 17/4  
**Mine death** 16

JOHANNESBURG  
An African mineworker  
at the Loraine gold mine  
was struck by an under-  
ground locomotive and  
died later, a spokesman  
for Anglo-Vaal announ-  
ced here yesterday. —  
(Sapa.)

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## Miners still in hospital

JOHANNESBURG — Only 65 of the nearly 800 miners affected by poisonous gas at Bracken Mines, near Evander, this week, were still in hospital last night — but two of them remain seriously ill.

The death toll from the disaster remained at 12 yesterday and last night the two seriously ill patients were described as "holding their own."

All but 34 of the original

350 miners admitted to hospital were released yesterday. Another 30 miners who had been treated at the mine were later transferred to the hospital.

There will be two inquiries into the tragedy which occurred when explosives 800 m underground ignited and sent clouds of toxic nitrous fumes swirling through a large section of the mine. — DDC.

Star 17/4/78

# Bracken mine toll now 13

Labour Reporter

The death toll of the Bracken Mines disaster rose to 13 today with the death of another black patient.

Six of the 66 black mineworkers still being treated at the Winkelhaak mine hospital are "serious but not critical," while all

white victims have been discharged from the Evander Hospital.

Most of the more than 700 men originally held for observation resumed work today, according to Mr C G Hodges, general manager of Bracken Mines

The formal inquiry into the disaster is to be held at Bracken next Monday. This was said today by Mr

C P Visser, chief inspector of mines at Heidelberg, who conducted an on the spot probe yesterday, where gelignite which created nitrous fumes caught alight.

The inquiry — to be chaired by Mr Visser assisted by the deputy Government Mining Engineer, Mr V Barnes — will be followed by an inquest

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16/11/76  
**Miner killed**

A black mineworker died in a rockfall at the Hartbeesfontein Gold Mine, near Klerksdorp, at the weekend

His name is being withheld until his relatives have been told

6/11/76

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# Mine hero saved 75 from

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One of the heroes of yesterday's mine disaster at the Bracken Mines near Evander in the Eastern Transvaal was Mr Kansile Willem (32), a team leader.

But for his presence of mind and cool-headedness, the 75 miners he led to the surface from the sixth level would have been caught by the poisonous fumes from an explosives fire that spread through the tunnel.

Mr Willem said he was on duty on the fifth level, when he caught a whiff of gas that made him feel as if his lungs were on fire.

## poison gas

Stat 16/11/45

"I immediately thought something was on fire, although I couldn't say what I then went down to the sixth level to investigate.

"When I got there, I'd hardly gone far when I saw a thick cloud of smoke which filled the whole corridor and was slowly moving in my direction. Fear gripped me immediately, and my first thought was to get out of there as fast as I could.

"But I remembered that would be foolish because I know the faster I ran, the more smoke I would inhale. I thought of the many men who were busy

working in some places along the tunnel and were not aware of the deadly cloud of smoke that was slowly coming down the passage," Mr Willem said.

He then moved along the tunnel and told people of the danger and led them to a "waiting place" on the fifth level where there was clean air.

"When the mine captain came, he found I had taken out many from the danger area. Some couldn't walk and had to be carried. In all, I took out 75 men," Mr Willem said.

On reaching the surface, Mr Willem said he counted about 10 men lying on

the ground unconscious. There was a white miner among them, he said.

Mr Willem does not think there is anything exceptional about what he did. He dismisses it all with a shrug and says "I've been a team leader for some time and I'm so used to it, I knew exactly what to do."

The fire which led to the tragedy at the mine apparently started when a wheel on a train carrying explosives underground rubbed against the timber chassis of a truck, the chairman of Union Corporation, Mr L van der Bosch, told SABC-TV News in an interview last night.

Nitrous oxide fumes from burning explosives were spread to working areas by the mine's ventilation system.

Natal Merc. 16/11/26

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# Nine miners die in gas horror

Mercury Correspondent

**JOHANNESBURG** — Nine miners died when burning gelignite sent poisonous gas sweeping along underground chambers at Bracken Gold Mine, near Evander, yesterday.

Four miners were still in a critical condition last night.

Nearly 800 workers received treatment and more than 370 were kept in hospital.

The dead, all Africans, will not be named until their next-of-kin have been told.

The mine's ventilation system sent nitrous fumes circulating through one section of the mine and spread them underground to the adjoining Leslie Gold Mine, where 133 miners were gassed.

They were treated at the mine.

Mr. Carl Netscher, chief consulting engineer of Union Corporation, owners of the two mines, last night described how a 1000 000 to 1 chance sparked off the disaster.

About 8 a.m., a mine locomotive was pulling four truckloads of explosives on the eighth level of No 1 shaft.

## Friction

"In the first, three trucks was an explosive, Amex, and in the rear truck gelignite. We believe that a wheel bearing on the last truck collapsed, making the wheel rub on the wooden bed of the truck and igniting it.

"When the driver saw the smoke he ran to get help. The burning truck ignited the gelignite which, luckily, did not explode.

"As the gelignite burned, it gave off toxic nitrous gas which was then circulated throughout that section by the ventilation system.

"The ventilation system at that point is connected to the Leslie Mine system and sent part of the gas circulating through there as well," Mr. Netscher said.

Mr. Netscher said the nine who died had been nearer the source.

## Diluted

"The volume of air in the ventilation system quickly diluted the gas the further it spread.

"I imagine the bulk of those in hospital will be discharged in the next two days," he said.

No material damage was caused and production would be restored to normal when those in hospital had completed their observation period, Mr. Netscher said.

At no time had dangerous fumes spread to the surface.

Sustained exposure to nitrous fumes can cause immediate collapse of the lungs which can result in pulmonary oedema, the filling of the lungs with liquid.

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DD 16/11/66

# Killer gas leaves 10 dead in mine

JOHANNESBURG — Ten gold miners have died and more than 370 are in hospital after a freak accident yesterday sent poisonous gas rushing through tunnels 800m underground at Bracken Mines, near Evander

Last night, four miners were still in a critical condition. A total of nearly 800 workers received treatment

The names of the dead will not be released until their next-of-kin have been informed

The mine's ventilation system also spread the toxic nitrous fumes underground to the adjoining Leslie Gold Mine where 133 miners were affected. They were treated, but were not sent to hospital

Last night, Mr C Netscher, chief consulting

engineer of Union Corporation, owners of the two affected mines, described how a chance in a million sparked off the tragedy

"At about 8 am a mine locomotive was pulling four truckloads of explosives on the eighth level of No 1 shaft

"In the first three trucks was an explosive called anefex, in the rear truck gelignite. We believe that a wheel-bearing on the last truck collapsed, making the wheel rub on the wooden bed of the truck and igniting it

"When the locomotive driver saw the smoke from the last truck, he ran to get help. In his absence, the burning truck ignited the gelignite which, very luckily, did not explode

"As the gelignite burnt, it gave off toxic nitrous

gas which was then circulated throughout that section of the mine by the ventilation system

"The ventilation system at that point is connected to the Leslie Mine system which set a portion of the gas circulating through there as well" Mr Netscher said

Mr Netscher said the nine who died had been close to the source of the gas

"The volume of air in the ventilation system quickly diluted the gas the further it spread," he said

The effect on production at the mine was likely to be minimum

Sustained exposure to nitrous fumes can cause immediate collapse of the lungs which can result in pulmonary oedema — the filling of the lungs with liquid. — DDC

(212)

# Mine: 12 dead, 600 released

Labour Reporter

The death toll from the gelignite fire at Bracken Mines stood at 12 today as more than 600 of the almost 800 men affected were discharged from medical observation.

An inspector of the Department of Mines began an inquiry into the circumstances of the disaster.

Dr J. B. Rossiter, chief medical officer of Union Corporation, said he was concerned about the condition of only two of the men and they had improved since admission to hospital.

Among those discharged today were all of the 28 whites affected. Four of them were from the Leslie gold mine which accounted for 129 of the 766 blacks affected by the fumes which spread from the adjoining Bracken Mines.

The fumes came from a gelignite truck which apparently caught fire from heat generated by the rim of a wheel rubbing against the truck.

The gelignite burnt out without exploding. Three other trucks loaded with a n f e x explosives were saved by men who doused the fire after the alarm was sounded, said Mr. C. G. Hodges, general manager of Bracken. All of the 12 blacks who died were from his mine.

He extended condolences to the next of kin of the deceased and gave the assurance that everything possible had been done to assist the injured.

● Mine hero saves 75 from poison gas — Page 25.

# POISON GAS KILLS 9 IN REEF GOLD MINE

16/11/76  
 JOHANNESBURG.—Nine still in a critical condition out of a total of nearly 800 gold miners have died and more than 370 are in hospital after a freak accident yesterday sent poisonous gas rushing through tunnels 800 m underground at Bracken Mines near Evander.

workers who received treatment The names of the dead will not be released till their next-of-kin have been informed. Apart from the four in a critical condition, the rest are under observation after the mine's ventilation system sent toxic nitrous fumes circulating through an entire section of the mine.

The ventilation system also spread the fumes underground to the adjoining Leslie Gold Mine where 133 miners were affected. They were treated at the mine and were not sent to hospital.

Last night, Mr Carl Netscher, chief consulting engineer of Union Corporation, owners of the two affected mines, described how a chance in a million sparked off the tragedy.

“At about 8am a mine locomotive was pulling four truckloads of explosives on the eighth level of Number one shaft.

“In the first three trucks was an explosive called anfox, in the rear truck gelignite. We believe that a wheel-bearing on the last truck collapsed, making the wheel rub on the wooden bed of the truck and igniting it.

“When the locomotive driver saw the smoke from the last truck, he ran to get help. In his absence, the burning truck ignited the gelignite which, very luckily, did not explode

“As the gelignite burnt, it gave off toxic nitrous gas which was then circulated throughout that section of the mine by the ventilation system.”



**"A mine isn't just a hole  
in the ground - it is  
made up of the  
people working  
in it."**



City Deep Chairman D.D. Waterman

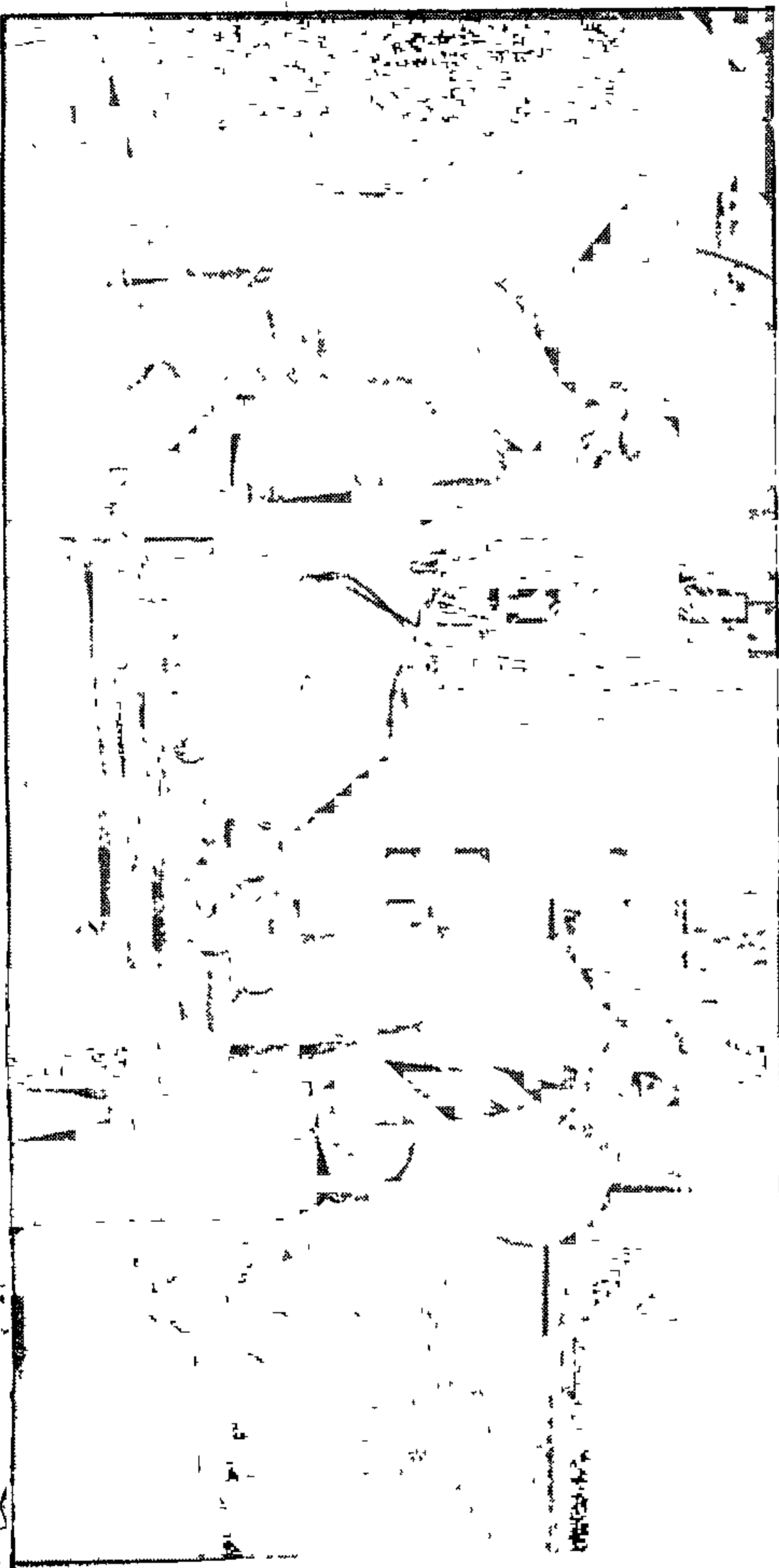
City Deep was registered on February 15, 1899, but because of the war started shaft sinking only in 1905 and went into production in 1911.

At its peak the mine had a labour force of 14 788 Blacks and 866 Whites. When it closed the figures were 1 300 and 150 respectively.

In 1967 it was the world's deepest mine, with its lowest working places 3 358 m below surface.

Altogether 80 million t of rock was broken in the 71 years of its life, and 69 million t of ore taken out which yielded 574 t of gold valued at about R2 000-million at today's prices.

During the mine's most lucrative year 1,75 million t of ore was taken out which yielded 1 300 kg of gold. That was in 1950. - General Manager Pretorius.



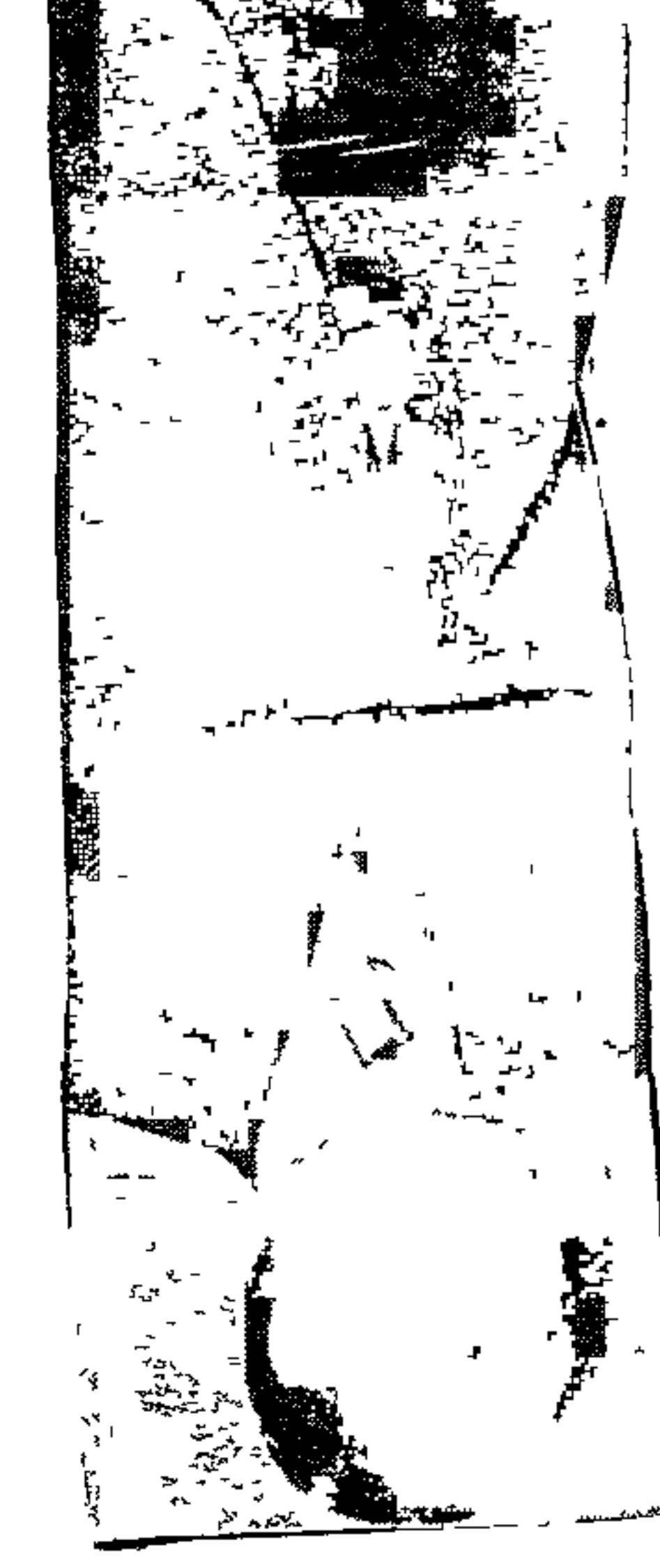
From days gone by comes this old Camborne drilling machine called a Drifter. It was found in a sand-filled section of City Deep by Shiftboss George Smith (left) and Mine Overseer Manie Pretorius, and mounted in a place of honour at the entrance of No 2 Shaft.

"There was always gratitude for anything that the men had done, and thus appreciation was readily conveyed to them."

Mr. Horn had a particular pat on the back for Mine Overseer Manie Pretorius for the fair way in which he had treated his staff.

"You are, and will always remain, in their good books," he said.

"The doors of City Deep Management were always open and a sympathetic and understanding ear was lent to people with problems," said Mr. Eddie Horn, Witwatersrand Organiser of the Mineworkers' Union, at the last blast party.



Left: These are the last Mine Overseer and Shiftbosses of City Deep. From left: Mine Overseer Manie Pretorius and Shiftbosses J van der Merwe, J H Bennett, G Smith, Boet Basson, C Sergeant and Piet van Linnenes. The photograph was taken in the shadow of No 2 Shaft headgear shortly after the last blast on November 15.

# LAST BLAST - THEN THE DEEP SLEEP

Staff Reporter

heart of this mine

**CITY DEEP** - Glasses clinked, but it was as if the sound was muted. Men talked, as mining men do at a party, but there was a touch of sadness in the air. For it was a wake for a friend - shortly before, at around 14h30, the last blast had stilled forever the

operating mines in the country, one which experienced the changeover from antiquated methods to modern techniques, one which had made its first appearance before the turn of the century, and which during its time had set up world records. It was a time to mourn

securive occasions, and that in a mine with bad rock conditions," he said. He ascribed this achievement to the way in which his "team" worked together to transform a bad record into a good one.

"You have saved lives, and for this I want to thank you. Also for the way you persevered despite difficult circumstances. More thanks for your friendliness towards myself and my family."

"To me a mine isn't just a hole in the ground - it is made up of the people working in it. I was proud to have led such a team."

## REASONS

On Monday, November 15, the last holes were drilled for the final charges to be placed in this colossus. A get-together was held in the offices to celebrate this occasion.

Guests included Mr. Francois "Obie" Oberholzer, Chairman of the Johannesburg City Council Management Committee, Mr. D.D. Waterman, Chairman of City Deep, officials of the Department of Mines, staff members from head office, and Mr. Eddie Horn, Witwatersrand Organiser of the Mineworkers' Union.

The decision to terminate operations was taken for various reasons, among others the unstable and low price of gold, rising costs and problems with water, said General Manager P.G.D. Pretorius.

## TEAMWORK

Mr. Pretorius, associated with the mine since 1964, said underground conditions were at times most difficult. Despite this records were established.

"The one of which I am most proud is the success we had in our safety drive. We won the Falls of Ground Safety Ladder on four con-

## UNDERSTANDING

Mr. Horn expressed himself this way: "The tremendous spirit, co-operation and understanding that prevailed here was wonderful to see."

In all spheres, the mine had a big influence on its workers, business associates and the local community. It made its mark too in municipal affairs.

## ENCOURAGEMENT

"The encouragement and support I received from management allowed me to make a contribution to civic affairs in Johannesburg," said Mr. Oberholzer. "Without it I, as a Rigger on this mine, would never have become Mayor of Johannesburg."

Mr. Waterman conveyed the Group management's thanks to the staff for their loyal service over the years.

"I wish you the best of luck wherever you go in different directions to find

a means of livelihood. Under our policy many of you have been offered posts in other branches of the company and will be remaining with us. Those I want to welcome in their new surroundings," he said.

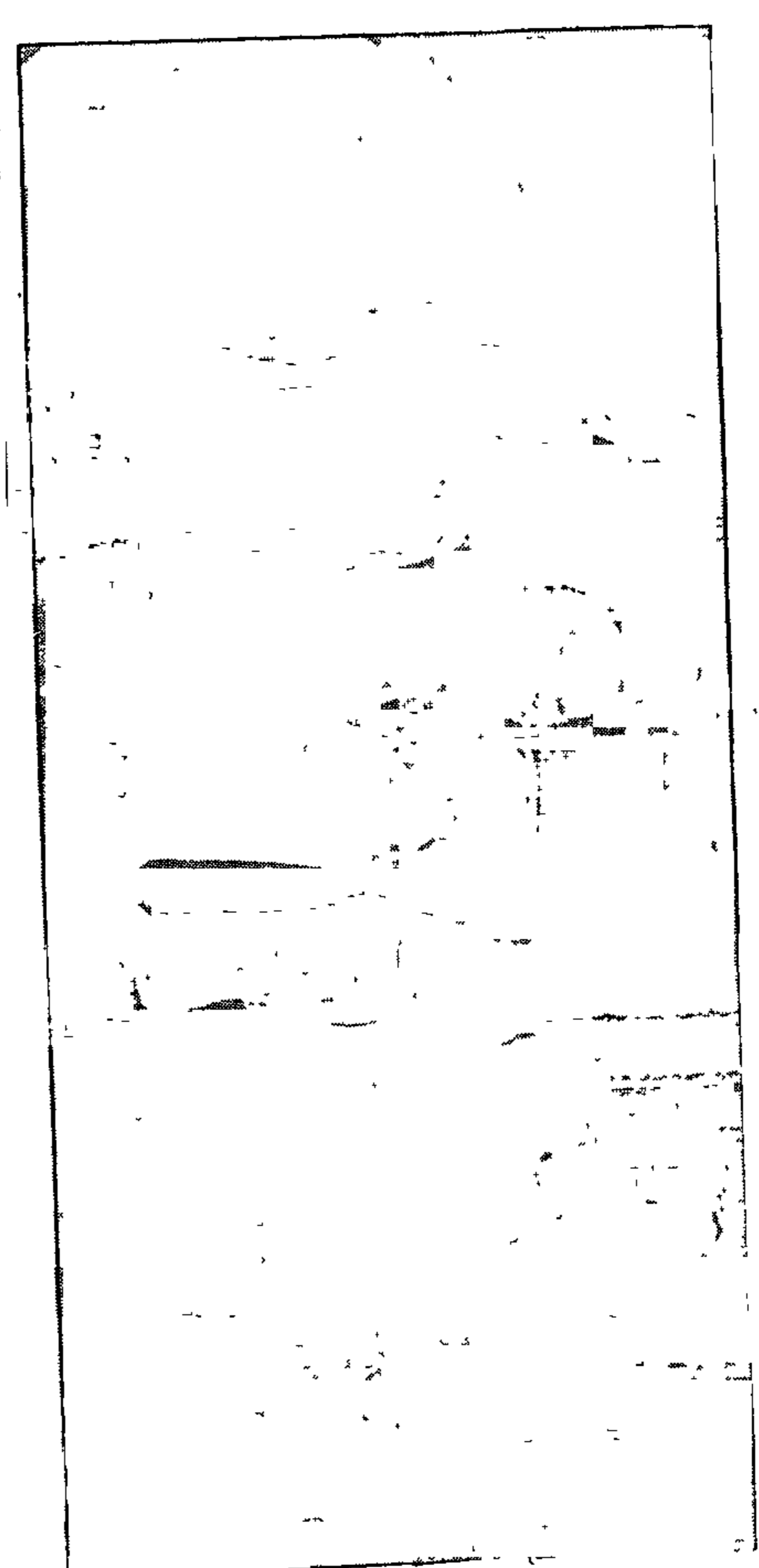
In gratitude for his friendly guidance, Mine Overseer Manie Pretorius was presented with a painting with us. Those I want to welcome in their new



"City Deep has played a major role in my life since my childhood," said Mr. Francois Oberholzer, Chairman of the Johannesburg City Council Management Committee.

"During the depression I earned pocket-money as a caddie on City Deep's golf course, and later I was a rigger on the mine. Through the years I have enjoyed the support of management and head office, and when I asked permission to stand for a municipal election they readily agreed."

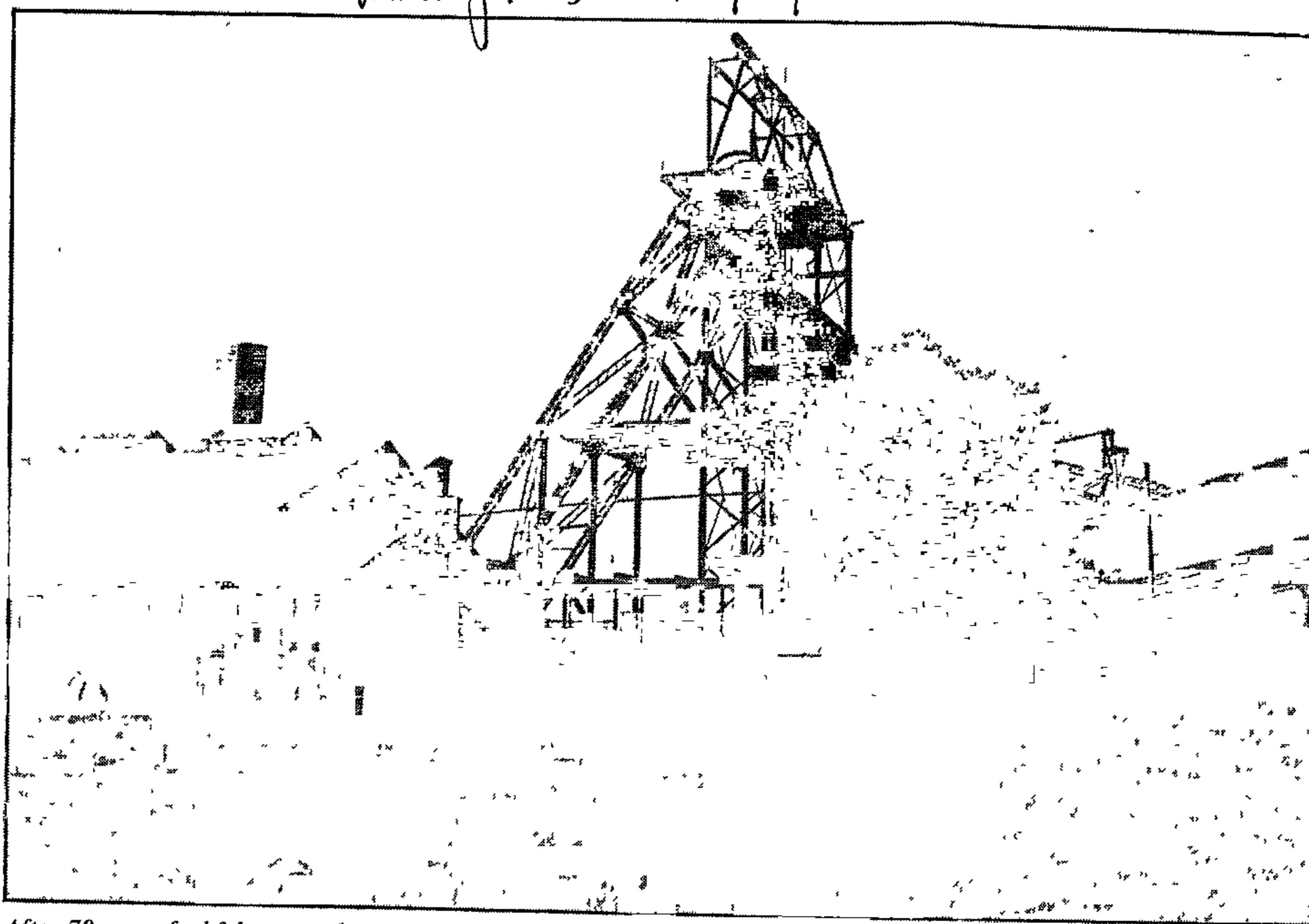
"My achievements in municipal activities are largely due to the support and encouragement I received from management and the Group, and for that I'll always be thankful."



# MINING NEWS

26/11/76

Mining News - 26/11/76 ↓



*After 70 years faithful service the No 2 Shaft headgear will disappear. The abandoned and slightly neglected appearance of the headgear and surrounding buildings gives a bleak appearance to this section of the mine premises.*



# 'Freak accident: how it happened

Staff Reporter

**BRACKEN.** — "It was a freak accident," Mr. C.G. Hodges, General Manager of Bracken and Leshe, said during an interview after the November 15 calamity.

"It appears that the explosives were ignited by heat generated when the rim of a wheel rubbed against the floor of the explosives truck. This was caused by the axle housing turning out of its position.

"Leshe is linked underground with Bracken and it was for this reason that people in the former mine were also affected by the gas," Mr Hodges said.

At about 07h50 on that day, an explosives train consisting of four cars was being taken into workings along 8 Level Crosscut, which is the main air intake for a large section of the mine.

The rear car, containing 18 cases of Dynagel, caught fire. The resulting fumes (nitrous oxide) permeated the workings of a big part of the mine, affecting workmen.

Immediate steps were taken to evacuate people working in the area, but

(To page 3)

Team Leader Stephen Ramoleko led 49 Blacks to safety

When the report about the fire reached him, Mr. Coetzee, accompanied by Chief Ventilation Officer Vic Murray and Ventilation Officer Hendrik Pfister, went into the mine to control the evacuation

"We had to keep continuous watch on the ventilation," said Mr. Coetzee. The three men stayed there until the fumes had cleared.

\*The mine was heading

"Everybody showed signs of bravery," said Mr. Coetzee. He told how two Mine overseers, Mr. Piet Viljoen and Mr. Jack Penaar, went to the return air site and into an area contaminated with nitrous oxide and helped colleagues get out of the mine.

## ELDERLY

Two miners who had already reached the fresh air site, turned back into the danger area to fetch an elderly colleague, Miner J.J. Stander, who was exhausted at that stage.

Mr. Andries Landman and Mr. Schalk Lubbe, together with Black mine-workers Essau Diamini and Jose Sambo, used a quadricycle to fetch Mr. Stander.

"Shiftboss Cas Beukes and Miner Johnny McGee too were aware that there could be an explosion at any second. Despite this they remained behind for about two hours in a high concentration of nitrous

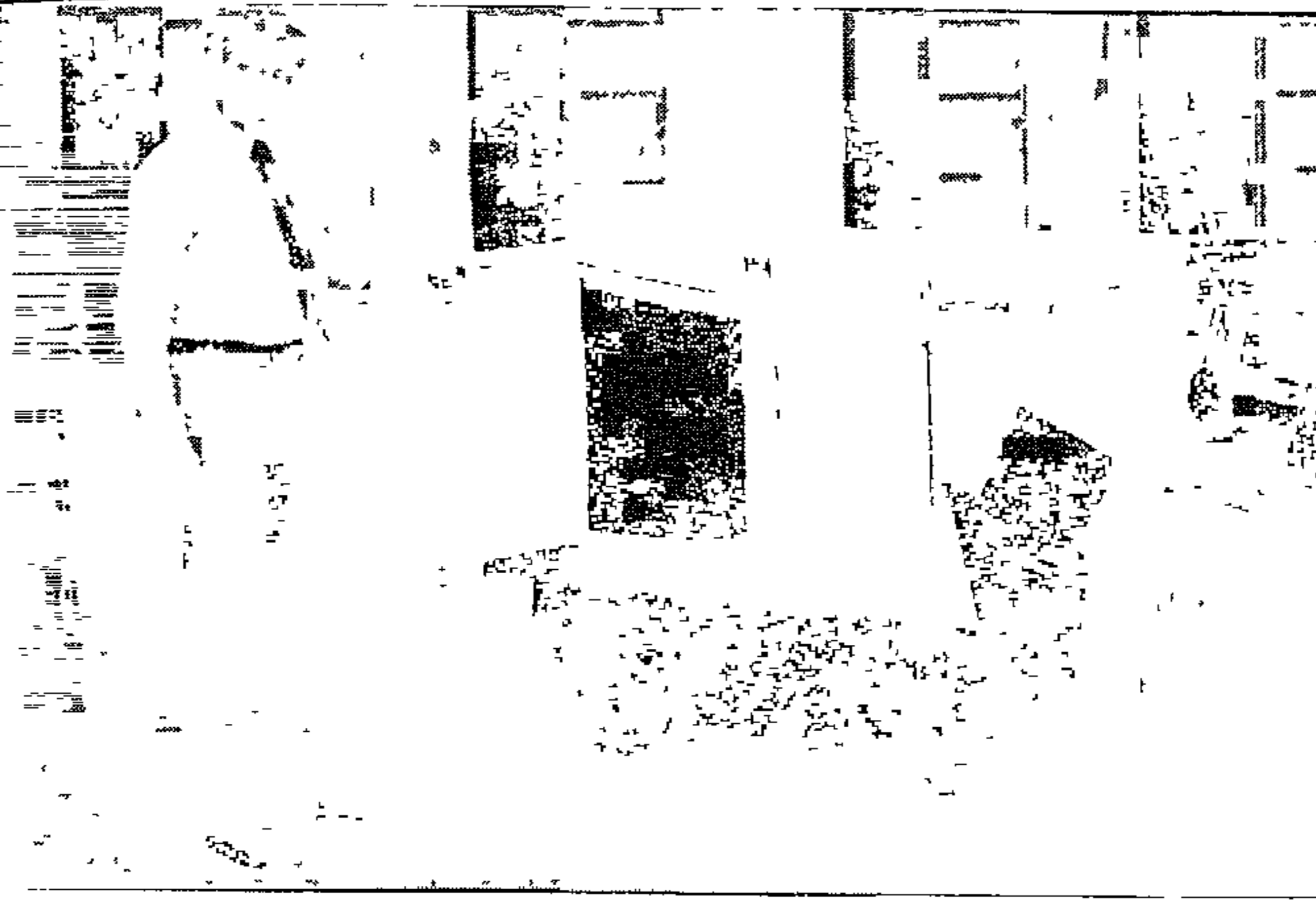


Harold Nash, one of the men who tried to extinguish the flames.



Nick Prinsloo who, with two others, went right up to the fire.

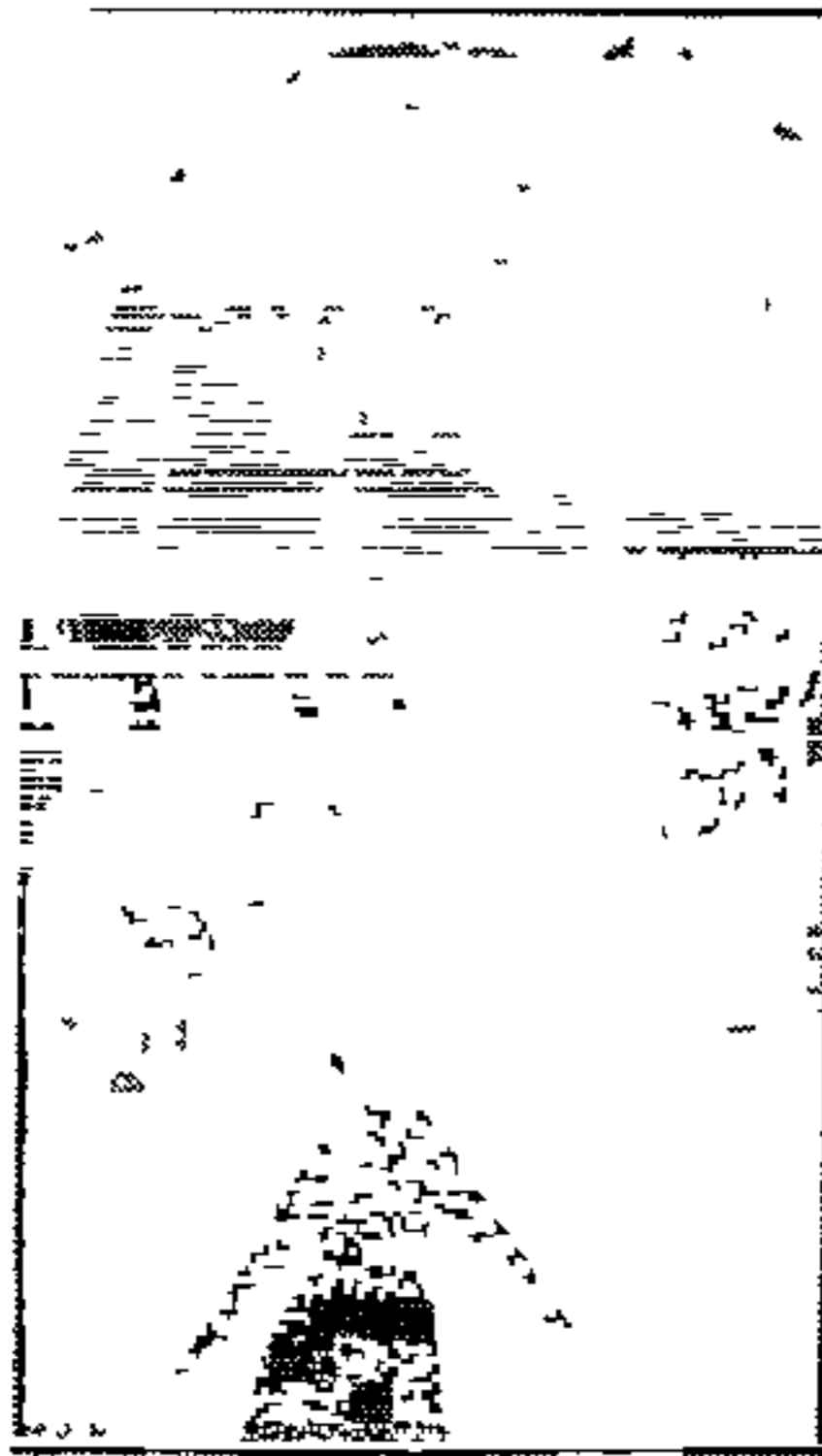




Van Velze with the truck in which 18 cases of Dynagel were burnt. The arrowed wheel was the cause of the fire.

*No-one hesitated – they went in* *mining news – 26/11/76*

# THE PASSWORD — BRAVERY



Top. Shiftboss John Musgrave kept his cool and immediately warned officials on surface

Below In true tradition of mining men Andries Landman (left) and Schalk Lubbe re-entered the danger zone to help a colleague left behind.

Staff Reporter

BRACKEN. — A mining man lives by a one-point credo when disaster strikes — no man in danger underground will be left to his fate, no matter the risk in rescuing him. And so it was this month at Bracken, for the umpteenth time in South African mining's relatively short but herostudded history

"He kept his head, brushed past the burning explosives, dashed to an underground telephone and alerted officials on surface about the fire

"This action by Shiftboss John Musgrave enabled the officials to start evacuating workers minutes after the blaze started"

This is how Mine Manager Underground E Coetzee de-

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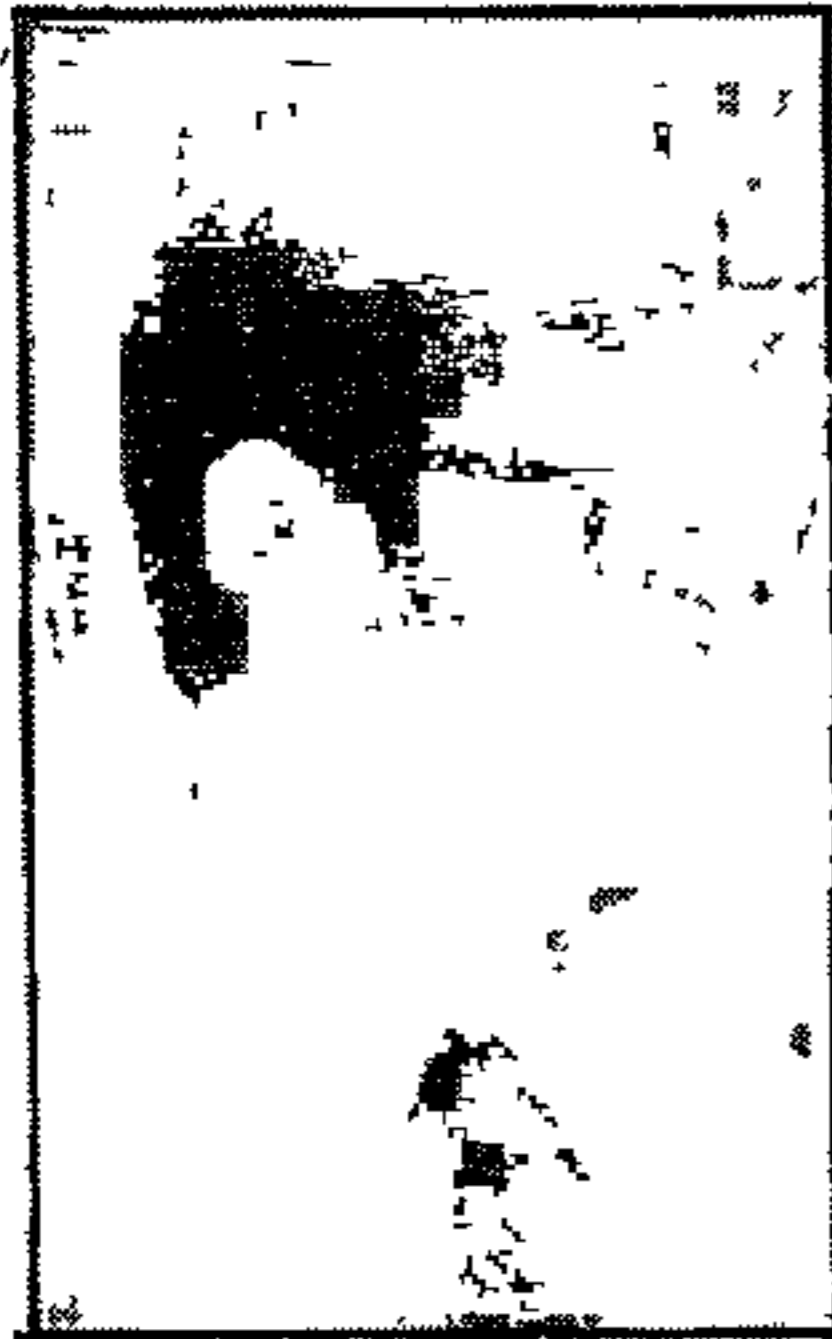
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for a million fatality-free shifts, due to have been recorded some time next month. Workers had logged 924 092 fatality-free shifts in 13 months. Neighbouring Leshe, which is linked underground with Bracken, notched the magic million last month

# Freak accident:



*Piet Viljoen defied the nitrous oxide to reach and help his colleagues.*



*Jack Pienaar went back to lend a hand*

## Death 26/11/76 toll 13

(From page 1)

because the fumes spread so rapidly, a great portion of the shift was exposed to them

On surface, medical personnel at the scene treated affected personnel. Those in a more serious condition were taken to hospital by ambulance and other transport.

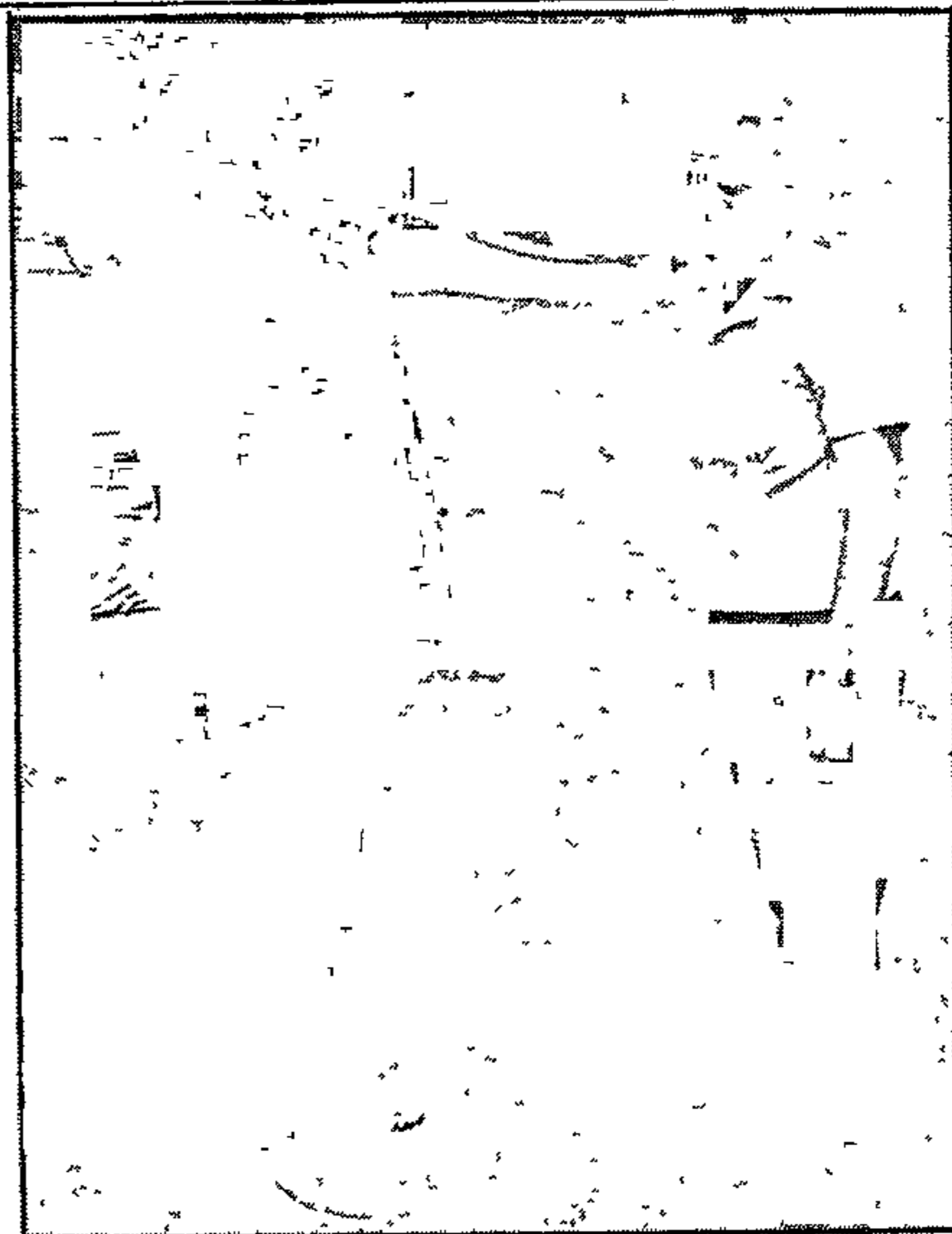
Of the total of approximately 800 people affected, Mr. Hodges said, 13 Blacks died.

### SYMPATHY

"We wish to express our deepest sympathy to all the bereaved families.

"To the surrounding mines who supported us during this period, our thanks."

He had a special word of thanks to the medical staff "for their untiring efforts in giving aid to those affected in this tragic affair."



*Johnny McGee (left) and Cas Beukes manned a ski-lift for two hours to help colleagues get out*

# Work as usual on Welkom mines

ARGUS 9/12/76

The Argus Correspondent

JOHANNESBURG. — The Anglo American Corporation said yesterday the afternoon shifts at their seven mines in the Welkom area went down as usual in spite of rock-falls.

Mr G. Nisbet, deputy managing director of the goldmines division told TV viewers the earthquake lasted about five seconds. 'The worst tremor was at the beginning, subsiding into smaller movements,' he said.

Anglo American was 'very fortunate that only one miner was killed and about seven or eight men briefly entombed,' he said.

'One man has major injuries. There has been quite a lot of damage at the mines.'

The epicentre of the quake seemed to be where four mines had linking tunnels.

## FLAT BLOCK

'If one takes a direct line upward it is not far from where the block of flats collapsed. All tunnels that closed are going to have to be reopened,' he said.

Damaged wards at the provincial hospital have been cleared up and patients moved to different sections.

The telecommunications tower in the town is thought to be cracked.

The automatic telephone exchange was damaged and vital telephone services were being carried on from the pavement.

In a newspaper interview Mr Nisbet said a disaster of this nature could not have been foreseen. 'If the earth's crust decides to move, the greatest impact would be along natural faults, planes of weakness,' Mr Nisbet said.

The mines, Western Holdings, President Brand and Welkom Gold Mine, have a common boundary along a plane of weakness, the Dagbreek Fault.

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**REEF MINE**  
W/E ARGUS 11/12/76  
**TREMOR:**  
**FOUR DIE**

**JOHANNESBURG.** —  
Four Black miners died and 36 were injured in a heavy rockfall at the Buffelsfontein Gold Mine, Stilfontein, yesterday after an earth tremor in the area.

A spokesman for General Mining said here two of the injured were reported this morning to be 'critical.'

The rockburst occurred on the 28th, 29th, and 30th levels of the mine's southern shaft. Slight tremors were felt at Klérksdorp.

The spokesman said, all miners working in the affected area, including those killed and injured, had been brought to the surface by late yesterday.

Sapa.

# MINEWORKER KILLED

## JOHANNESBURG

A mineworker was killed yesterday in an underground locomotive accident at the Harmony Gold Mining Company Limited's Virginia No. 1 shaft, a mine spokesman said here. A citizen of Lesotho, his name is being withheld until his next of kin has been notified. — (Sapa.)

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S. Tribune 12/12/76  
**FOUR MINERS DIE**  
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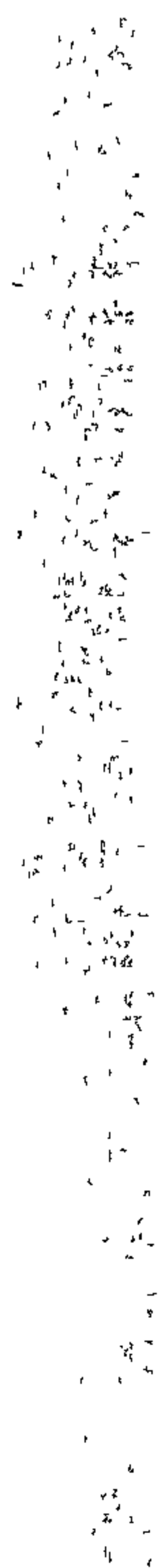


37 miners  
in hospital

By JOHANN STOLIZ

STILFONTEIN — Thirty seven miners are still in hospital after a rockfall which killed four Africans at the Buffelsfontein Gold Mine, Stilfontein on Friday. They are all in a satisfactory condition.

A spokesman for General Mining said yesterday it was believed that the rockfall had been caused by an earth tremor in the area which measured four on the Richter scale.



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22 miners <sup>4/12/76</sup>  
<sup>RDA</sup>  
leave hospital

TWENTY-TWO of the 37 African miners injured in the rockfall at Buffelsfontein Mine last Friday have been discharged from hospital, a spokesman for General Mining said in Johannesburg yesterday. Four miners were killed in the rockfall which was caused by an earth tremor. — Sapa.

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**Mine death**  
28/12/74 SAT  
Labour Reporter

A black mineworker fell to his death in No 4 Shaft of the Blyvooruitzicht gold mine, near Carletonville, on Tuesday night. His name has not yet been released

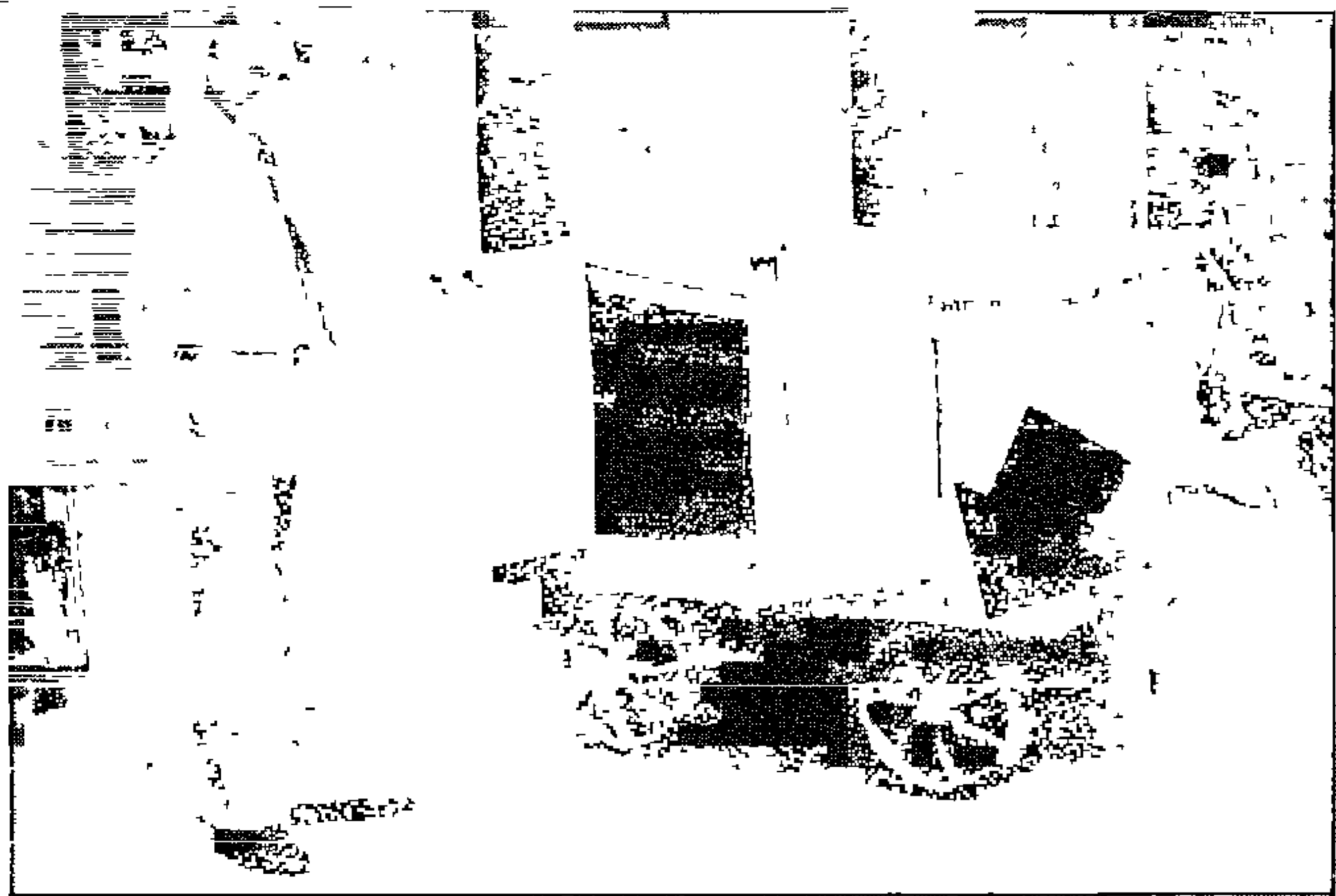
212

25/12/76 DD  
**2 miners killed**

JOHANNESBURG — Two miners have been killed underground at the Buffelsfontein Mine

They were killed when a sidewall collapsed. Their names have been withheld until their next of kin have been notified —

SAPA



Mr. Van Velze with the truck in which 18 cases of Dynagel were burnt. The arrowed wheel was the cause of the fire.

Man of Honour

MINING NEWS

No-one hesitated - they went in

Nov. 76 Mining

# THE PASSWORD — BRAVERY

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## Freak accident: how it happened

Staff Reporter

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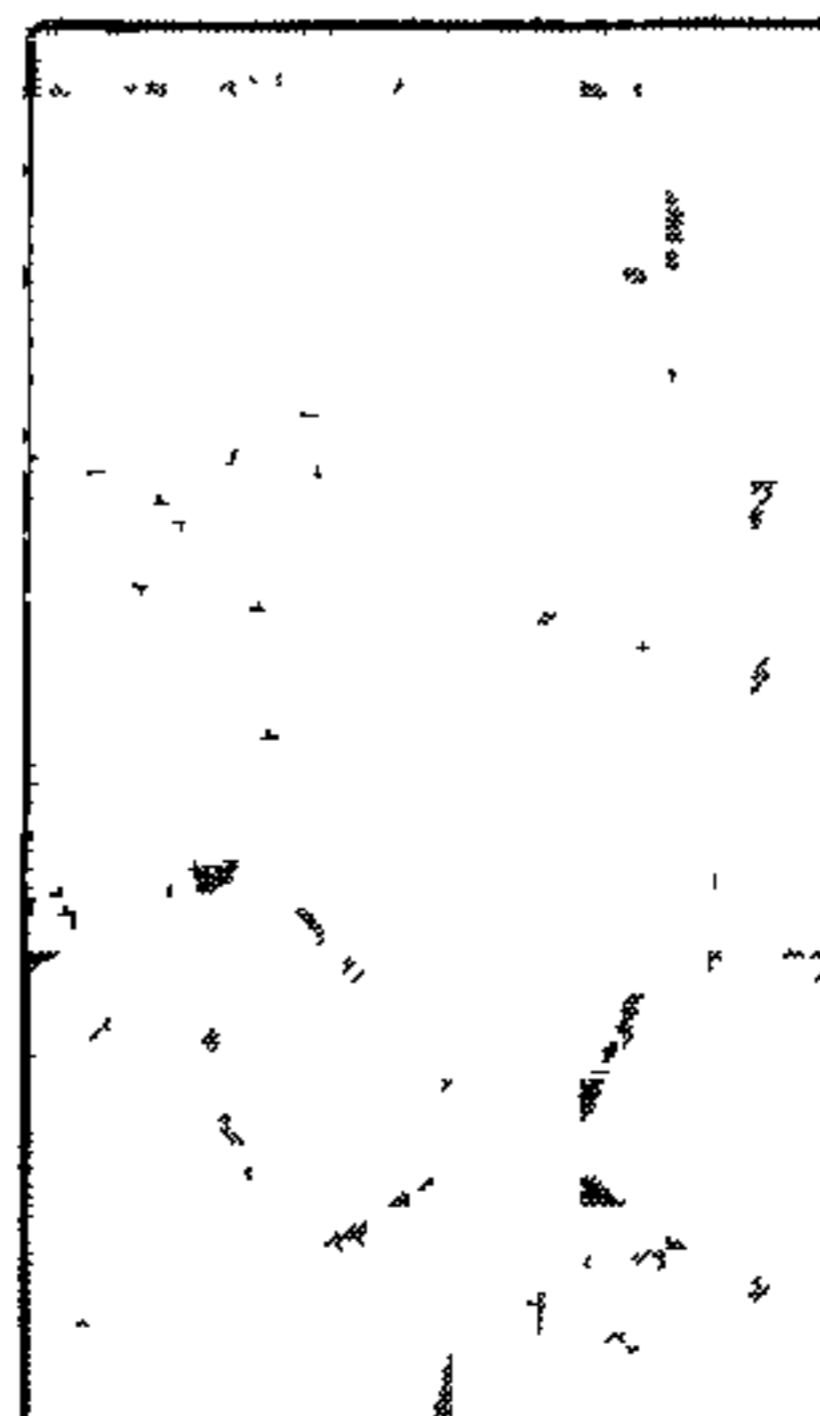
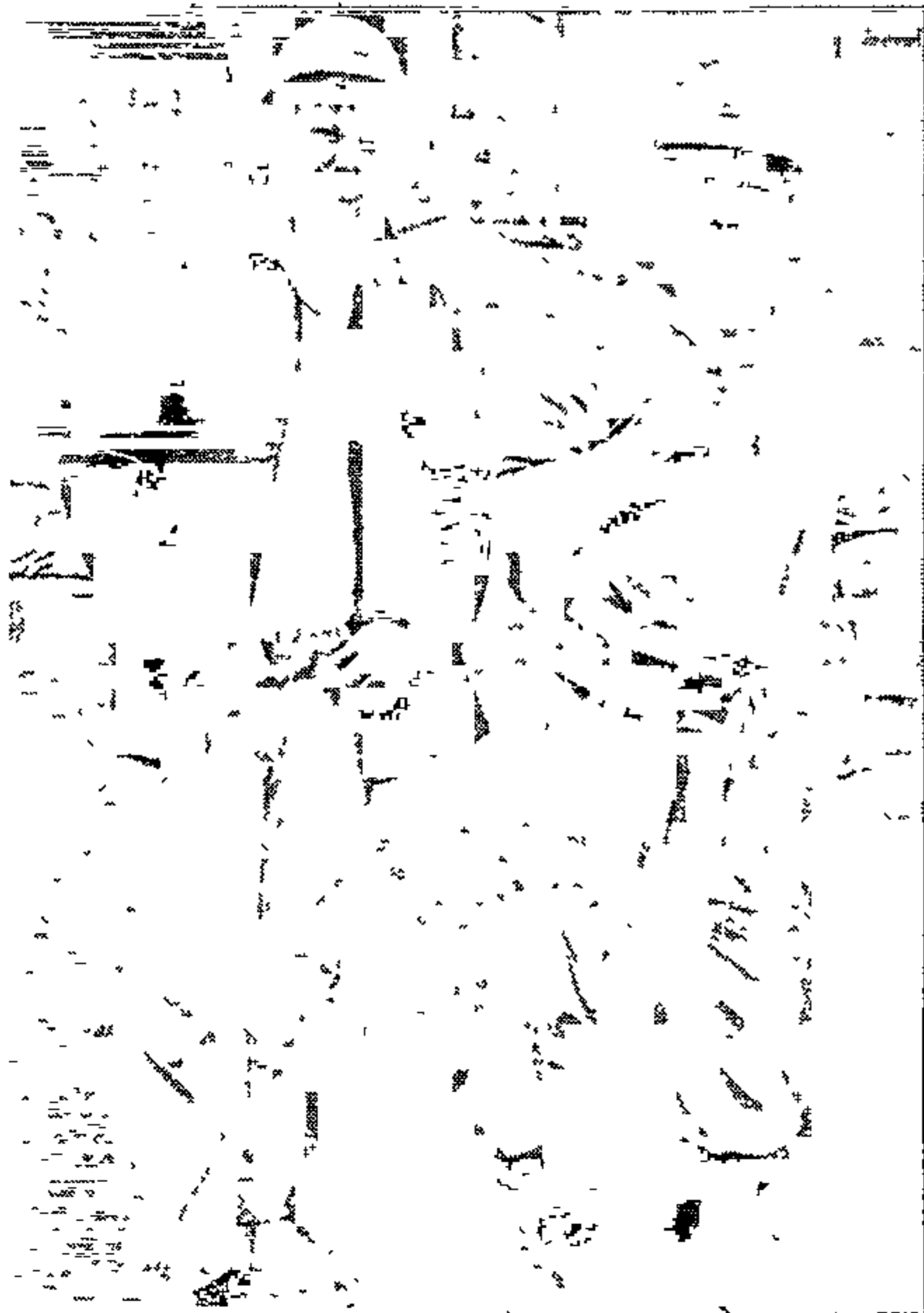
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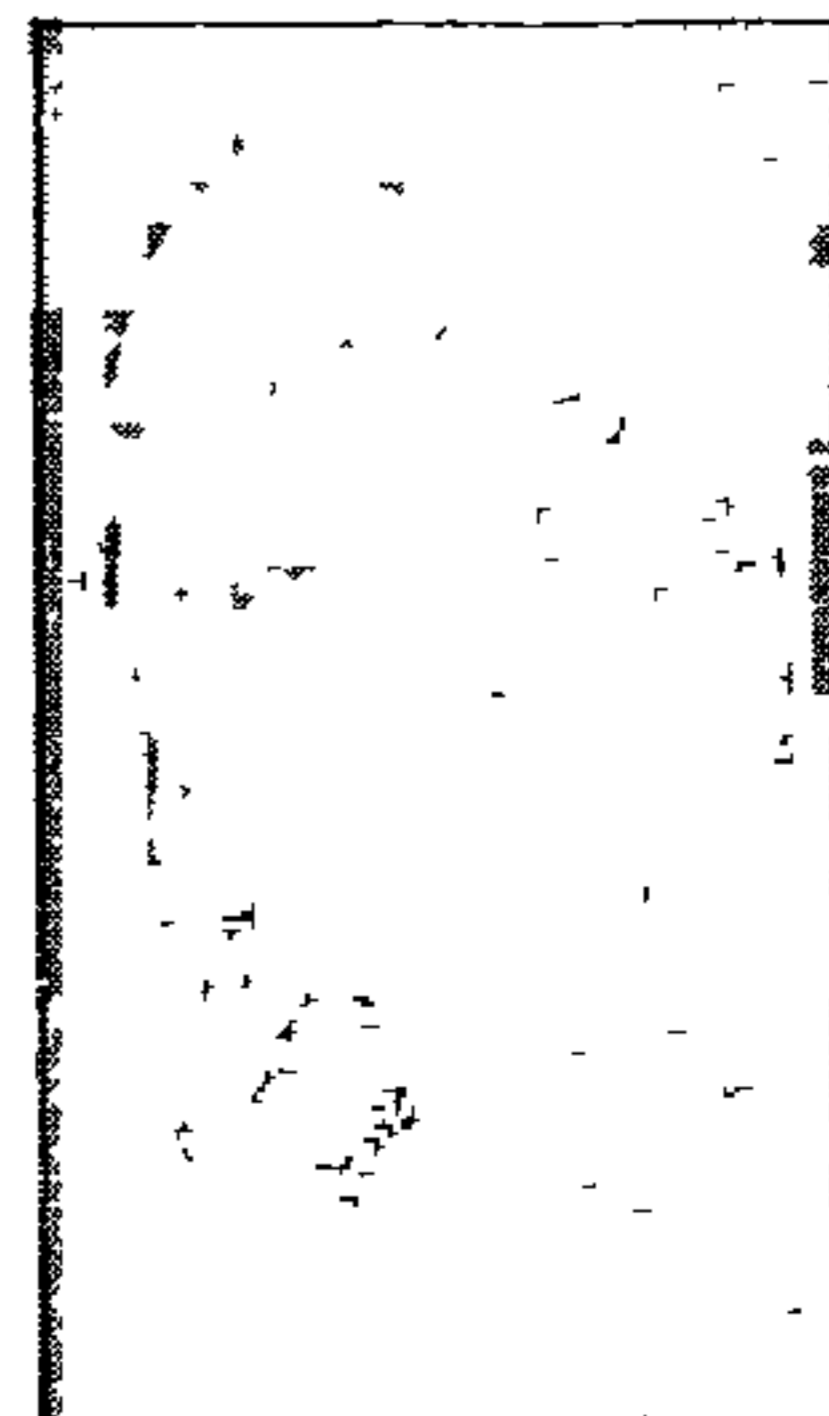
(To page 3)

Top. Shiftboss John Musgrave kept his cool and immediately warned officials on surface.

Below. In true tradition of mining men Andries Landman (left) and Schalk Lubbe re-entered the danger zone to help a colleague left behind.



Harold Nash, one of the men who tried to extinguish the flames.



Nick Prinsloo who, with two others, went right up to the fire.

# OPERATION

## OVER: NOW

## FOR SOME

## WORK...

WINING NEWS Nov. 76 Ming

Staff Reporter

### JOHANNESBURG

A South African miner has successfully undergone a rare operation in one of the world's foremost medical institutions.

Mr Charles Loxton, 22, of Harmony, was flown to Switzerland by the Rand Mutual on October 28, to be admitted to the renowned Zurich clinic of Professor U Fisch for an operation to restore the use of a nerve to the muscles on the left side of his face.

Earlier this year, 10 days after he was married, he was injured in a rock-fall underground.

Mr Loxton entered the Kantonsspital on November 1. The operation lasted seven hours.

A section of nerve was taken (from elsewhere in the skull) and grafted into the base of the skull behind the left ear to do the work of the damaged nerve.

### COTTESLOE

The ear also had to receive attention, for its mechanism was destroyed in the accident.

He will have to be patient for several months until the facial nerves recover and resume functioning. He will have to have further attention, and this will be done at the Chamber of Mines Hospital, Cottesloe.

There was medical treatment also for his jaw,

which was giving trouble, "and my teeth too, because at the moment they look like a railway crossing."

How was the clinic, he was asked at Jan Smuts Airport on his return last week.

Excellent, said Mr Loxton, who was accompanied by his wife, Anna-Marie.

"The room was a private unit with its own bathroom, telephone and radio, and had a fine view of the mountains. The food was excellent and the service couldn't have been better."

"I think it was wonderful of Rand Mutual to arrange everything for my wife and myself. I don't believe any other company would have done all this."

Mrs Loxton had high tribute for the interest and consideration shown by Mr G Lifman, Intergold's Marketing Manager in Geneva. Mr Lifman telephoned regularly to find out about her husband's progress, visited him in hospital and generally kept an eye on their interests.

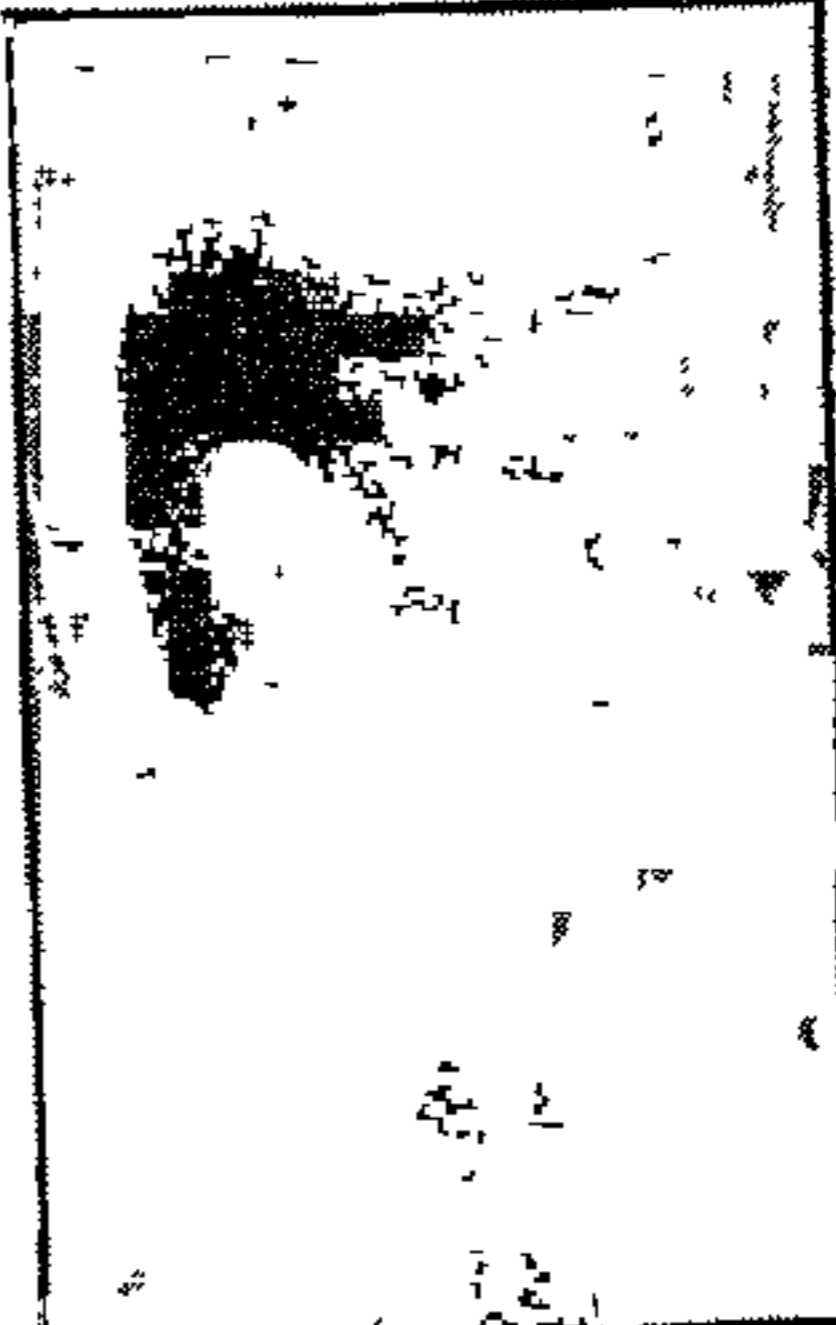
She had a special word of thanks too for Mr W J de Groote, Nedbank's representative in Europe, who visited the couple and offered to help wherever possible. Mr De Groote's interest arose out of his friendship with a senior Chamber official.

How does Mr Loxton feel about the future? "I want to get right and go back to work." What about going underground again? "I'm looking forward to it," he replied.

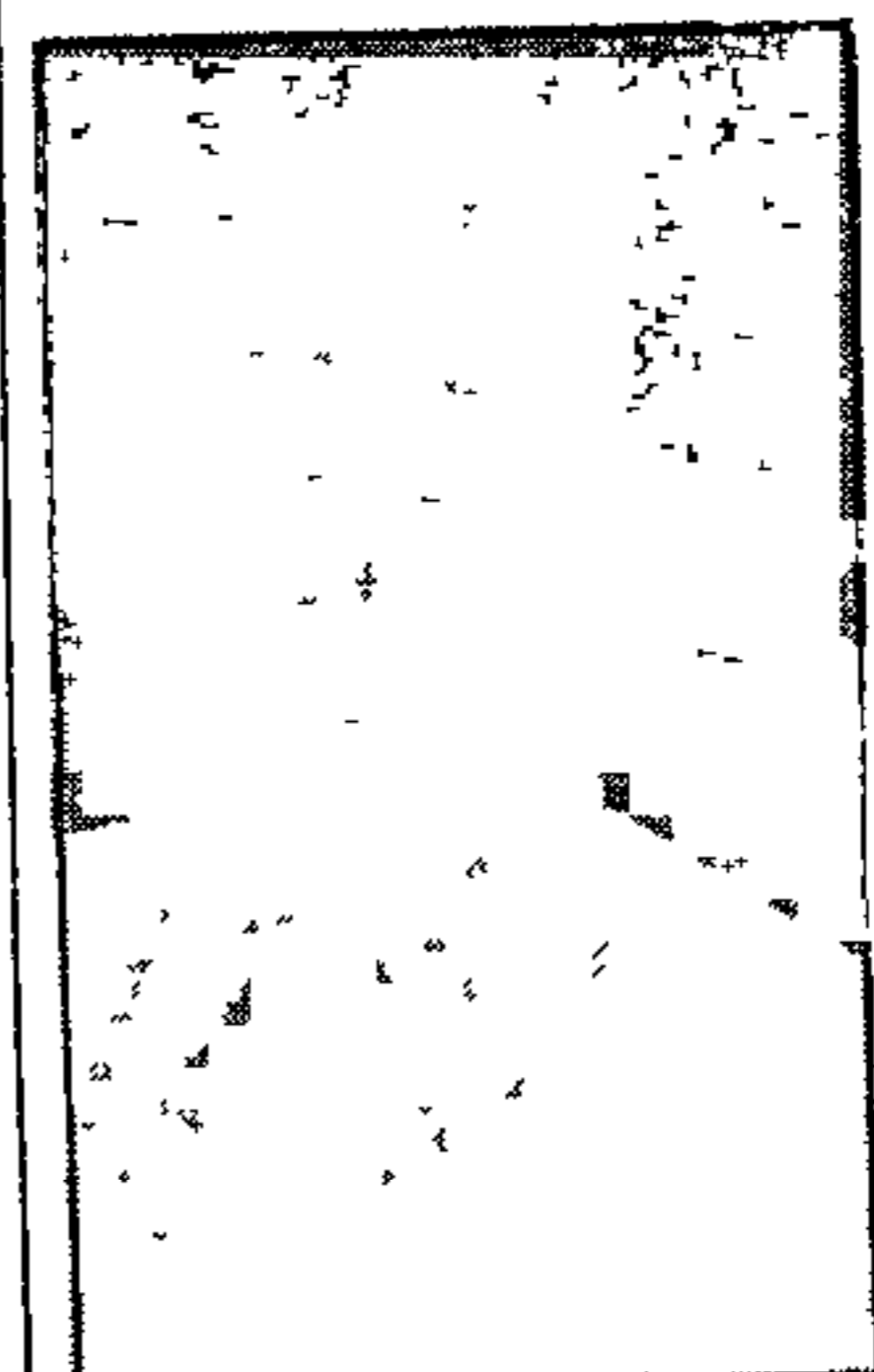
A tired Charles Loxton at Jan Smuts Airport on his return from Zurich. All he wanted to do was get home, relax, recuperate and get back to work.

## Freak accident: Death toll 13

Nov. 76 Ming



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Jack Pienaar went back to lend a hand.

(From page 1)

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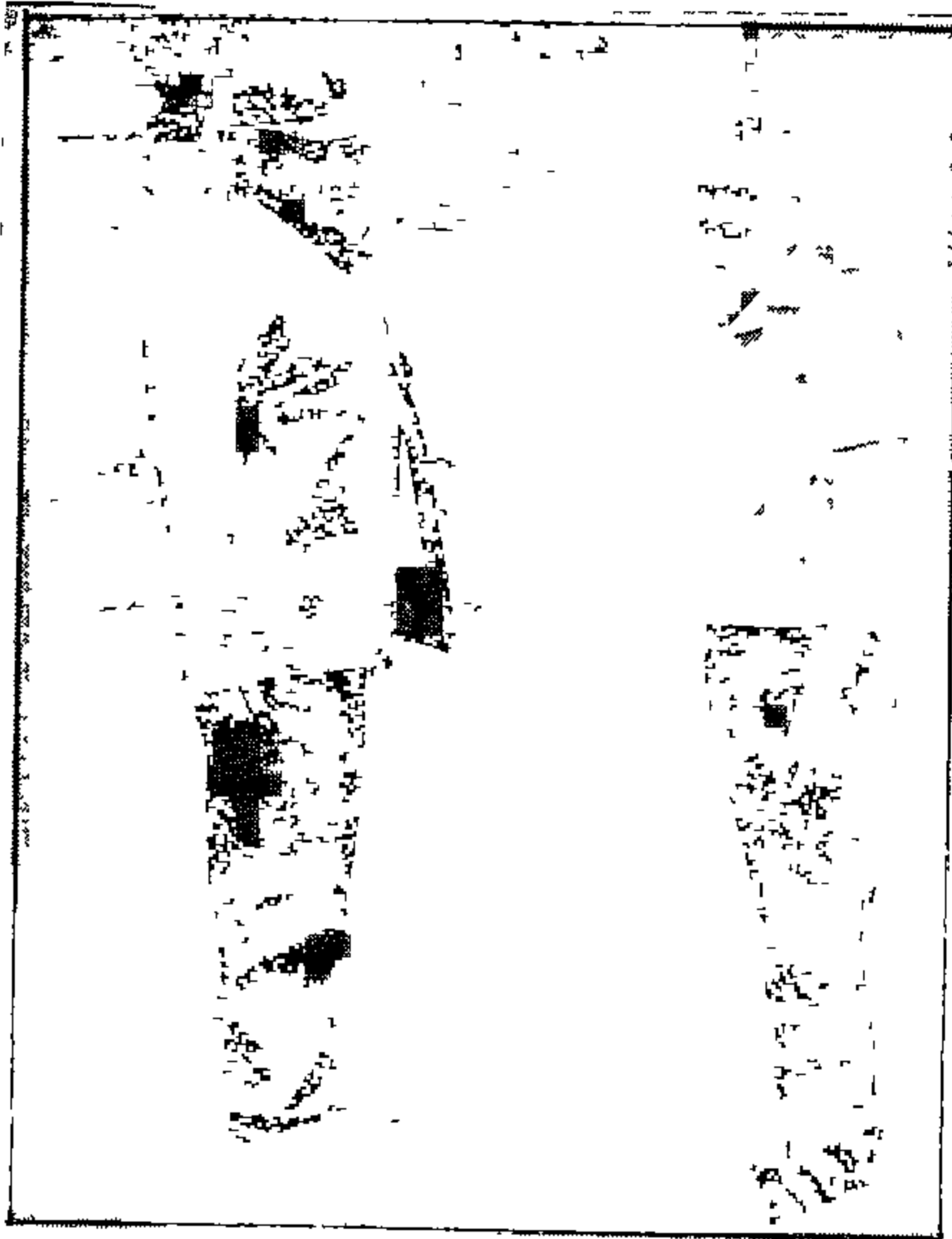
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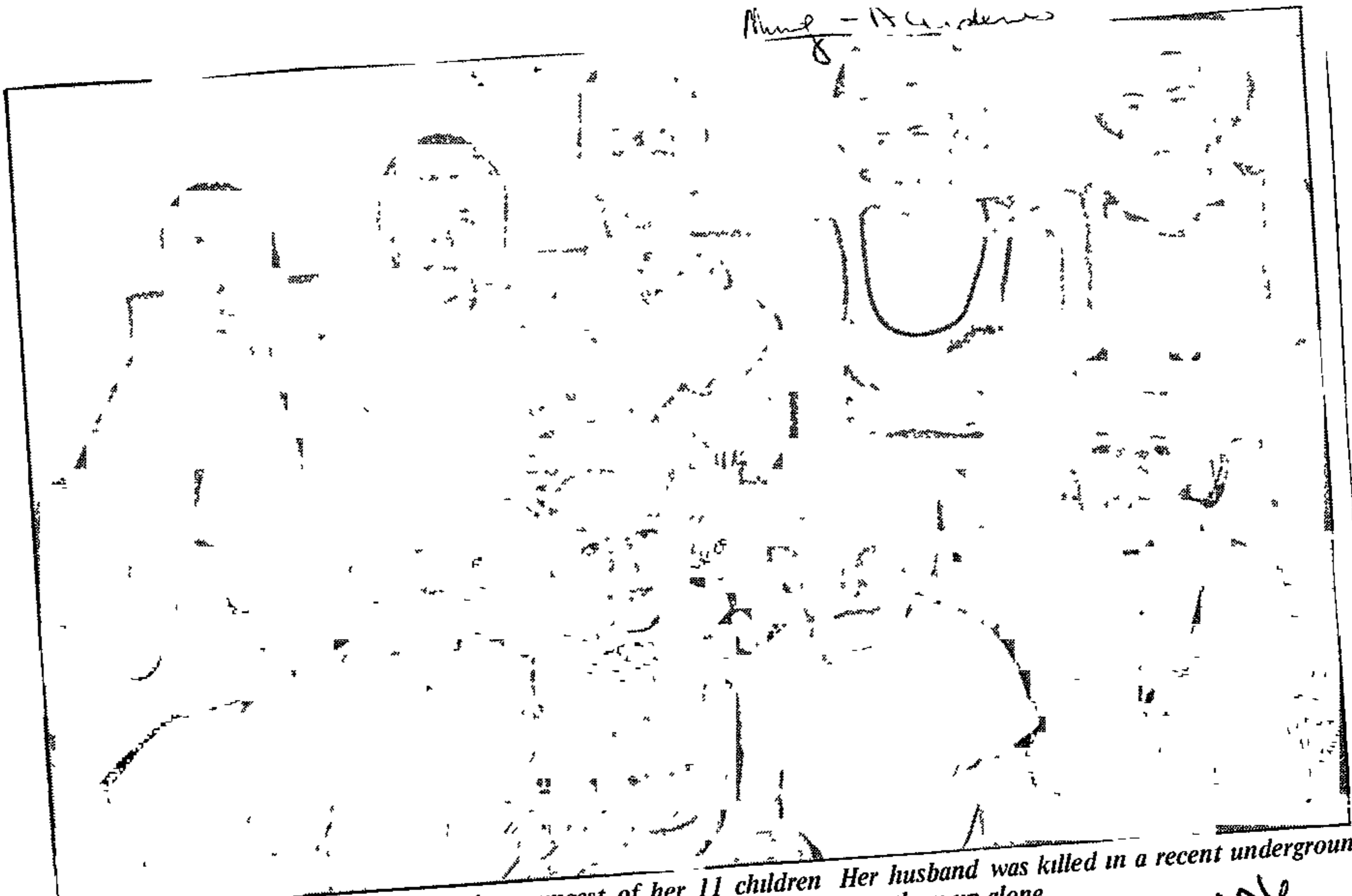
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*Johnny McGee (left) and Cas Beukes manned a ski-lift for two hours to help colleagues get out.*

Mine - Accidents



Mrs Johanna "Sus" Smith cradling the youngest of her 11 children Her husband was killed in a recent underground accident and she now faces the task of bringing them up alone

# AN EARTH TREMOR, A PRAYER... Mine, mates aid widow with 11 children

MINING NEWS NOV. 1976

Nov 74 Mining

Staff Reporter  
**WESTERN DEEP LEVELS.** — In a spontaneous gesture, colleagues have started a collection and are making monthly cash grants to the widow and 11 children of a man killed in a recent accident. And management is allowing her to stay on temporarily in their Fochville mine house

A pressure burst 3 000 metres underground at No 3 shaft on October 29 claimed the lives of Miner Jack Smith, 41, and three

Blacks A further 17 men were treated for injuries

Mrs Johanna "Sus" Smith, the 37-year-old widow, was tending to their seven-weeks-old baby son at 08h30 on the day in question when the house was shaken by a violent earth tremor causing win-

dows and glasses in the cupboard to vibrate

"I said a prayer and thought nothing more of it. Shortly after 12, I was told that my husband had been killed at that particular moment," said Mrs Smith

Mrs Smith said she

would never marry again "I could never find another man like Jack and will devote the rest of my life to protecting and bringing up my children," she said

When they met each had three daughters and two sons by previous marriages

During his 10 years on the mine Mr. Smith became an exceedingly popular person. One of his colleagues described him as a generous, good natured person, always ready with a kind word and an open door.

A lover of the open air, he frequently took his family on week-end outings and set up camp alongside a river or dam where the angling was good

Mr. Smith was a keen sportsman and this year had played rugby for Fochville.

Mr. Ray Southward, No. 3 Hostel manager, was flown to Transkei to convey management sympathy to the next-of-kin of the Black men who died in the pressure burst



Staff Reporter <sup>RDM</sup> 12/11/74 high It just flattened every-  
A WALL of grey muck <sup>thing</sup>  
burst from the slimes dam  
at Bafokeng Mine, Rusten-  
burg, yesterday, like a  
"huge tidal wave."

Water was trickling over  
the massive dam wall — at  
least 500 metres long — af-  
ter heavy rains brought it  
to bursting point yesterday

"Men were trying to block  
the flow in several places," a  
construction manager said  
"I was driving towards it  
when the wall cracked and  
then suddenly smashed open  
in a huge hole

"It poured out before my  
eyes and I reversed madly  
in a panic. A wall of mud —  
man, that's an understatement"

Mrs Petronella Swartz, an-  
other eye-witness, said: "I  
will never forget it. It made  
a noise like the sea. But I  
have never seen waves like  
that.

"It flooded out like a big  
tidal wave about 20 metres

Mr Johannes Phalane, a  
grader driver, jumped from  
his machine to save a trap-  
ped African worker

"I waded about 10 metres  
through knee-deep mud and  
managed to get him back in  
time

"A White man was also  
battling towards me when I  
got back to firm ground  
More ran out of the shaft  
office but they got trapped  
in the buildings and I lost  
sight of them."

Late last night he was still  
astride his grader, helping  
sweep the millions of tons of  
sludge away from the shaft

Floodlights were erected  
while officials held a late  
conference to plan their re-  
cue and clean-up

At the mine gate onlook-  
ers still stood gazing at the  
shattered wall with binocu-  
lars while inside miners  
traipsed up and down be-  
low the breached dam

By <sup>RDM</sup> BOB HITCHCOCK and  
WYNTER MURDOCH <sup>14/11/74</sup>

RUSTENBURG. — David Brown, a  
Scot who has been in South Africa for  
15 days, told last night of his terror as  
he was swept away by a sea of mud when  
the Bafokeng mine slimes dam burst on  
Monday.

Mr Brown, 29, was working as a fitter  
in the stone-crushing plant at Bafokeng  
South mine near Rustenburg when the  
dam burst. For four hours he was battered  
in the grey sea of mud as it carried  
him nine kilometres from his place of  
work

"At times", he said last night, as he  
rested his bruised legs and sore feet in  
his flat here, "I estimate I was travelling  
at close on 40 km an hour That is too  
fast when you're not in a vehicle

"It was horrifying. I couldn't believe it  
was really happening. I thought I must be  
having a nightmare"

Apart from leg injuries, he has an up-  
set stomach, the result of swallowing slime,  
and lime burns on his back

David Brown, looking weary after his  
ordeal, said. "I have faced death Life is  
wonderful." And he grinned at his wife,  
Veronica, and patted the head of their 17-  
month-old son, Darren.

But the Rustenburg mud rush has pre-  
sented Mr Brown with problems other than  
his health. Recently he borrowed a car  
from a friend in Nigel. He undertook to  
fix the gearbox and return the car in  
January

But the car has vanished — in the mud  
It was parked in a garage that disappeared  
with 39 other cars."

The Browns have had a tough two-week  
initiation in South Africa. First baby  
Darren fell and had seven stitches in his  
leg Then, on Tuesday, the lad cut his  
fingers in the kitchen.

Do they plan a move back to Edinburgh  
after their unfortunate introduction to  
South Africa? "Not on your life," said Mrs  
Brown. "We like Rustenburg"

Mr Ben de Klerk, one of the two White  
victims of the burst, died when he tried to  
rescue his car

Standing amid the devastation at No 4  
shaft, Mr Carl Netscher, the mine's techni-  
cal manager, said that Mr de Klerk was  
working in the hoist room, now badly  
battered. He was last seen running towards  
his car.

"The car was parked with the others in  
a garage which once stood a few metres  
from where we are now," Mr Netscher  
explained. "Within seconds Mr de Klerk,  
the cars and the garage vanished."

Up to late last night the  
body of Mr de Klerk, a fitter,  
had not been found. Also  
still missing was the body  
of Mr Giepje Vermeulen, and  
two black surface workers

Meanwhile three African  
miners who were believed  
missing have walked back  
on to the job, reducing the  
number of missing miners to

<sup>RDM</sup> 13/11/74. <sup>6</sup>  
RUSTENBURG — Impala Platinum exe-  
cutives and Government mining officials  
today refused further comment on Mon-  
day's slimes-dam disaster at the Mafokeng  
No 4 shaft pending the outcome later this  
week of an official inquiry.

The official death toll  
remains at 15 — two  
White and 13 Black min-  
ers

The Department of  
Mines is conducting an in-  
quiry through their chief  
mining inspector in Rus-  
tenburg, Mr G van Dyk

Impala Platinum Mines  
are conducting their own  
inquiry The results are  
expected to be made  
known at the same time  
as Mr van Dyk's findings

Most of the investiga-  
tions will hinge on a  
mining-safety clause which  
states that "the manager  
shall ensure that in the  
construction and mainte-  
nance of slimes dams, in  
the neighbourhood of any  
building, thoroughfare or  
public road, no danger to  
life or limb or damage to  
property can result there-  
from."

#### DOWNPOUR

Extensive damage was  
caused to installations ab-  
ove and below ground in  
Monday's swamping of No  
4 shaft

The mine management  
issued a statement saying  
that the washaway was  
probably caused by a sud-  
den 75 mm downpour of  
rain late on Sunday.

The black miners have  
still not been positively  
identified

(See pictures on Page 29.)

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Miners to  
STAR 8/11/74  
go home

ABOUT 500 Malawian  
mineworkers at Western  
Deep Levels mine near  
Carletonville are to be  
sent home.

A spokesman for the  
mine said today arrange-  
ments were being made  
to send the mineworkers  
home as soon as possible.

The decision follows  
weeks of negotiations with  
the miners who refused to  
work after a Malawian was  
stabbed to death during a  
film show at the mine on  
October 21.

MINING - ACCIDENTS

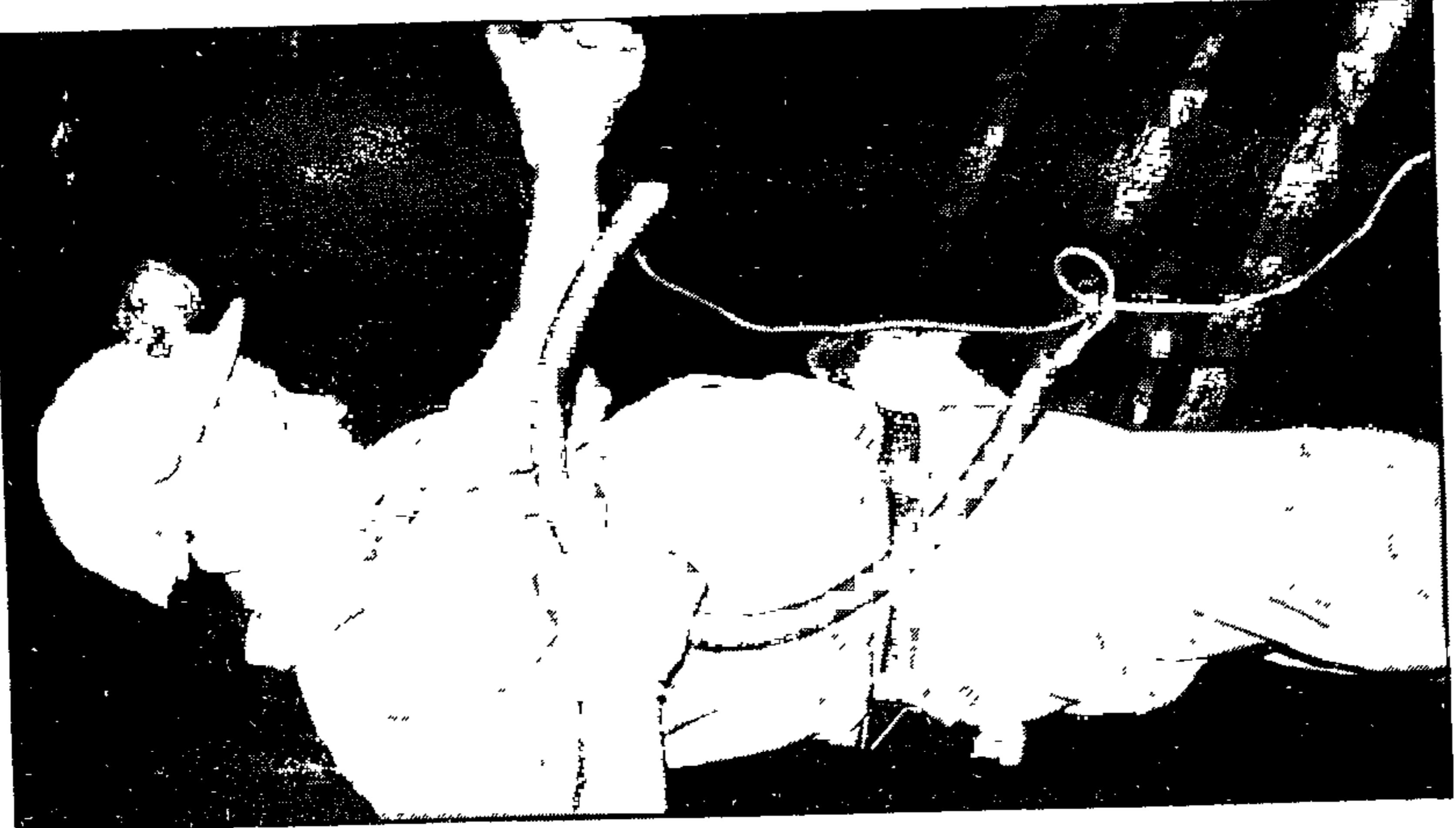
~~1976 -~~

~~JAN - JUNE~~

1977

JAN - JUNE





This is the life line that Jerry Konik placed around the Black after digging him free

# SAVED MAN BURIED UP TO HIS NECK

Staff Reporter

**VENTERSPOST** - A 41-year-old Shiftboss hung on a chain and battled for over an hour to free a Black mineworker who had fallen down an ore pass

For this deed which called for great courage, endurance and presence of mind Mr Jerry Konik, now Relieving Mine Overseer, was this month presented with the Chamber of Mines Award for Bravery by the Chamber's General Manager, Mr D N Stuart

## FRIGHT

Recalling the events of August 16 last year Mr. Konik said that he had just returned from his annual leave and went to 26 level to give his salvage crew instructions

From there he went to the raise connection at the level below and was told that timber worker

Khangelekile Zweni had fallen through the grizzly bars into a long orepass.

"I got the fright of my life," he said "In my 20 years of mining this was the most serious accident that had ever occurred in my section."

## LOWERED

Followed by Mine Overseer Milton Klaasen and Miner Frans Reid he rushed to the scene, got hold of a length of chain and was lowered 45 metres to where Mr. Zweni was lying seriously injured on broken rock at the bottom of the pass.

## LIFE-LINE

"He was covered in loose rock that had come down on top of him and only his head was sticking out," said Mr Konik.

While hanging by the chain Mr. Konik carefully dug him free and slid a

life-line around his waist. They were endangered by loose rock lying on the ledging slope face which could have come down on them at any moment.

It was decided that the best way of rescuing Mr Zweni was to draw off the broken rock in the ore pass and get him out through the bottom, says the citation.

## JUMPER

While Underground Manager Martin Botes started bleeding the pass Mr Konik, in an effort to prevent Mr. Zweni from being sucked into the rock being drawn off, held on to him while supporting himself on a jumper protruding from the side wall

However, the force of the rock drawn off compelled Mr Konik to release his hold on the jumper, he managed nonetheless to prevent Mr Zweni and

himself engulfed

Mr. Zweni was safely released and taken to hospital suffering from an open skull fracture and multiple body injuries.

## TRAPPED

A large rock and a lagging trapped Mr Konik's leg and it was not possible to release him for two hours

He was severely bruised and admitted to Cottesloe Hospital for a week's observation, he told Mining News.

## SHIVERS

Mr Konik said that at the time he didn't think about the danger involved. He did what any other person would have done

"But since then reaction has set in and memories of the experience give me cold shivers," he said

# NEW RESCUE DRILLS ON WAY

MINING NEWS JAN 1977

Mining JAN 77

# Can reach trapped men more quickly

Staff Reporter

**JOHANNESBURG.** — New equipment costing R2,6 million, capable of rapidly drilling rescue holes from surface into colliery workings in times of emergency, will soon be available in South Africa.

The equipment, from Ingersoll-Rand of New Jersey, U.S.A., can quickly and accurately drill pilot holes into mine workings to get supplies to trapped miners and then drill holes big enough to allow men to escape to surface

Since 1967 available rescue equipment has been a rotary Wirth L10 rescue drill, bought from Germany for R600 000 at that time. The new equipment has the advantage that it can penetrate the hard dolerite rock which overlays a large percentage of our coal fields at a faster rate than was possible with the Wirth L10.

The new equipment includes two mobile rigs mounted on rubber-tyred, self-propelled vehicles.

The use of percussive

drilling enables rates of penetration of the order of 10 metres an hour.

The probe holes are to locate miners who may be trapped underground, establish communication with them, and provide them with food, air and medical supplies as needed.

Then the more powerful rig, the T5 Drillmaster, drills a rescue hole of a diameter sufficient to allow casing of the hole if neces-

sary, when underground water or broken ground is encountered.

The ancillary equipment, pipes, casing, tools, all fit on six trailers drawn by mechanical horses. The total equipment will be housed and maintained at the Chamber of Mines Colliery Training College at Witbank, where one of the industry's Rescue Training Stations for the training of proto teams to fight fires and rescue miners is also stationed.

NW 18/1/77

# Battle for mine trio

212

LE 7530

Godet Mr. F  
Graaff Mr.  
Groenwald  
Hartig Mr

Mercury Correspondent

Hendrie  
Horner M  
Hughes I  
Israël  
Kahn Mr  
Kane Be  
Kantor  
Kenny  
Kistne  
Kingwett

**STILFONTEIN** — Rescue workers were last night digging feverishly through tons of rock in a search for three miners missing after a rockfall at the Hartebeesfontein gold mine.

Earlier, a seriously injured miner was found alive and brought to the surface — blindfolded against the light of day after having been trapped in darkness for almost 10 hours. DEBOSCH 7700

Five African miners have been killed and another 49 injured. One was said to be in serious condition with a fractured spine.

The rockfall — believed to have been triggered by a seismic event in the area — happened in two stopes and a section of a haulage 2 000 metres underground at the mine's No. 2 and No. 3 shafts. JOHANNESBURG 2000

At the time of the disaster an earth tremor was felt over an area of about 20km around the mine. RONDEBOSCH 7700

Several teams of rescuers called from surrounding mines soon afterwards started clearing the collapsed rock searching for the missing miners. DEBOSCH 7700

Last night a mine spokesman said it had been reported from underground that rescuers may have been nearing one of the missing men. JOHANNESBURG 2193

With the hope that they might find their comrades alive, rescuers were digging feverishly through tons of rock and intended to work throughout the night. AFF REINET 6280

Knight Mr. J. Institute o

Du Plessis Mr. W. Cape Mi

Kooy Ms. A. 204 Sanqary,

Letsie Mr. L. Catholic C

Levy Mr B. c/o 75 Kloof

Lewis Mr. D. c/o SALDRU

Lipton Ms.M. School of A

Loots Mr. L. Office of

Loudon Prof.J. Univers

Marais Ms. L. c/o K.W.V

Marais Mr. D. Uskor, La

Maree Mr. J. c/o School

Mark Ms. M. c/o Schoo

Maytham Ms. Y. 511 Ga

Mills Mr. M. Stanhop

Moerat Mr M. & Mr. J.Heeger

Morris Mr. M. 2 Woodroyd Lane,

Moyle Mr. J. School of Architecture, U.C.T.

At places in the collapsed tunnels the men endangered their own lives to get to areas where the missing men might be trapped.

Asked what the conditions were like, a few miners returning to the surface said yesterday afternoon that the area looked "terrible".

It was very difficult to clear the collapsed rock and crawl through small openings to get to places where somebody may be trapped.

Several senior mine officials co-ordinated the rescue work. Many others and workers from other mines asked to be on stand-by last night.

At times many African miners from a nearby hostel gathered near the headgear waiting for news of their missing colleagues.

ics. Manor Road, OXFORD, U.K.

Admin Board, Box 14025 P.E. 6000

MBERSKLOOF 8001

Boyhaville, O.F.S. 9660

TOWN 8001

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eton Park, Swansea SA<sub>2</sub>5PP WALES U.K.

7620

entre, STELLENBOSCH 7600

RONDEBOSCH 7700

RONDEBOSCH 7700

reet, CAPE TOWN 8001

Industria House, 350 Victoria Road SALT RIVER 7925

RONDEBOSCH 7700

RONDEBOSCH 7700

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*Cape Times 18/1/77*  
**Two miners  
not found**

The Argus Correspondent  
JOHANNESBURG—  
Fresh rescue workers to-  
day took over the search  
for two miners still miss-  
ing after a rockfall at the  
Hartebeesfontein goldmine  
yesterday

Eight miners were killed  
in the rockfall, and 48  
were injured. Nine have  
been admitted to hospital  
and five are seriously hurt.

Rescue teams worked  
through the night digging  
for the missing men

No names have been re-  
leased yet. Some of the  
miners came from Mozam-  
bique and Malawi.

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**Seven die, 48  
injured at <sup>Cape Times</sup> 18/1/77  
Reef gold mine**

JOHANNESBURG. — The death toll at the Hartebeesfontein gold mine, where a movement of ground occurred yesterday, rose to seven last night, a spokesman for Anglo-Vaal said.

Proto teams were still searching for two missing Black mine workers.

The spokesman said 48 miners had been injured in the accident, most of them superficially.

One man, who had been missing, was found alive, but had died soon after being rescued.

The rockfall happened about 9am

At the time of the disaster an earth tremor was felt throughout an area of about 20 km around the mine. Own Correspondent and Sapa.

# 'I thought I must be dead'

Staff Reporter

STILFONTEIN — Survivors of Monday's rockfall at the Hartebeesfontein gold mine told yesterday how they escaped with minor injuries while colleagues only a few paces away were struck down and killed

Nine men were killed in the rockfall which is believed to have been caused by an earth tremor in spite of round-the-clock

rescue operations, another man was still trapped in the mine last night Little hope is held out for his survival

Nine men were still in hospital yesterday, four under sedation Scores of others were treated for shock, cuts and bruises and were discharged on Monday afternoon

The fall occurred about 2 000 m underground at 8 45 am on Monday Nearly

all the men working in No 2 shaft were trapped

Five of those still in hospital said they were erecting a timber support when the tunnel collapsed

"There was a loud bang and everything went black said Mr Amos Bafana, 24, from Rhodesia "I thought I must be dead

All I could hear were screams I tried to run but was hit by rocks and fell In a few seconds I

was buried, with only my arms free A man — I later discovered he was White — pulled me from under the rocks and dragged me to safety

"It was a terrible experience, but I shall stay on the mine I have a wife and child at home and have to earn a living"

Mr Daniel Wilson, 25,



## Mine disaster

FROM PAGE 1

from Taung," said he felt a slight tremor when he went on shift three hours earlier

"It all happened so suddenly When the rocks started falling, I screamed for my mother. I don't scare easily, but I thought my day had come

"I was trapped under the rocks After what seemed hours I heard people talking and they freed me with crowbars. Next to me was a man who had been crying to himself Then he stopped He was dead"

Mr Mxakeki Tanana, 25, from Pedie in the Cape, was kneeling when he was struck on the back of the

neck.

"I stood up and ran but bumped into the water pipes on the side of the wall and fell I could hear screams and groans around me"

Mr Kititi Kwadani, 29, from Transkei, was trapped with one rock under his chin and another behind his neck

"I could not move," he said I thought I was dead. Two colleagues I had been working with a few seconds before lay silent on either side of me Both had been killed."

Mr Jack Garbutt, acting general manager, said "This is our worst accident since the mine started in 1952 The rescue workers were just great"



Mr Mxakeki Tanana from Pedie tried to run but fell



Mr Kititi Kwadani from Transkei back and shoulder injuries

Mr Johannes Masuku from Swaziland could not believe he was alive.



Mr Amos Bafana from Rhodesia going back to his job





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2

The Natal Mercury, Wednesday,

# Rockfall deaths now nine

1911  
star

Mercury Correspondent

**STILFONTEIN** — The death roll in a rockfall at the Hartebeesfontein Gold Mine rose to nine yesterday when a miner died in hospital and the body of another was found underground.

One miner was still missing last night following a rockfall 2,000 metres underground at the mine's No. 2 and No. 3 shafts on Monday morning.

It is believed that an earth tremor caused the disaster.

When the rockfall occurred a tremor registering four on the Richter scale was felt about 20km around the mine.

Rescue operations continued at the mine last night and miners endangered their own lives by digging through tons of rock in a search for their colleagues.

Nine miners are still in the Duff Scott Memorial Hospital at Stilfontein. Forty others have been discharged.

The names of the dead will be released by the Anglo Vaal Mining Company as soon as the next of kin have been told.

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~~R~~

## Search for lost miner

goes on

Rescue workers have not yet found the miner missing after Monday's rockfall at Hartebeesfontein Gold Mine.

They would continue their round-the-clock digging until they found him, a spokesman for the mine said today.

The rockfall death toll has risen to nine. Five men reported to be seriously hurt are being treated in hospital.

More than 45 other miners were hurt when an earthen tremor on Monday caused tons of rock to collapse in a shaft 2,000 m underground.

Rescue workers were being hampered by hot and hazardous conditions and were returning to the surface exhausted, said the spokesman.

Many had to be forced to take a break, he added.

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*W 11/27 Wm*  
**Miner  
still missing**

AN AFRICAN miner was still missing last night after Monday's rockfall at the Hartebeesfontein Gold Mine near Stilfontein

A spokesman for the mine said rescue operations were continuing

Nine miners were killed and 49 injured in the rockfall 2 000 m underground at the mine's number two and three shafts. Five miners are still in hospital

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18/1/77  
Star  
**Man dies in explosion**  
West Rand Bureau  
West Rand police are investigating an explosion near Krugersdorp late yesterday in which a man died and another was critically injured.  
The men were in a room at Gold Mine compound at Luipaardsvlei. Mr Alfred Mporomeng (30) was killed and Mr Tobias Sefulura (25) had his arms blown off.

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~~AAA DD~~ 18/1/77  
**Miner trapped for 10  
hours is rescued**

STILFONTEIN — Rescue workers were digging feverishly through tons of rock last night in a search for three miners still missing after a rock fall at the Hartebeesfontein gold mine

A seriously injured miner was found alive and brought to surface — blindfolded against the light of day after having been trapped in darkness for almost ten hours

Five miners have been killed and another 49 injured. One was said to be in a serious condition with a fractured spine

A mine spokesman said last night it had been reported from underground that rescuers may have been nearing a second of the missing men

With the hope they may find their comrades alive rescuers were digging feverishly through tons of rock and intended to work throughout the night

At places in the collapsed tunnels, the men endangered their own lives to get to areas where the missing men might be trapped — DDC

**Miner killed**

JOHANNESBURG — An African miner was killed by a fall of ground at the Stilfontein gold mine yesterday, a spokesman for General Mining announced here. The miner's name is being withheld pending notification to his next of kin. —(Sapa.)

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## Two killed

### at gold mine

A BLACK winch driver was killed by a cave-in at the Stilfontein gold mine yesterday, a spokesman for General Mining said.

He also said a Black ventilation door operator was killed at the mine last Friday when he was struck by a loco. The names of both men are being withheld until their next of kin have been notified — Sapa

~~13~~ 2/2

~~27/1/27 N.Y.N.~~  
**Two killed**  
JOHANNESBURG—Two unnamed non-Whites were killed in a rockfall yesterday at Bracken Mines near Leshe, eastern Transvaal, a spokesman for Union Corporation said here.—(Sapa.)

Vertical text or markings along the right edge of the page, possibly bleed-through or scanning artifacts.



# Held back rock with their legs to save Black

Febr 1977  
FEB 1977

Staff Reporter

**WEST DRIE.** — To hold back the rubble from again engulfing a Black worker who had been buried under 6 m of rock down an orepass, rescuers formed a barricade with their legs during the final stages of the 10 hour operation.

The rescue teams which consisted of Black and White personnel and included the Assistant General Manager, a doctor and an ambulance officer, worked in relays under difficult and dangerous conditions to free labourer Zaqueu Maquiquele, trapped in the pass two weeks ago.

Section Manager T Gouws, who was in charge of the first part of the rescue exercise, says the accident occurred at about 9 a.m. while Mr. Maquiquele was transporting timber over a grizzly.

## BURIED

The orepass had been filled while repairs to the grizzly were being carried out. As Mr. Maquiquele was crossing the grizzly, the chutes were opened below to tram rock. Apparently this caused the grizzly to collapse and Mr. Maquiquele fell.

Before the tramming could be stopped, he disappeared from sight and was completely buried under 6 m of rock.

To get Mr. Maquiquele out, shedding stulls were installed to hold back the rock as the digging progressed.

The rescuers could hear the victim calling out all the time and eventually located him close to the hanging.

It was fortunate that he had not been pulled down another metre, as then it would have been impossible to dig him out, Mr. Gouws said. The angle of repose at which they were digging was so steep that a slide of rock which would have covered the victim again as well as the rescue team, was imminent.

## 'HURRY UP'

At 17h00 Assistant General Manager R. MacNorton arrived with a fresh team to continue the rescue operations. And all the time Mr. Maquiquele was calling out to them "to hurry up and get me out."

By the time they reached him, it was too close to the hanging to install further stulls, and besides there was also the danger that the pipes could pierce the victim's body. That was when the rescuers formed a barricade with their legs to hold back the rock while the final stage of the rescue was carried out.

Dr. P. Lowe and Ambulance Officer E. Vermeulen were waiting at the top of the orepass when Mr. Maquiquele was brought up. They immediately gave him injections and applied a drip.

He was finally brought to surface at 10h30 and rushed to the intensive care unit at the Leslie Williams Memorial Hospital.

Two days later his condition was so improved that he was transferred to one of the wards, where he immediately asked for a cigarette.

# 'MOST DIFFICULT' BLAZE

*Mining  
Academy*

## BRAKED

### 3 000 Protomen

#### at Western Areas

*February 1971  
Mining*

Staff Reporter

#### WESTERN AREAS

*MINING NEWS*

The three-week-old fire in North Shaft now being brought under control, has been described as the most difficult fire in the history of the South African mining industry. Never before has there been an occasion where such a large number of Proto teams have had to be called out.

The greatest problem in fighting this fire was the limited access available to the burning area.

"But we have managed to contain it in the area where it started. In fact we just had to contain it, as beyond that are old workings with crushed ground. And there is no way of entering these old workings," General Manager J. Coetsee explained.

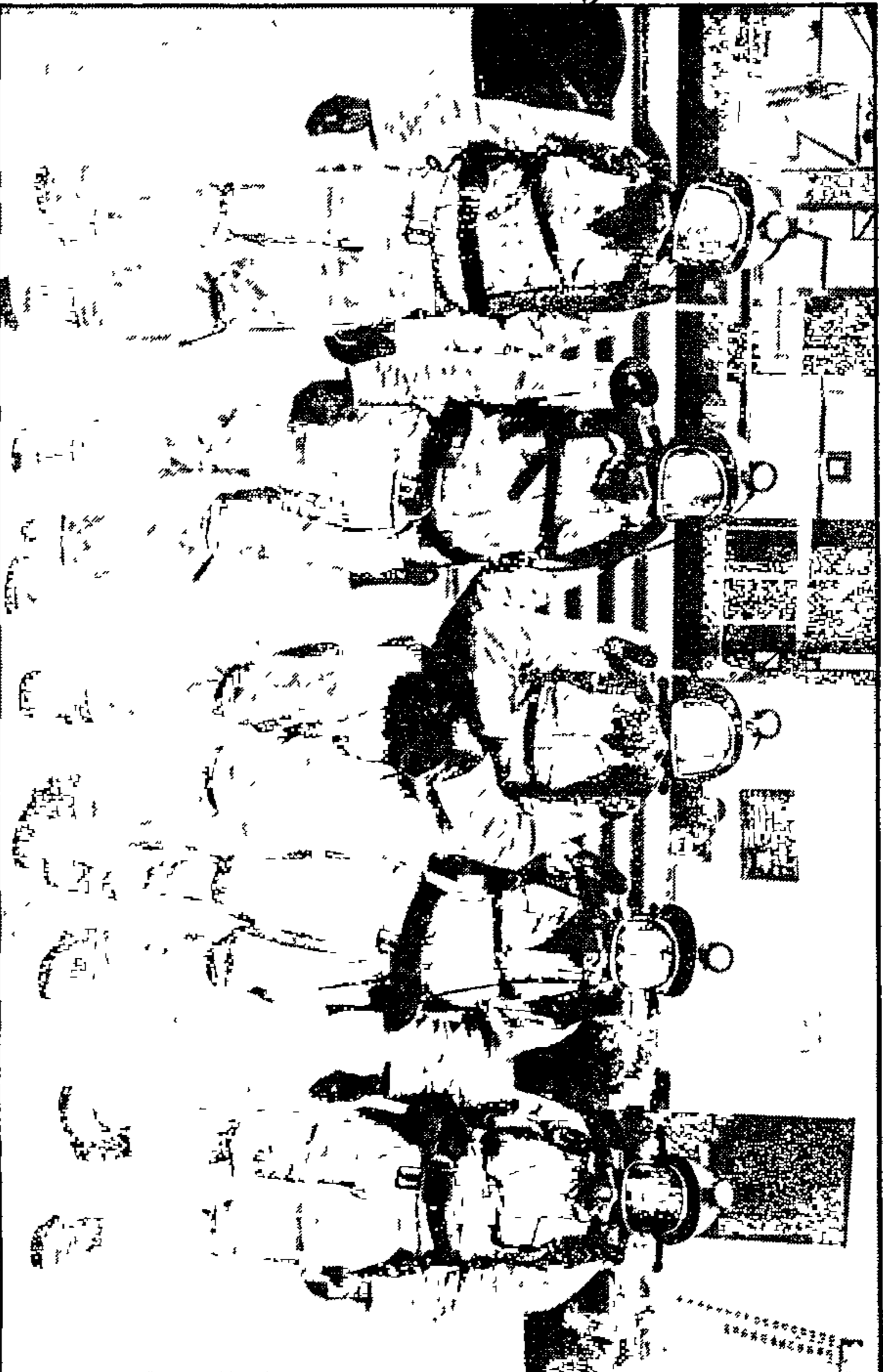
It was in many ways

Operation Codeword. Old scraper gullies in the fire area codenamed Chinaman, Victory and Last Resort were opened up and sprays installed to prevent the fire spreading.

At the same time, holes were drilled through the hanging into the fire area from a contour drive below. Foam was then pumped through.

When it was found that it would not be possible to link the Chinaman, Victory and Last Resort gullies with the 10 o'clock, 12 o'clock and 2 o'clock gullies to form a barrier across the path of the fire, a vermiculite wall was built around the area to starve it of oxygen.

As a double precaution against possible escaping gas, Fort Knox, a concrete "sausage" wall, based on the grout pack principle,



**Ready to go into action** Here members of one of the 45 Black task force teams pose in full fire-fighting kit.

was built around the vermiculite barrier.

It is the first time that the Fort Knox principle has been tried out in combating underground fires.

The success of these measures can be gauged from the fact that in spite of the difficult nature of the fire, it never had the opportunity to spread. (See page 3)

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MINING - ACCIDENTS

# UNIVERSITY OF LIBRARIANSHIP

## 2 KILLED IN MINE MISHAPS

JOHANNESBURG  
Two Transvaal mine workers were killed in separate underground accidents yesterday. Mr. J. W. F. Botha (36) was killed in a rockfall 1400m below ground at West Driefontein Gold Mine and an African mine worker was killed after being drawn into an ore pass at Rand Gold Mine.

South Africa.  
Rondebosch, 7700,  
University of Cape  
Town  
Department  
Dr. Pierre Peltier,  
Jusqu'au 1er decembre  
1975 en A  
7700  
Rondebosch  
University of Cape  
Town,  
Cape Town, 1976  
en projet  
de la civilisation  
Francaise en  
Afrique du Sud  
Hahn Building

TELEPHONE 69-8531  
Director Ext 497  
Secretary Ext 496

Mais n'ete promene donc pas toute nue!  
Town, Stellenbosch, Johannesburg  
Etat tel qu'on le parle (tournee  
es Boulingrin (Cape Town, 1974)

OL OF LIBRARIANSHIP,  
Hahn Building,  
University of Cape Town,  
Cape Town, 1976  
Rondebosch  
7700

1975 en A  
7700  
Rondebosch  
University of Cape  
Town,  
Cape Town, 1976  
en projet  
de la civilisation  
Francaise en  
Afrique du Sud  
Hahn Building

APPLICATION FOR AN ANNUAL RECURRENT GRANT  
SCHOOL OF LIBRARIANSHIP  
collaboration au Journal Sud-Ouest (Bordeaux) de 1964 à 1972  
page des jeunes (1974 et 1975)  
secrétariat de l'Association des Etudes Françaises en Afrique  
Australe (passé depuis 1974)  
mises en scene pour la troupe des étudiants du Département de  
Français de l'Université du Cap:  
1976 en A  
7700  
Rondebosch  
University of Cape  
Town,  
Cape Town, 1976  
en projet  
de la civilisation  
Francaise en  
Afrique du Sud  
Hahn Building

Littéraires français)  
\* Textes vivants (recueil thématique de textes  
Economic)  
\* Comment va la France?, Volume III: Dossiers  
Vie sociale et politique (publication en 1977)  
Comment va la France?, Volume II: Dossiers

The School of Librarianship has had its staff reduced in the last 3 - 4 years by the loss of staff previously given on a no-charge basis by former members of the University Library staff. Up to four subjects were taught in their entirety by Mr. P. E. M. Impelman, Miss L. E. Taylor, Mr. G. D. Quinn, and myself while still on the library staff. Other subjects were shared, and sections of courses were being taught by another three or four. At the present time there are still three people who help with sections of courses, as well as two or three for two lectures on their own specialities par méthodes individualisées de la civilisation française par méthodes individualisées.

During 1975 and the first part of 1976 it has engaged part-time lecturers from outside the University for one complete course (Miss L. E. Taylor) and sections of a course in libraries and the Cape Provincial Library Service. The money to pay them has been obtained by making use of the money available for replacement during Mrs Russell's absence. This course of action was suggested by the Staffing Committee when our position was brought to their attention last year.

In 1977 there will be no replacement money. Université de Bordeaux II, 1975, 229 pages  
Comment va la France, Dossiers culture, Editions Magnard, Paris, 1975, 286 pages (manuel de civilisation française contemporaine; préface de Marc Blanchain, Secrétaire Général)

The permanent staff are working to capacity in certain aspects of our work are being neglected for lack of staff. We need the money not only to continue employing the part-time staff referred to above, but also to engage the people at present paid from Demonstrator money, and other specialists who at present cannot be engaged. It is a question of maintaining the existing position as a first priority, and then of improving on it.

A brief account of the work carried out by the staff of the School of Librarianship should be made clear. There are at present six \* François Mauriac - Thérèse Desqueroix  
\* Benjamin Constant - Adolphe  
\* cours magistraux: undergraduate/2.....

\* This was in addition to paying three part-time lecturers to do Mrs Russell's work.

## Two die in gold mine accidents

3/27/80

Mr. W. F. BOTHA, 36, was killed in a rockfall 1400 m underground at West Driefontein Gold Mine yesterday morning. Another mineworker was killed after being drawn into an ore pass at Rand Gold Mine. His name will be released after his next of kin have been informed.

Power is expected to be restored by Sunday evening.

ing at Doornfontein Gold Mine, near Carletonville, after yesterday's fire in No 1 shaft which cut off the power supply and stopped production.

About 3500 men were underground at the time, but a spokesman said that at no stage were they trapped. They could have used stopes and another shaft to reach the surface.

— Sapa

3/27/1949  
**Miner killed**

Mr Jan Willem Frederick Botha (38) was killed in a rockfall at the West Drie fontein Mine near Carletonville today, reports Sapa. He leaves a wife and six children aged from three to 16.

# 7 dead in mine crash

Seven mineworkers were killed and 28 injured — nine of them seriously in a collision between a lorry in which they were travelling and an ore train in Rustenburg today.

The accident took place at 5 am as the men were being taken to work on the northern incline shafts at Rustenburg Platinum Mines.

A spokesman for the mine could not say whether or not the train was moving at the time. He did not know whether the lorry stalled or had brake failure.

### STATEMENTS.

"We are still taking statements from eyewitnesses to establish exactly what happened," said the spokesman.

The 28 injured are recovering in the Rustenburg mines' hospital. No names have yet been released.

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hier, soos die Nederlandse taalkundige J. L. Pauwels aantoon, met 'n oorgeërfde verskynsel te make.

J. A. VERHAGE, „Deftige en gemeensame vorme in die sinsverband van ou Kaapse taal”, *Tydskrif vir geesteswetenskappe*, jg. 5, nr. 3, 1965, pp. 307-323.

J. A. VERHAGE, „Die herkoms van die verbinding *as war na* 'n kompara-tief en sy verbreiding in Afrikaans”, *Tydskrif vir geesteswetenskappe*, jg. 7, nr. 1, 1967, pp. 328-342.

J. DU P. SCHOLTZ, *Taalhist. opstelle*, pp. 162-168.

J. L. PAUWELS, „De volgorde van verbogen verbale vorme in het Nederlands”, in *Dietse studies*, pp. 105-110.

### 9.5 Slotopmerkinge<sup>JSW</sup>

In hierdie beknopte oorsig van die wording van die Afrikaanse taal kon net op die mees opvallende kenmerke van die woordeskat, klank- en vormstelsel, en van die sinsbou gewys<sup>JSW</sup> word. Talle van die fyn-<sup>JSW</sup> besonderhede van die Afrikaanse taalstruktuur kon uit die aard van saak nie ter sprake kom nie; maar uit die verskynsels wat wel preek is, blyk al duidelik dat Afrikaans nie eensklaps ontstaan het 'n Tydperk van minstens 200 jaar was nodig om die Afrikaanse struktuur te laat ontwikkel. In dié ontwikkelingsproses het baie pre tot die veranderings op die gebied van die woordeskat, die logiese en morfologiese struktuur, en die sinsbou bygedra. Wanneer ons bronne versigtig bestudeer, sien ons dat nie die een of ander in die besonder of een spesifieke faktor vir die wording van Afrikaans verantwoordelik was nie, maar dat die Afrikaanse taal die produk kan baie eksterne en interne faktore. Sonder belangrik was die „aktiewe skakerings van 17de-eeuse Nederlands; soos uit die oorsig blyk, is die meeste „kenmerke” van Afrikaans voortsettings van die een of ander dialekvorm of tendensie in 'n dialek wat in Nederland self deur beskawingsfaktore teengewerk is of verdwyn het. Daarnaas het die invloed van die talje vreemde tinge aan die Kaap 'n rol gespeel. Ook hier kan ons net by uitsondering een groep sprekers isoleer en vir die wording van 'n bepaalde taalvorm verantwoordelik hou. Ons kan bv. nie aantoon in hoever die Franse of Duitse immigrante die Afrikaanse sinsbou direk beïnvloed het nie, of in hoever hulle die vereenvoudiging van die vormstelsel veroorsaak het nie.

**Seven die**  
JOHANNESBURG  
Seven Black minework-  
ers were killed and 28  
injured in a level cross-  
ing smash at Rustenburg  
Platinum mines early  
yesterday, a spokesman  
said here.

### 1. Teorieë oor die ontstaan van Afrikaans

Vroeër is daar wel aan die een of ander beslissende taalinvloed gedink Dit was die geval voordat 'n taamlik groot hoeveelheid direkte ge-

wens van die Kaapse taal in die Argief in Kaapstad gevind is Kort na die stigting van die GRA het die belangstelling in die herkoms en ontstaan van Afrikaans by taalgeleerdes begin posvat en aanleiding gegee tot die ponering van verskillende teorieë oor die ontstaan van Afrikaans. Th Hahn se *Horrentors-teorie* van 1882 was die eerste pos-ging tot 'n verklaring van die karakter van Afrikaans Hoewel hy vasstel dat Afrikaans „phonetically teutonic” is, d.w.s. sy Germaanse struktuur behou het, is dit volgens hom „psychologically an essential Hottentot idiom” Maar hierdie vae stelling kan hy nie bewys nie Kort ná hom kry ons die belangstelling van Nederlandse geleerdes soos M de Vries en J 't Winkler, wat die *Frans-teorie* voorstaan. Volgens dié teorie sou Afrikaans onder die invloed van die Franse Hugenoote ontstaan het, maar D C Hesselning het die teorie in 1897 al weerlê In 1885 wys Hugo Schuchardt, die beroemde Duitse geleerde en kenner van Kreoolse tale, op twee belangrike faktore wat by die wording van Afrikaans 'n rol kon gespeel het, hy dink aan die een kant aan Duitse in-vloed, aan die ander kant was hy die eerste wat in 1891, op grond van sy kennis van Indo-Portugees en Maleis-Portugees, op moontlike kreo-liseringsfaktore in Afrikaans die aandag gevestig het. D. C Hesselning het dié gedagtes in 1897 en 1899 verder gevoer, veral in sy beroemde werk *Het Afrikanssch* (1899) waarin hy sy *Maleis-Portugees-teorie* uiteensit het In teenstelling met die vorige teorieë was Hesselning s'n die eerste wat werklik wetenskaplik verantwoord was. Volgens Hesse-ling moes daar binne die eerste dertig jaar van die volksplanting 'n skietlike botsing van tale aan die Kaap plaasgevind het, nl. 'n botsing tussen die 17de-eeuse Nederlands van die vryburgers, soldate en ampe-tenare en die taal van die Oosterse slawe wat Maleis en 'n vorm van gebroke Portugees gepraat het, of 'n vermenging van albei („Maleis-Portugees”) In 1658 en daarna het 'n groot aantal slawe wat gebroke Portugees gepraat het, Kaap toe gekom; dit sou volgens Hesselning 'n skielike kommunikasieprobleem veroorsaak het wat tot 'n vinnige verandering van Nederlands geleel het. Die resultaat was 'n sterk ver-eenvoudigde taal met 'n reduksie in sy grammatika Wanneer 'n kul-tuurtaal in 'n bepaalde kontaksituasie deur 'n botsing met 'n sosial-laeerstaande taal binne 'n kort tydperk 'n drastiese reduksie, struktuur-verandering en vereenvoudiging ondergaan, praat 'n mens van kreo-lisering. Hesselning moet egter self erken dat die tipiese kenmerke van kreo-lisering in Afrikaans ontbreek, daarom kom hy tot die konklusie dat Afrikaans beskou moet word as Nederlands wat halfpad bly staan het om 'n Kreoolse taalte word.

Ongelukkig het Hesselning destyds nie oor die nodige direkte taale-gegewens beskik nie, hy kon sy teorie feitlik net op sosio-historiese gegewens baseer wat bowendien nie volledig en korrek was nie. Daar-om was ook sy teorie ontoereikend en eensydig; dit het 'n hipotese gebly wat hy nie kon bewys nie.

# Miner dies <sup>21/1/77</sup> after crash <sup>RDW</sup>

A MINER at Hartebeesfontein Gold Mine, Mr D. van der Merwe, 19, died in the Klerksdorp Hospital yesterday after a car collided with his motorcycle on Saturday.

The driver of the car allegedly did not stop.

Police later traced a man in Stilfontein. He is to appear in court today.





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**Mine deaths**

JOHANNESBURG—Two African workmen were killed yesterday by a fall of ground in the Scott shaft of the Stilfontein mine, General Mining announced here. The names of the dead are being withheld until next-of-kin have been informed. — (Sapa.)

# Mine fire sealed off *2/1/77*

THE permanent sealing off of the fire area in the north shaft of the Western Areas gold mine was now nearly completed and normal ventilation had been restored, a spokesman for the mine said yesterday.

The fire, which broke out on January 27, seriously disrupted production at the mine and is still burning, he said.

Production in the mine

had been resumed in 95 per cent of the working area and the management was confident that almost normal production would be achieved this week.

Certain working places would not be mined in the immediate future. Arrangements were being made to replace lost production through the exploitation of alternative areas — Sapa

**Mine deaths**

TWO BLACK women were killed yesterday by a fall of ground at the Stilfontein Mine, General Mining announced in Johannesburg. — Sapa.

mer, soos die Nederlandse taalkundige J. L. Pauwels aantoon, met 'n oorgeefde verskynsel te make.

J. A. VERHAGE, „Dafuge en gemeensame vorme in die sinsverband van ou Kaapse taal”, *Tydskrif vir geesteswetenskappe*, jg. 5, nr. 3, 1965, pp. 307-323.

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9.5 Slotopmerkinge

In hierdie beknopte oorsig van die wording van die Afrikaanse taal kon net op die mees opvallende faktore van die wording van die Afrikaanse taal gewys word. Falle van die fynere taalstruktuur kon uit die aard van maar uit die verskynsels wat wel Afrikaans nie eensklaps ontstaan het maar was nodig om die Afrikaanse ontwikkelingproses het baie gebied van die woordeskaf, die en die sinbou bygedra. Wanneer sien ons dat nie die een of ander faktor vir die wording van Afrikaans die Afrikaanse taal die produk van die ontwikkeling was die faktor. Besonder belangrik was die faktor van die wording van Afrikaans van 17de-eeuse Nederlands; soos uit die oorsig van die meesre „kenmerke” van Afrikaans voortsittings van die een of ander dialekvorm of tendensie in 'n dialek wat in Nederland self deur beskawingsfaktore teengewerk is of verdwyn het. Daarnaas het die invloed van die tal'e vreemdeinge aan die Kaap 'n rol gespeel. Ook hier kan ons net by uitsondering een groep sprekers isoleer en vir die wording van n bepaalde taalvorm verantwoordelik hou. Ons kan bv. nie aantoon 'n hoever die Franse of Duitse immigrante die Afrikaanse sinbou direk beïnvloed het nie, of in hoever hulle die vereenvoudiging van die vormstelsel veroorsaak het nie.

Dead miners are named

JOHNNIES Consolidated Investments yesterday released the names of 31 miners killed in a collision last Friday between a lorry and an ore train at the company's Rustenburg Platinum Mine. The dead were Mr Benjamin Kupiso, 29, Mr Nedda Manga, 31, Mr Kanyeka Balumani, 35, Mr Sitikini Hlangene, 23, Mr Lucas Mokuti, 36, Mr Mbukeni Dala, 19 and Mr Mosimanegepe Rachiba, 31. The 28 men injured were yesterday still in hospital.

1. Teorieë oor die ontstaan van Afrikaans

Vroeër is daar wel aan die een of ander beslissende taalinvloed gedink Dit was die geval voordat 'n taamlik groot hoeveelheid direkte ge-

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1/3/22 8/4/21/2  
**Miner dies**  
An 18-year-old onsetter,  
Mr Johan le Roux Vorster,  
fell to his death down a  
repass at Doornfontein  
gold mine near Carleton-  
ville early today. He was  
single — Sapa

## Six miners die in fire

The deaths of six miners in the Buffelsfontein Gold Mine at Stilfontein on Saturday are being investigated.

Mr Sarel du Plessis of Potchefstroom, died in the accident but the names of the other five who died have not been released because their next of kin have not yet been informed.

A mine spokesman said today that the six men died in a fire. Five bodies were found on the 19th level of the Pioneer shaft, while another was found on the 20th level.

At this stage the cause of the fire is not known. Production has been affected slightly.

**Miners killed**  
AN 18-year-old miner,  
Mr Johan le Roux Vorster,  
fell to his death at the  
Doornfontein gold mine  
near Carletonville early  
yesterday, according to an  
announcement by the  
Goldfields Group.  
Mr Vorster was single.  
— Sapa

# Mine-flood survivor <sup>7/2/72</sup> steps out

**TOWER CITY**—Mr. Ronald Adley, the last-known survivor of a savage underground flood, emerged yesterday from deep inside the Pennsylvania coal mine here in which he was trapped for nearly five days.

Mr. Adley (37) stepped from the mine 11 hours after a rescue team first poked an undersized exit through material described as "harder than the edges of hell."

The bodies of three other men have been recovered, and six are still missing.

Overhead drilling operations continued in hopes of finding signs of life among the seven.

Mr. Adley, his face covered with coal dust, walked to a waiting ambulance that whisked him to a nearby hospital.

He had scurried to the safety of a tiny underground cubicle 1.6km inside a 130m mountain on Tuesday.

A torrent of water trapped him and the nine other miners. — (Sapa-AP.)



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**Miner killed**

A BLACK team leader was killed by a fall of hanging at the number two shaft of the Free State Geduld gold mine near Welkom early yesterday, a spokesman for Anglo American said in Johannesburg. The dead man was Mr. Carlos Chongo, 34. — Sapa

912

# Their narrow escape from death ROCK HITS TRIO, BURIES ONE

Staff Reporter

**STILFONTEIN** -- Three men had a miraculous escape from death when hanging broke away from a roof bolt and crashed down through the supporting timbers.

One of the men, Shift-boss A J Oosthuizen who was buried in the rockfall, sustained serious back injuries and is in Cottesloe Hospital Assistant Manager F. Coetzee and Assistant Section Manager J W Meyer who were with Mr Oosthuizen, escaped with bruises and light abrasions.

Mr. Coetzee said the three of them were inspecting the installation of metal arches in a gully which was pre-supported with

mud-packs and timber sets. That was when the hanging came down in the section of the gully where the metal arches had not yet been installed.

The last thing Mr Coetzee remembers clearly was that the three of them were standing close together while inspecting the hanging. Much of what happened afterwards is a blur until he found himself clear of the rockfall area.

He has a hazy recollection of being knocked down by rocks, getting up and being

knocked down again. And he remembers that his hard hat fell off in the confusion, but that he immediately grabbed it and put it on again before continuing to scramble to safety.

After the rockfall had subsided Mr Coetzee and Mr Meyer, who also managed to reach safety, noticed that Mr Oosthuizen had been trapped.

They immediately returned to the scene of the accident in spite of an immediate danger of a further rockfall, and assisted by

Blacks and Whites in the area, dug Mr Oosthuizen out and carried him to safety.

## PRAYER

Mr Oosthuizen's first words were, "The Lord has been good to me I'm still alive."

They were fortunate in having Mr. Meyer, a gold medalist in first aid, on the scene. His expert treatment was largely responsible for saving Mr Oosthuizen's life, Mr Coetzee said.

RDM 6/4/77

### Mine death

A BLACK maneworker died in an accident at the Stilfontein mine on Monday, a spokesman for General Mining announced yesterday. — Sapa

Ry

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2/2

# Work as usual at disaster mine

ARGUS 7/4/77

The Argus Correspondent  
JOHANNESBURG — It was 'back to work as usual' today for miners at the section of the ERPM gold mine where five men were killed in a pressure burst yesterday and eight others injured.

The accident happened at 10 45 am at the lowest level of what used to be the world's deepest mine until a few years ago when Western Deep Levels broke the record.

It was one of the worst disasters at the mine in five years, Mr John Tyseran, mine manager, said today.

He did not expect further rockbursts.

Shift boss Mr Michael Gunko died in the fall with four Black men whose names have not been disclosed yet.

Rescuers worked with shovels and bare hands to remove the injured and dead from tons of rock rubble.

The last body was removed at 6 45 pm.

## RESCUERS

One of the rescuers, mine captain Mr Ben van Zyl, said some of the men were completely covered by rocks and others partly covered, but miners were 'used to this kind of thing.'

One of the two Whites injured, Mr Z C Koeke-moer, 50, was trapped about six hours until rescued.

It was the second time he was trapped in a mine accident.

A spokesman for the Chamber of Mines hospital in Johannesburg said he was 'very ill' but a relative said his family would see him today.

# Rockburst

## kills five

# miners

RDM 7/4/77  
By DAVID NIDDRIE  
and CHRIS FREIMOND

**FIVE miners — a shift boss and four Mozambican labourers — were killed yesterday in a pressure burst three kilometres underground at ERPM goldmine, Boksburg.**

Rescue teams worked for eight hours to free 10 others trapped under tons of rock by the burst at 10.45 yesterday morning.

The 10 injured, which included two White miners, were admitted to hospital last night. Seven of them are serious.

Mr Michael Gunko, the 49-year-old Polish shift boss, was killed instantly with three of his team in the rock-burst on the 76th and lowest level of the mine.

The fifth miner died soon after being pulled from under the rock.

ERPM has not yet released the names of the dead and injured Africans.

Whites injured were Mr Z. C. Koekemoer, 50, of Parkdene, Boksburg, and Mr Tony Ferrell, 39.

Minutes before the accident Mr Ferrell had been talking to Mr Koekemoer.

After the fall miners from other levels began rescue operations — some clawing at the rock with their bare hands in efforts to reach their colleagues.

"They were in very good spirits when we got to them," mine captain Mr Ben van Zyl, 40, one of the rescue team, said last night.

"We had to work by hand to avoid injuring them."

Five hours after the rescue began teams working from both ends of the 10-metre rock filled section met — but had found only four of the 10 trapped men.

All were conscious when

found

The rescue team worked until 7 pm when the last of the bodies was recovered.

In an interview last night with "Mail" reporter Paul Bell Mr Ferrell described from his hospital bed what had happened.

"I was standing talking to Mr Koekemoer about 50 metres along the sloping shaft. Then I walked away to speak to my boys.

"I'd only gone about 20 metres when a terrible blast shook the tunnel and hurled me somersaulting through the air.

"Then the roof started to go. Rock was flying and the whole stretch of tunnel where I'd been standing seconds before collapsed.

"I could hear shouting and groaning through the fallen rock and a crowd of us started trying to pull the stone out to get through to them and then I was taken to hospital," Mr Ferrell said.

In July, 1975, six miners were killed in a pressure burst in the south-western shaft of the 29-year-old mine. Seven others were injured.

Less than a month before that, two men were killed and 33 injured in two rock-bursts at the mine in less than 24 hours.

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BY DON

Cape Times 7/4/77

## 5 die in pressure burst

Own Correspondent

**JOHANNESBURG** — A shift boss and four Mozambican migrant workers were killed in a pressure burst more than three km underground at ERPM gold mine, Boksburg, yesterday.

Rescue teams worked for eight hours to free ten others trapped under tons of rock by the burst at 10.45 yesterday morning.

The ten injured, including a mine captain, were all admitted to hospital last night. Seven were seriously injured.

A Polish immigrant, Mr Michal Gunko, a 49-year-old shift boss, was apparently killed instantly with three of his team when the rock burst on the 76th level.

Another miner died soon after he was pulled from under rock.

Only two of the injured miners were identified last night. They were Mr Z C Koekemoer, 50, of Parkdene, Boksburg, and Mr Tony Ferrel.

Minutes before the rockburst Mr Ferrel, 39, was talking to Mr Koekemoer, but narrowly escaped serious injury by leaving the immediate area of the fall.

Immediately after the fall, miners from throughout the mine converged on the collapsed tunnel and began pulling the fallen rock away by hand to get to the trapped men.

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# Work goes on at death mine

## East Rand Bureau

It was back to work as usual today for miners at the section of the ERPM gold mine where five men were killed and eight others injured in a pressure burst yesterday.

The accident happened at 10 45 am at the 10 000 level of what was, until a few years ago, the world's deepest mine.

Mine manager Mr John Tyser said today, it was one of ERPM's worst disasters in five years. He did not expect further rockbursts.

Shift boss Mr Michael Gunko (48) died with four black men whose names have not yet been released.

His grieving wife said she knew everything possible was done to save the trapped and injured.

### CALL FOR HELP

Mrs Gunko said an alert went out after the pressure burst for all to help in the rescue.

Mr Gunko, a naturalised South African, worked underground for 28 years without being involved in an accident. He was at ERPM for the past 14 years.

The Gunkos have three children and two grand-children.

Rescuers worked with shovels and bare hands to remove the injured and dead from under tons of rock. The last body was removed at 6 45 pm.

One of the two whites injured, the captain Mr G. Koelomoer (30), was trapped for about six hours. It is the second time he has been trapped in a mine accident.

A spokesman for the Chamber of Mines Hospital in Johannesburg said Mr Koelomoer was very ill, but a relative said his family would see him today.

Mr Antonio Ferelli, who was hurt by falling rocks but not trapped, started digging for his shift boss and his workmen in a state of shock after the pressure burst.

A hospital spokesman said Mr Ferelli was "all right". The Star was refused permission to see him.

Six black men were taken to the ERPM hospital.

## Three hurt in mine burst still serious

*Cape Times 8/14/77*

JOHANNESBURG. — Three of the miners injured in a pressure burst at the ERPM gold mine in Boksburg on Wednesday were still in a serious condition at the mine hospital yesterday.

Five miners, including a shift boss, Mr Michael Gunko, 49, were killed in the burst 3 400 m below on Wednesday morning.

A further 25 miners were injured. Yesterday at least 14 including mine captain, Mr Z C Koekemoer, 50, were still in hospital.

The names of the dead and injured, most of whom were migrants from Mozambique, are being withheld until their next of kin had been informed.

Mr Gunko came to South Africa from Poland after World War II and had worked on mines in South Africa for 28 years. He worked at ERPM for 14 years. He was a naturalized South African citizen. Mr Gunko is survived by his wife, Val, and three married children.

Production at the shaft where the burst occurred has returned to normal. Rescue operations were stopped on Wednesday evening.



Plan for 50 pages

## Hurt miners 'still serious'

RD 8/4/77  
THREE of the African miners injured in a pressure burst at the ERPM gold mine in Boksburg on Wednesday were still in a serious condition at the Mine Hospital. Five miners, including a White shift boss, Mr. Michael Gunko, 49, were killed in the burst 3 400 m below the surface. Twenty-five miners were injured and last night at least 14, including mine captain were still in hospital.

### 1. Introduction

What was cause  
what were aim

here, who came,

2-3 p.

### 2. Statistics

Put here papers which are, largely, official stats to answer macro-questions about (white-owned) farms, like employment & wage patterns, sources of labour, migration

8 p.

Relia to prepare.

Nathans

part of Loubcher & Gubent  
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### 3. Area studies

± 28 of 54 papers can be described as 'area studies' (not all in S.A.)

78 p.

Perks

Potgieter

Bronzier

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part of Loubcher & Gubent

Mull

Arshenka

prepare by Monday week.

212

RDM 7/15/73  
2/2  
**Miner killed**  
AN AFRICAN mineworker was killed in an underground rockfall at Buffelfontein Mine near Klerksdorp at the weekend, a General Mining spokesman said yesterday  
— Sapa

(2/11)

# Earthquake at Welkom 'natural'

212

STAR  
20/4/77

Mining companies will probably be absolved of responsibility for the Welkom earthquake, says an engineer in the Free State town.

The engineer, not named for ethical reasons, said he had learned from an "excellent source" that the epicentre of the quake was much deeper than the lowest mine levels in the area. This would indicate that the tremor was a natural phenomenon.

Neither the Department of Mines nor Anglo American have released results of their investigations into the cause of the quake.

The engineer was also told that investigations had revealed that the

tremor was considerably stronger than first thought.

He estimates that repair work amounting to R15m to Welkom buildings is being held up until the cause of the quake is revealed. Another consulting engineer in the town agreed with this figure.

Many smaller claims had been settled but insurance companies were holding back on most big claims until they knew whether the earthquake was a natural phenomenon in which case they would be liable or the result of mining activity, which might mean that mining companies would have to foot repair bills.



MINING NEWS

29/4/77

212

ground. With the help of a



*A toast to a brave man Here the General Manager of the Chamber of Mines, Mr D.N. Stuart (left) and General Manager Mr. R D Wolff (right) congratulate Mr. Sykes In his presentation address, Mr Stuart said that Mr Sykes' greatest reward was that he saved the life of a fellow-worker.*

212

# Begged to stay,

# he did - and died

Staff Reporter

**HARTIES** — "Don't worry, I won't leave you," a Basotho rescue worker told the trapped Mozambican. At this moment the roof fell and the Basotho was killed. Other rescuers found his body on top of the trapped man, who survived the accident and is back at work.

The Chamber of Mines Award for Outstanding Bravery was posthumously awarded to Team Leader Makoa "Samuel" Tsosi "for courage and devotion to duty of a high order" for saving the life of Stope Team Member Armando Chunguane.

## ROCK BURST

The presentation was made this month by the President of the Chamber of Mines, Mr. R. A. Plumbridge, to Mrs. M. Tsosi, widow of the hero.

on Friday, July 2, last year, during one of the worst rockbursts in Harties' history.

## UNHARMED

Having ascertained that all members of his team had escaped unharmed, Mr Tsosi went to a spot where eight workers were trapped in a rockfall.

## WITHDREW

The rescuers managed to free five of them within 15 to 20 minutes, during which time there were continual signs of an impending second rockfall.

Mr Tsosi had succeeded in removing the rock covering one worker from his knees to his head when the Shiftboss, Mr L. de Wet, told the rescuers to withdraw because of the extremely dangerous conditions.

## SECOND FALL

They had no sooner done so when a second fall occurred, further burying the remaining trapped Black workers.

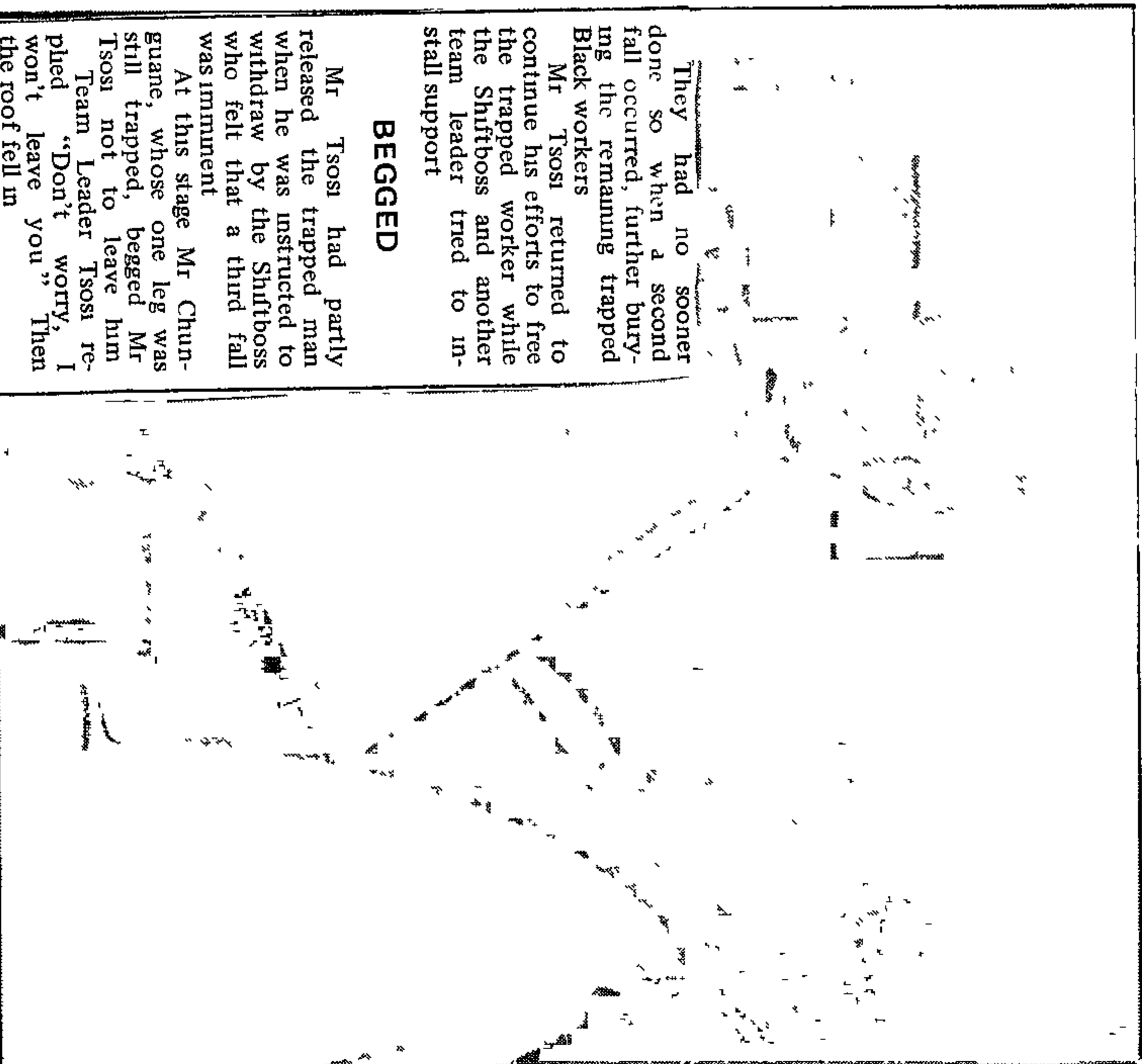
Mr Tsosi returned to continue his efforts to free the trapped worker while the Shiftboss and another team leader tried to install support.

## BEGGED

Mr Tsosi had partly released the trapped man when he was instructed to withdraw by the Shiftboss who felt that a third fall was imminent.

At this stage Mr Chunguane, whose one leg was still trapped, begged Mr Tsosi not to leave him. Team Leader Tsosi replied "Don't worry, I won't leave you." Then the roof fell in.

*"I am grateful for this opportunity, on behalf of the mining industry, to honour a brave man who laid down his life for his comrades in need," Mr Plumbridge said when he presented the citation to Mrs. Mahopolang Tsosi.*



**MINING NEWS**

# HELD HER HEAD HIGH

Staff Reporter

**HARTIES** — Sad but proud, the widow and mother of Mr Samuel Tsosi listened to Mr R. A. Plumbridge, President of the Chamber of Mines, praise a brave man.

The widow, Mrs Mahopolang Tsosi, travelled specially from Mofaleshoek in the Outlying district of Lesotho to attend the April 15 ceremony in honour of her husband.

Mr Plumbridge presented the widow with the Chamber of Mines gold watch for bravery, an Honour Tie, a cheque for R200, a certificate of bravery and a framed citation.

She was accompanied by her two children, Tsoakane, 4, and Mamooga, 20 months, and her mother-in-law, Mrs. Masemethe Tsosi, 68, also of Mofaleshoek.

# Slight increase in fatality rate

Staff Reporter

JOHANNESBURG.

The fatality rate for gold mines, members of the Chamber of Mines, was 1,38 per 1 000 employees in 1976 compared with 1,33 in 1975, the Association of

Mine Managers of South Africa has been told

The outgoing President, Mr A J H Pole, gave these statistics in his address to the Association's annual general meeting

He added that the reportable injury rate for 1976 was 51,89 compared with 51,12 in 1975 per 1 000 per annum

Speaking about safety and accident prevention, he said that following the Association's symposium on "Falls of Ground in Gullies", the Prevention of Accidents Committee had produced a film on the subject called "Dis die Daad Wat Tel"

The film had been screened specially for all Mine Managers and had been put on circuit for showing on all gold mines

As from the middle of last year the basis on which the Safety Target Competition was run had been changed to improvement in the underground reportable casualty rate

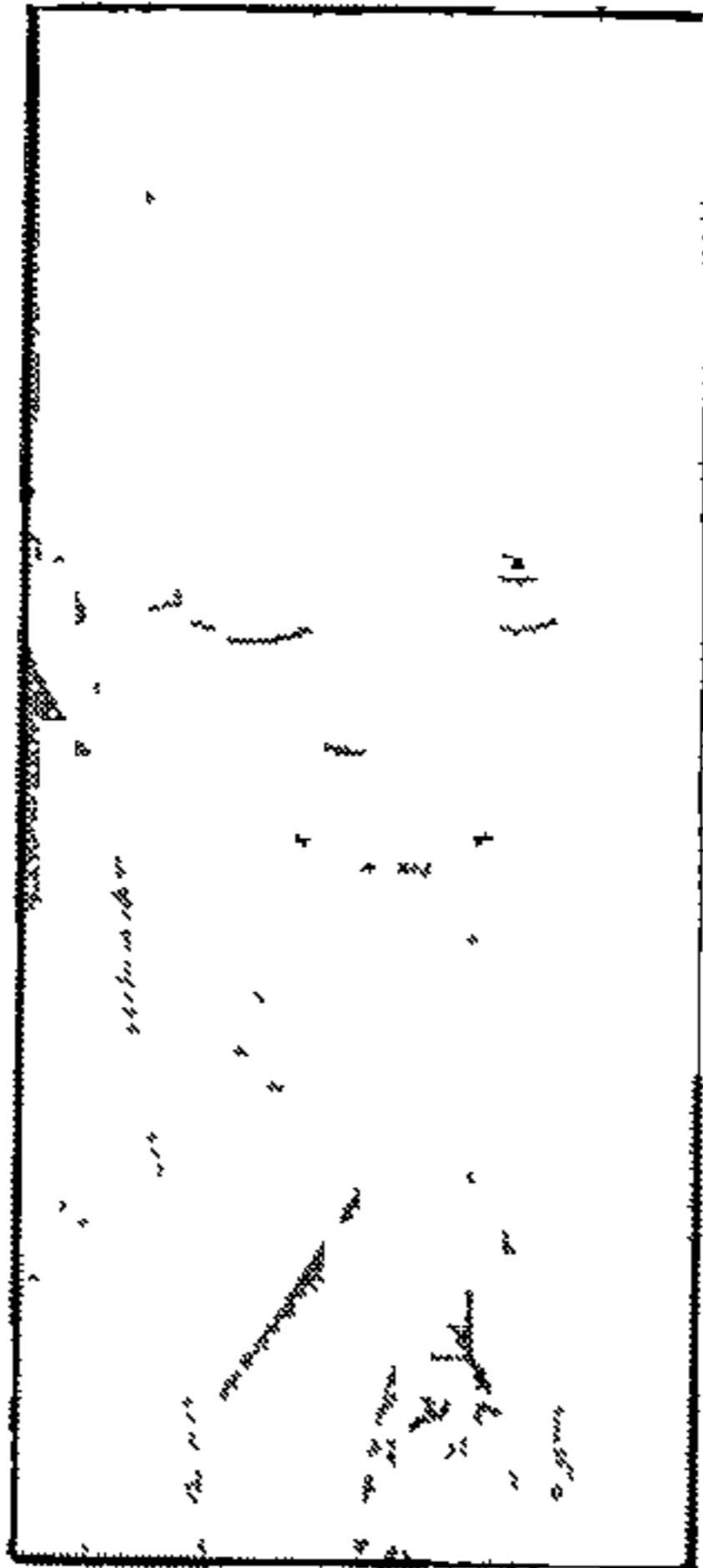
The slide series, "Start Safe - Stay Safe", as a reinforcement to the four-step and five-step safety systems, had been made available to mines

Other points made by Mr Pole were

\*In the Millionaire Competition six mines recorded more than one-million fatality-free shifts during 1976

\*More than 5 150 White and 15 700 Black competitors participated in first aid competitions in 1976

\*An average of 37 923 Whites and 357 084 Blacks were in service last year



President Brand Manager Z J Lombard has succeeded Mr A.J.H. Pole as President of the Association of Mine Managers of South Africa. Mr. Lombard started as a Learner Official at Daggafontein in 1939 and worked there for 25 years, rising to Assistant Manager. This was the position he held at Welkom, President Steyn and Vaal Reefs until three years ago when he was promoted to his present post.

29 June 1977

O. METCALF  
FACULTY OFFICER

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# THE ECONOMIC SOCIETY OF SOUTH AFRICA CAPE TOWN BRANCH

c/o Department of Economics,  
University of Cape Town,  
Rondebosch.

Hon. Secretary's  
Telephone: 69-8531  
Ext. 117.



## SYMPOSIUM AND DINNER IN HONOUR OF PROFESSOR W. H. HUTT.

Professor W.H. Hutt is returning to Cape Town in June, 1977, to receive an honorary doctorate from the University of Cape Town. The Economic Society of South Africa (Cape Town Branch) wishes to further honour one of its most distinguished members.

Accordingly in association with the School of Economics of the University of Cape Town the Society is organising two events which should prove of great interest to the South African public and in particular to the many admirers and former students of Professor Hutt.

The first event is a half day symposium

Economy and the State. The appropriate re-

South African state and the economy is an i-

for South Africa. We have organised a symp-

greatly enhance our understanding of the pra-

hope to assist the practice of economic poli-

The principal speakers are very well qu-

to our understanding. They will bring a wi-

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They are Mr. L.G. Abrahamse, Joint Depu-

and Syfrets - U.A.L. Holdings Ltd.

Mr. Raymond Ackerman, Chairman and Mana-

Pay Stores Limited.

Mr. G.E.G. Browne, Secretary of the Tre-

Professor J.A. Lombard, Professor of Ec-

Pretoria, Economic Adviser to South African

member of government commissions of inquiry.

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Mr T P Riordan, an un-

Two white mineworkers,

Their bodies have been

recovered

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4 miners killed

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Four black mineworkers

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They were overcome by

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212



212

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# Fire kills four in mine shaft <sup>13/4</sup> *Rant*

**By JOHANN STOLTZ**  
FOUR African miners have been killed in an underground fire and a whole shaft's production has been brought to a standstill at the President Brand Gold Mine in Welkom.

Two White miners, Mr T P Riordan, an underground electrician, and Mr J D. Viljoen, a shift boss, were laid low by smoke and are being kept under observation in hospital.

The names of the dead will be released after their next of kin have been informed.

A spokesman for Anglo American said work in the

shaft had been stopped and efforts were being made in other areas of the mine to make up the loss of production.

"At this stage the effect on production is expected to be small," he said.

It was not known when the fire would be brought under control and proto teams were yesterday attempting to gain access to the area.

They were working under dangerous conditions because of a rockfall which occurred in the shaft where the fire broke out.

212

# Four die in mine smoke

13/5/57 SA  
JOHANNESBURG —  
Four Black mineworkers were killed at the President Brand gold mine near Welkom when they were overcome by smoke, a spokesman for Anglo American said here yesterday.

The men — whose names will not be released until next of kin have been informed — were beyond the point where a fire started on the 38th level of No. 1 shaft. They were overcome before a proto-team could reach them.

Their bodies have been recovered.

Two White mineworkers, Mr. T. P. Rordan, an underground electrician, and Mr. J. D. Viljoen, a shift boss, were also affected by the smoke and were taken to hospital in Welkom. Their conditions were reported to be satisfactory.

Production at No. 1 shaft had stopped and proto-teams were attempting to gain access to the area.—(Sapa.)

May 1976

Cape Town

212

SAIDRU WORKING F

**Four miners killed**

Four mineworkers were killed and two injured when wooden supports broke in the Monarch Shaft of the West Rand Consolidated Mines, near Krugersdorp, yesterday.

Their names have been withheld pending notification of their next of kin in the homelands

Dudley H

AFRICAN LABOUR REPR

Southern Africa Labour & Development Research Unit

# Search <sup>Ram</sup> for bodies <sup>8/15/71</sup> of miners continues

By JOHANN STOLTZ

THE bid to reach the bodies of four black miners, who were killed at the West Rand Consolidated gold mine at Krugersdorp on Monday was continuing last night.

A spokesman for General Mining said the accident is being investigated by a mine inspector, whose report will be submitted to the Department of Mines, the Chamber of Mines and to the company.

Workers were still busy last night clearing the area, about 2 800 m underground on level 28 of the Monarch Shaft.

The names of the victims will be released later.

Two injured black workers were said to be in a satisfactory condition in a West Rand mine hospital.

The miners were reconstructing the area and clearing it of rubble, old timber and spillage to provide access to a uranium reef when tons of wooden sets and rock collapsed.

The area is to be strengthened before work continues.

212

# Six miners <sup>D/S</sup> feared dead <sup>RDM</sup> in mudrush

RDM  
21/5/77

SIX black miners were missing and presumed dead after a mudrush in an old shaft of the Randfontein Estate Gold Mine, JCI said yesterday.

Four other men were in hospital and the condition of one of them was serious, he said.

The shaft had recently been reconditioned and reopened, a JCI spokesman said. — Sapa

21

212

NAT. MERCURY 21/5/77

# Six miners missing

JOHANNESBURG — Six Black miners were missing and presumed dead after a mudrush in an old shaft of the Randfontein Estate gold mine, JCI announced here yesterday.

JCI said four men were in hospital with injuries from the mudrush at the bottom of Number 16 shaft ore pass. The condition of one of the men in hospital was described as serious.

The shaft had recently been reconditioned and reopened, a JCI spokesman said. — (Sapa.)

RDM 10/6/77

**Two miners killed**

TWO mine workers were killed yesterday at Western Holdings Gold Mine in the Free State, an Anglo American Corporation spokesman said in Johannesburg.

Mr Thembekile Npshongase, 23, a Pondo, and Mr Masefoane Shole, 28, a Basotho, were killed when they were struck by a control chute which dislodged at the bottom of an ore pass — Sapa

# SA. mining death toll 796 last year

2/2

## Staff Reporter

A TOTAL of 796 people died and 26 183 were injured in South African mines last year, according to a report in The Underground Official, a newspaper for underground staff

The figures are based on a report by the Government Mining Engineer

Most of the deaths and injuries happened at gold mines, where 557 people were killed and 20 728 injured Coal mines were next with 86 killed and 1 781 injured

The accident death rate for all the mines was 1,21 per 1 000 and the injury rate 39,8 per 1 000 The corresponding rates for 1975 were 1,22 and 39,2

Gold mine death and injury rates were 1,39 and 51,6 respectively per 1 000

The previous year's figures were 1,32 and 50,9

Most accidents were caused by falls of ground, including rockbursts These accounted for 262 deaths and 4 929 injuries The second largest number of accidents was in the category "trucks and tramways" which killed 111 people and 4 173 injured

Most accidents in coal mines were caused by trucks and tramways, killing 28 and injuring 909 Falls of ground were responsible for 31 deaths and 260 injuries

Most platinum mine workers were killed by falls of ground Trucks and tramway accidents caused most injuries



212

STAR 17/6/77

**Three <sup>year</sup> miners**

**17/6/77 killed**

Three black miners were killed and three injured in a fall of ground on Wednesday at the Free State Zaaiplaats gold mine near Welkom. The fall followed a minor tremor.

The condition of the injured men is satisfactory. Names of the dead have not been released—Sapa.

RDN 18/6/77

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**Miners killed**

THREE black mineworkers were killed and three injured in a fall of ground on Wednesday at the Free State Zaaiplaats gold mine near Welkom, a spokesman for Anglo American said yesterday. The injured men are in a satisfactory condition. The names of those killed have not been released — Sapa

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Source: Department of Statistics. Report on Agricultural and Pastoral  
Production 1972/73. Agricultural Census No. 46. Report No.  
06-01-10.

Footnotes:

- 1) There are no White domestic farm employees.

RDM 17/6/77

212

**Found dead**

AN unemployed Benoni man was found dead in a gas-filled garage early yesterday morning

A police spokesman said the body of Mr Pieter Willem van Heerden, 43, was found slumped in the seat of his car which was parked in a closed garage at his home in O'Reilly Merry Street. Foul play is not suspected.

**Mine fire has lasted a week**

THE UNDERGROUND fire that broke out a week ago at Harmony Gold mine in the Orange Free State was still burning yesterday though proto teams were managing to contain it, a spokesman for the mine said yesterday.

He said it seemed the fire would take longer than expected to subdue — and the loss of production could be greater

than the 25 000 tons originally expected.

Mr D T Watt, managing director of Harmony, said that though the areas affected by the fire were limited it had been necessary to suspend mining in adjoining areas because of the smoke.

As a result output had been reduced by about 2 500 tons a day — roughly 10% of production — Sapa

# Rumbling over quake pay-out?

STAR 22/6/77

212

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pe Town.  
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y. But

Insurance claims amounting to millions of rand may become a matter of considerable controversy when the Government eventually decides to release its report on the earthquake which rocked Welkom last year.

A preliminary report was completed some months ago and is still with the Minister of Mines, Mr S P Botha, who has given no indication of when it will be released.

"It's a bit of a hot potato," Dr W L van Wyk, the director of the Government Geological Survey, said today "It's not a clearcut matter at all. It's not easy to tell whether the earthquake came from natural causes or mining activity."

"It's a difficult scientific decision to take, and we are still working on it. We have written a preliminary report which is in the hands of the Minister, and it's up to him to release it."

Dr Van Wyk said insurance companies had been pressing for release of the report, but could not say when the cause of the quake would become public knowledge.

Insurance companies have said they will not accept liability for the millions of rands damage caused if the quake came as a result of mining activity on the Free State goldfields.

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Type A at R1 per unit

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take exactly one year.

ector asks you to consider which of the two alternatives is most profitable.

Draw up a table showing the opportunity costs involved in each.

What advice would you give?

(50%)

# Asbestos factory lung cancer

DD 29/6/77

212

LONDON — Britain's asbestos workers are pushing for factory safety limits ten times more rigorous than at present because they say they are being killed off by lung cancer caused from breathing asbestos dust.

But representatives of the industry say the factories are totally safe and further safety measures will put them out of business — DDC

212  
~~213~~

Act No 83, 1977

MINES AND WORKS AMENDMENT ACT 1977

# ACT

**To amend the Mines and Works Act, 1956, so as to bring the constitution of the mine safety committee in relation to certain members into accordance with changed circumstances; to empower the Minister to allow the performance of certain work at mines or works on Sundays and certain public holidays; to extend the power of the State President to make regulations; and to provide for incidental matters.**

*(English text signed by the State President )  
(Assented to 17 June 1977 )*

**BE IT ENACTED** by the State President, the Senate and the House of Assembly of the Republic of South Africa, as follows —

Amendment of section 2*bis* of Act 27 of 1956, as inserted by section 3 of Act 46 of 1964

**1.** Section 2*bis* of the Mines and Works Act, 1956 (hereinafter referred to as the principal Act), is hereby amended by the substitution for paragraph (e) of subsection (3) of the following paragraph

“(e) three persons nominated by an organization or organizations which, in the opinion of the Minister, is or are representative of employees employed at mines and who are not officials referred to in paragraph (f), and”

Amendment of section 9 of Act 27 of 1956 as amended by section 2 of Act 51 of 1959, section 2 of Act 91 of 1965 and section 18 of Act 80 of 1971

**2.** Section 9 of the principal Act is hereby amended—

(a) by the deletion of the word “or” at the end of paragraph (d) of subsection (1), and

(b) by the addition to the said subsection (1) of the following paragraph

“(f) work in respect of which the Minister, in any particular case, on application in writing or, in general, by notice in the *Gazette*, declared that in his opinion the performance thereof is necessary in the national interest”

Amendment of section 12 of Act 27 of 1956, as amended by section 11 of Act 46 of 1964 section 3 of Act 91 of 1965 section 6 of Act 42 of 1968, section 5 of Act 40 of 1971 and section 12 of Act 62 of 1973

**3.** Section 12 of the principal Act is hereby amended—

(a) by the substitution for paragraph (h) of subsection (1) of the following paragraph

“(h) the performance, cessation or abandonment of activities in or at mines or works, and matters incidental thereto, including the removal from the land on which such activities are to be performed or have been performed, of buildings, walls, installations, foundations, litter, garbage, or rubble resulting from the demolition of buildings, installations or other structures on such land”, and

(b) by the insertion in the said subsection (1) after paragraph (h) of the following paragraph

“(hA) the conservation of the environment at or near any mine or works, including the restoration of land on which activities in connection with mines or works are performed or have been performed.”

Short title

**4.** This Act shall be called the Mines and Works Amendment Act, 1977

MINING

ACCIDENTS

JULY 1977 - DEC. 1977

# Werkers verdrink in myn in die Vrystaat

Van Ons Korrespondent  
BLOEMFONTEIN:

DRIE mynwerkers — 'n blanke en twee swartmans — het eergister in die Stilfontein-goudmyn op Stilfontein verdrink deurdat die hyser waarmee hulle in 'n skag gery het, in 'n oorstromde deel van die myn beland het.

Die blanke, mnr. George Hendrik Ferreira (30), van Gamtoosstraat 11, Stilfontein, was 'n skagtimmerman. Hy is onlangs van sy vrou geskei en laat twee dogters van vier en vyf jaar agter. Die twee swartmans se name kan nog nie bekend gemaak word nie.

'n Woordvoerder van General Mining, eienaars van die myn, het gesê die drie is gisteroggend omstreeks 6.35 vm. in die hyser in die skag af.

## BEWUS

Niemand was daarvan bewus dat die onderste deel van die myn deur 'n abnormale invloed van ondergrondse water oorstrom is en dat die hysbakstasie ook onder water is nie. Toe die hysbak die stasie bereik, is dit oorstrom. Voordat die operateur die hyser weer kon ophys, het die drie werkers verdrink.

Gewoonlik word mense met die hysbak vervoer en kon dit op 'n groter treurpel afgestuur het as die hysbak gisteroggend volgelaai is.

Die water wat die skag oorstrom het, word tans uitgepomp.



2 miners killed <sup>D.D.</sup> 22/7/79  
JOHANNESBURG — An  
underground fire at the  
Buffelsfontein mine caus-  
ed the death of two  
miners — DDC.

(212)

EDM 22/7/77

## Mine fire

kills two,  
traps 80

### Staff Reporter

TWO BLACK miners were killed early yesterday by an underground fire which for eight hours trapped 80 others at the Buffelsfontein Gold Mine near Klerksdorp.

The trapped men — now under observation at the Duff-Scott Memorial Hospital — were taken out at 5.30 yesterday morning by six rescue teams, according to a mine spokesman.

The spokesman said the fire was started at 9.30 on Wednesday night by an underground diesel locomotive which caught alight.

"This set fire to timbers, plastic and electric cables," he said.

The names of the dead — who came from Ventersdorp and Transkei — have not been released. They are thought to have suffocated.

Nimere 22/7/77

## Death came deep...

JOHANNESBURG — Two Black mineworkers were killed by fumes and 80 were admitted to hospital after a fire accident at the Buffelsfontein gold mine at Stilfontein on Wednesday night, General Mining said in a statement released here yesterday.

Of those admitted to hospital 45 have since been discharged.

The accident occurred on the 30th level, about 2 570 metres underground, when a diesel locomotive caught fire, setting alight 230 metres of cable insulation and refrigeration piping. — (Sapa)

S.D. 22/7/77

## Workers hurt in mine blast

212

WINDHOEK — Four Owambo road-workers were seriously injured yesterday when their truck hit a landmine at Onghalulu in the Kwanyama tribal area of Owambo.

Hospital authorities said their condition was serious. One man's leg was reported to have been torn off in the blast. They were working near the Angolan border when their truck hit the landmine. —SAPA

# TRAIN KILLS

N. Mercury **3, HURTS 5**

26/7/77 Mercury Correspondent

**JOHANNESBURG** — Three Black railway trackworkers died under the wheels of a passenger train near Springs yesterday seconds after jumping out of the way of an approaching locomotive.

The freak accident occurred on the Springs-Johannesburg main line shortly before 9 a.m.

According to Mr. Johan Uys, of the Railways public relations office, a gang of trackworkers were on the line when they saw a locomotive

approaching in the Springs direction

"They jumped out of the way but did not see the passenger train coming from the opposite direction. Three men were killed instantly and five injured, one of them seriously," Mr. Uys said.



212

# STAATSKOERANT

VAN DIE REPUBLIEK VAN SUID-AFRIKA

REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

# GOVERNMENT GAZETTE

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Vol 145]

KAAPSTAD, 29 JULIE 1977  
CAPE TOWN, 29 JULY 1977

[No 5669

DEPARTEMENT VAN DIE EERSTE MINISTER

DEPARTMENT OF THE PRIME MINISTER

No 1359

29 Julie 1977

No. 1359.

29 July 1977.

Hierby word bekend gemaak dat die Staatspresident sy goedkeuring geheg het aan die onderstaande Wet wat hierby ter algemene inligting gepubliseer word —

It is hereby notified that the State President has assented to the following Act which is hereby published for general information —

No 117 van 1977 Wysigingswet op Bedryfsiektes in Myne en Bedrywe, 1977

No 117 of 1977: Occupational Diseases in Mines and Works Amendment Act, 1977

Act No 117, 1977

OCCUPATIONAL DISEASES IN MINES AND WORKS  
AMENDMENT ACT, 1977**ACT**

**To provide for the further increase of certain benefits, special awards and assistance payable in terms of the Occupational Diseases in Mines and Works Act, 1973.**

*(Afrikaans text signed by the State President )  
(Assented to 11 July 1977 )*

**BE IT ENACTED** by the State President, the Senate and the House of Assembly of the Republic of South Africa, as follows —

Increase of  
certain benefits  
and special  
awards

1. (1) Subject to the provisions of subsection (2), a benefit as defined in section 1, and a special award referred to in section 101 or 115 of the Occupational Diseases in Mines and Works Act, 1973 (Act No 78 of 1973) (hereinafter referred to as the principal Act), which are payable in terms of the principal Act, but have not yet been paid, and which were increased by the Occupational Diseases in Mines and Works Amendment Act, 1975 (Act No 45 of 1975), shall be further increased—

- (a) in the case of any such benefit payable in the form of a monthly pension, whether it became or becomes payable before or after the commencement of this section, by fifteen per cent,
- (b) in the case of a special award payable immediately prior to the commencement of this section in terms of section 101 of the principal Act, by an amount which the commissioner may in his discretion determine, but not exceeding fifteen per cent, and
- (c) in the case of a special award payable immediately prior to the commencement of this section in terms of section 115 of the principal Act, by an amount which the Bantu affairs authority may in its discretion determine, but not exceeding fifteen per cent

Provided that any pension or any such special award so increased shall be calculated to the next complete rand

(2) The provisions of this section shall not apply with reference to any one-sum benefit, as defined in section 1 of the principal Act, to which a person became entitled before the commencement of this section or to which a person will become entitled after the commencement of this section

Amendment of  
section 102 of  
Act 78 of 1973

2. Section 102 of the principal Act is hereby amended—

- (a) by the substitution for subsection (2) of the following subsection

“(2) Assistance under subsection (1) may be rendered by way of a single award or periodical awards, as the commissioner deems desirable, and in the case of secondary school education or education at any college, university or other post-school educational institution, by way of bursaries which shall be awarded on such conditions and in accordance with such scale as the

Act No 117, 1977

OCCUPATIONAL DISEASES IN MINES AND WORKS  
AMENDMENT ACT, 1977

commissioner may with the concurrence of the advisory committee determine", and

(b) by the substitution for subsection (3) of the following subsection

"(3) The amounts paid out under this section shall not exceed in the aggregate in any one financial year such amount as the Minister may from time to time determine with the concurrence of the Minister of Finance"

Substitution of section 115 of Act 78 of 1973

3 The following section is hereby substituted for section 115 of the principal Act

\*Special award to Bantu person

115. If a Bantu person to whom a benefit awarded under the previous Act or this Act has been paid in full, is in necessitous circumstances and unable, by reason of old age or continuous poor health, to earn sufficient means of subsistence, the Bantu affairs authority may in its discretion, out of moneys in the Bantu Compensation Fund not required for the payment of benefits under this Act, make special awards to such person"

Short title and commencement

4. This Act shall be called the Occupational Diseases in Mines and Works Amendment Act, 1977, and the provisions thereof shall come into operation on 1 October 1977, excluding the provisions of section 2, which shall be deemed to have come into operation on 1 April 1977



# Pressure burst kills miners

EDM 3/8/77

212

Staff Reporter

SIX black mineworkers were killed in an underground pressure burst at the Blyvooruitzicht gold mine near Carletonville yesterday. A white miner, Mr W J Bester, and 24 black workers are missing.

A shift boss was trapped in the burst, but rescue workers have established that he is alive and they are trying to reach him.

The names of those killed have not been released.

Last night rescue teams were digging through tons of rock in an attempt to rescue three black miners after an earth tremor caused an underground collapse at the Hartebeesfontein gold mine near Stilfontein.

Two miners were killed and several injured in the accident, which happened early yesterday.

~~drove while~~

17 May 2/1/77

# Man had sinking feeling on road

(212)

Mercury Correspondent

JOHANNESBURG

Mr Jerry Gumede of Germiston thought he'd had a drop too much when the ground started shuddering on his way home on Monday night

But his worst fears were realised when the ground opened beneath him and he found himself at the bottom of a 7,6m sinkhole

It was only an hour later that mineworkers at the old Rose Deep mine compound, Germiston, were wakened by his screams and went to investigate

It took six men with a rope to haul the frightened but uninjured Mr Gumede out of the 3,5m wide hole

Once back on safe ground he didn't wait for an explanation. He ran off and has not been seen since

## Dirt road

The sinkhole made its sudden appearance on the dirt road near the disused Rose Deep mine shaft

The road is used daily by mine workers from the compound and by East Rand fidelity guards who drive trucks along it to collect their dogs from the kennels nearby

Yesterday workers from the Summer and Jack mine, of which Rose Deep is a subsidiary, cordoned off the area and filled in the sink hole

Mine manager Mr D Ferreira said there was little likelihood of more sinkholes in the area

Wooden supports have collapsed and can't go any further

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D. D. 8/5/73

## Mine rescue men back

JOHANNESBURG — South African rescue teams have returned after repairing the ventilation system in the Moatize coal mine in Mozambique where 70 miners died after an explosion.

The four teams, from the Witbank collieries, recovered no bodies. Their object was to make the mine fit for entry by other miners so they could look for the dead, said team leader Mr Colin Duncan.

He said deadly methane gas levels were still high when his men entered the mine on Thursday.

He estimated about 70 miners were killed in the explosion. After the explosion the South African Chamber of Mines offered to send its proto teams to help in rescue operations. The teams took a chartered flight to Tete near Moatize on Thursday morning.

When they arrived there were no officials at the mine. They were allegedly killed by rioting mine workers who blamed them for the explosion, said Mr Duncan.

He believed the officials were mainly Belgian, but said team members did not ask questions about the riots.

A Sunday newspaper report that three Russians and six Bulgarians were among those murdered, and that the explosion was caused by sabotage, could not be confirmed yesterday.

Mr Duncan said the first impression he had on reaching Moatize was the smell of rotting bodies. "We found a room stuffed full of them, and bodies lying in long office drawers. They'd run out of boxes

"Because there were no officials and only labourers we had to find our own way around.

"We had an armed Frelimo guard constantly by our side in case of attack, but it wasn't really necessary."

The teams rebuilt the mine's main fan drive and refitted the mine's ventilation system to drive out the gas.

Top Frelimo officials met twice with the teams to discuss how to improve conditions on the mine, which were far below South African standards.

Mr Duncan said Frelimo expressed deep gratitude for the teams' help.

The teams were met at Jan Smuts Airport by the President of the Chamber of Mines, Mr Lynn van den Bosch, and other top chamber officials. — DDC



CAPE TIMES 12/8/77 (212)  
Miner dies in pressure burst

CARLETONVILLE - A miner was killed and 20 others injured in a pressure burst 2 000 metres underground at the Doornfontein gold mine near here, a spokesman for Goldfields said last night. The names of the victims have not been released - Sapa

the historical development of centralised control  
in the **Miner dies in rockburst** to industry

JOHANNESBURG. — A miner was killed and 20 injured in a rockburst 2200 m underground in the Doornfontein Gold Mine near Carletonville yesterday.

ARGUS 12/8/77 (212)

"I suddenly heard a thundering noise and the world went black," he said. "I was covered in rocks and can remember fighting furiously to breathe. Then I was in the open and could gulp in some air."

"I don't know how long I was trapped under the rocks, but all I could think of was my wife and kids. I felt there were so many unfinished jobs to do and kept saying, "This only happens to other people, it can't be me", he said.

"When the rescuers came to take off the other rock, I didn't realise it was nearly over I was just so terrified I couldn't think straight."

"When they got me out all I could say was "Where is John, you must get John out... he may be hurt", said Mr Ormerod.

Mr Schmedlin was treated in hospital and discharged.—TAC-Sapa.

It is essential your answer tutorial

Make sure answer be correct

You have the first

as

I. EITHER (a) Discuss the value of three attempts to explain the origin of the chus industry.

Chapter Three succinctly describe and contrast structural and generative grammar of the chus industry.

the controlled marketing of chus fruit on both the foreign and domestic markets is (25 marks)

2. Answer all the following questions (25 marks):  
tentative conclusion reached in this chapter

(a) Explain the assimilation (underlined) in the Standard English pronunciation of the word 'raspberry'.

of the largest enterprises. Turning to the production (5 marks)

(b) Write down and divide into its morphemes the word sculptresses.

reached following an examination of the relative (4 marks)

(c) Provide a constituent diagram for the sentence: We drove slowly down steep streets.

regard to production the largest enterprises may be seen to (10 marks)

(d) In terms of first immediate-constituent division, explain the two meanings of pretty new dresses.

Chapter Four: Conclusions and Discussion. (6 marks)

The apparent contradiction of biases in favour of both the small efficient and inefficient enterprises is resolved with (Total: 50 marks)

reference to the functioning of a cartel by the most efficient enterprises and the necessity for this cartel authority to obtain statutory sanction.

This argument is made explicit with reference to the arrangements regarding our neighbouring states. The paper concludes with a discussion of the costs of control, the possible alternatives and the implications of these conclusions for a better understanding of the agricultural sector in general.

# Engineer tells of ordeal in death mine

By MIKE ENGELBRECHT and JAYNE LA MONT

A RANDBURG engineer spoke from his hospital bed last night of the ordeal of being trapped 2 000 m underground at Doornfontein Gold Mine near Carletonville after a pressure burst that killed one man and injured 20 others.

The name of the dead man has not been released.

Confused and shaken, Mr Stuart Ormerod, a father of two, of Randburg, told how he and a colleague lay trapped in a rubber-filled stope on the 27th level, number one shaft while rescue teams battled to free them.

Trapped with Mr Ormerod was Mr John Schmedlin of Homestead Avenue, Benoni. Mr Schmedlin was treated at the Leslie Williams Memorial Hospital, Carletonville and discharged.

Mr Ormerod was taken to the Workers' Rehabilitation Hospital and admitted with multiple cuts and bruises.

At about 11.30 am he, Mr Schmedlin and a black worker were taking a break when they heard a rumble.

"I suddenly heard a thundering noise and the world went black," he said.

"I was covered in rocks and thought furiously to

free my head to breath. Then I was in the open and could gulp some air. I don't know how long I was trapped, but all I could think of was my wife and kids I kept saying "This only happens to other people, it can't be me," he said.

"When the rescuers came, I didn't realise it was nearly over. I was so terrified I couldn't think straight," said Mr Ormerod.

"When they got me out all I could say was "Where is John, you must get John out . . . he may be hurt," he said.

Mr Ormerod said he was later told Mr Schmedlin was safe but that the black worker with them had been killed.

A mine spokesman last night said nine black miners, all from Mozambique were admitted to the Leslie Williams Memorial Hospital.

They are Mr Donald Zodeke, Mr Alberto Joachim, Mr Andrea Mafele, Mr Bernardo Mahamba, Mr Devi Ndlovu, Mr Armando Sondo, Mr Philemon Judah, Mr Raymond Tsuma and Mr Sonnie Muthami.

The name of the dead man was not released.

212 RDM 16/8/77

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Three miners killed

THREE black miners were killed by a fall of rock at the West Rand Consolidated mine on Saturday, a spokesman for the mine reported in Johannesburg yesterday. Their names are being withheld until their next-of-kin have been informed — Sapa

---

# Uys Protomen, South Africa

was full  
first  
ld the  
d been  
plosion  
one de-  
side a  
stand-  
d they  
a near-  
found  
bodies  
ly been  
t there  
ne with

the high methane content  
I just don't know," said  
Mr Duncan

Ventilation restored,  
they walked down the in-  
cline shaft and found decay-  
ing bodies

There was nothing more  
we could do," said Mr  
Duncan. Ventilation was  
restored so that they could  
remove the bodies

After finishing at mid-  
night on Friday the team

was heartily thanked by  
the Governor of Tete  
Province, Mr Antonio  
Hama-Thay. On hearing that  
three members of the party  
Ainot Fitter and Turner  
Phil Stapelton, Ainot Assis-  
tant Surveyor Dennis  
Miller and Blinkpan Miner  
Robbie Venter had been  
to the mine at the time of  
the previous disaster, he  
personally thanked them

Other members of the  
group were Bill Able (Cap-

tain), Janne Uys and Larry  
Thorpe, all from Arnot  
From Springbok came  
Cliff Simmonds (Captain),  
Neil Jones, Dean Wilson,  
Eric Ford and Marthinus  
Pretorius

The contingent from  
Tweefontein consisted of  
Reg Berrington (Captain),  
Hendrik Bester, Attie  
van Wyk, Trix Mare and  
Floris Coetzee

The remaining members,  
John Visser, Noiman  
Thomson, Pat Lightfoot and  
Wilhe van Straaten all work  
on Blinkpan

Nose, throat

everything in order Springbok Mine Overseer Cliff Simmonds goes  
through his medical and is declared fit



"Daddy is going to help this time?" Renette van Wyk, nearly four years  
of age, watches her mother packing

## I pray for the rescuers, the trapped

Staff reporter  
TWEEFONTEIN — "He  
is needed elsewhere  
needed to possibly rescue  
someone's husband or  
father. Today it's them,  
tomorrow it might be him  
who has to be helped"

It was a Protoman's  
wife talking, telling of her  
feelings when hubby is  
called up

Mining News interviewed  
Mrs Gerda van Wyk, a  
mother of two, the day be-  
fore her husband, Surveyor  
Attie van Wyk, went off to  
Moatize Colliery with 20  
other Protomen

Being married to a man  
who has been a team mem-  
ber for the past three years  
she knew exactly what to  
do, and do it quickly,  
when the call came. He

might have to leave in such  
a hurry that he would just  
have time to dash in and  
grab his kit-bag

Looking up from her  
packing, Mrs Van Wyk  
said: "As a wife, I am  
naturally worried every min-  
ute that he is away from  
home, but I resign myself  
to the fact that he is needed  
elsewhere

I never know when he  
is going to be called away.  
It has happened that he has  
had to leave in such a hurry  
that he didn't have time to  
say goodbye

"This draws one closer to  
God as there is nothing to  
do but to leave it in the  
hands of the Creator and  
pray for the rescue workers  
and trapped miners," said  
Mrs Van Wyk

## Always at the ready, and then off

Staff Reporter

WITBANK — Mayday!  
The distress call went out  
to four collieries — Arnot,  
Springbok, Blinkpan and  
Tweefontein — and Proto-  
men dropped whatever they  
were doing

The cry came from  
Moatize Colliery in Tete,  
Mozambique — the mine  
that was ripped apart by  
another explosion 11  
months earlier. The Cham-  
ber of Mines had again of-  
fered the assistance of  
South Africa's crack Proto-

men and the Moatize Mining  
Company had once again  
accepted

But there was a lot to  
do before their departure  
at crack of dawn the fol-  
lowing morning. First and  
foremost was a visit to the  
doctor. Protomen must

be fit and capable of any  
task

They were failed if they  
had had any illness during  
the past week, consumed  
alcohol in the last six hours  
were suffering from sun-  
burn, heat rash or any  
other skin ailment or had  
been off work for a week  
or more since their last  
leave. They were further  
examined on temperature,  
pulse, mass, nose, throat  
and chest before being de-  
clared medically fit

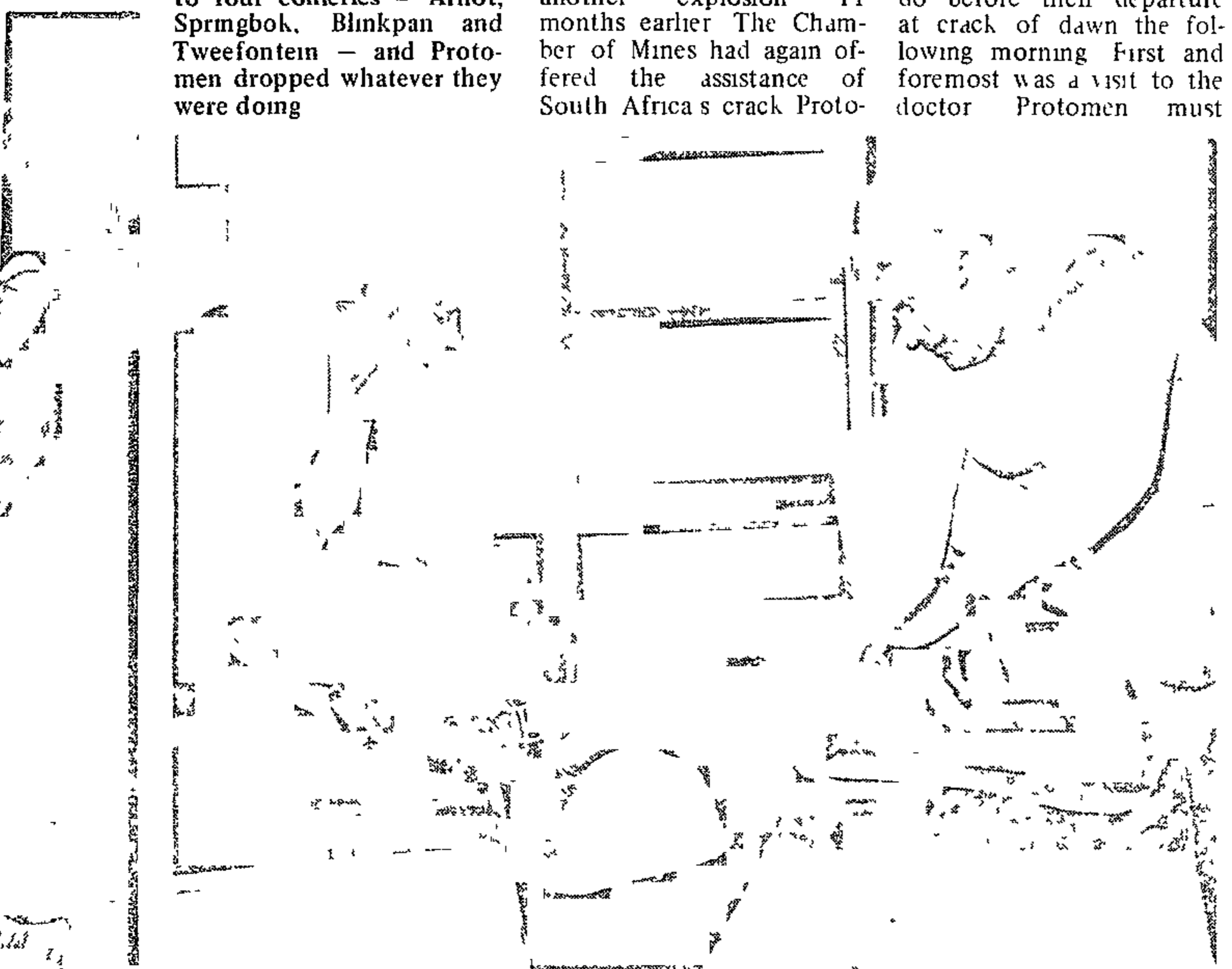
All that then remained  
was for them to get to  
their respective stations and  
collect their gear which is  
always kept in a state of  
readiness

The 21-man Proto team  
led by Colin Duncan, Senior  
Station Officer, Witbank  
Rescue Training Station, re-  
mained at the mine for  
three days. The total  
ventilation to enable them  
to enter in safety

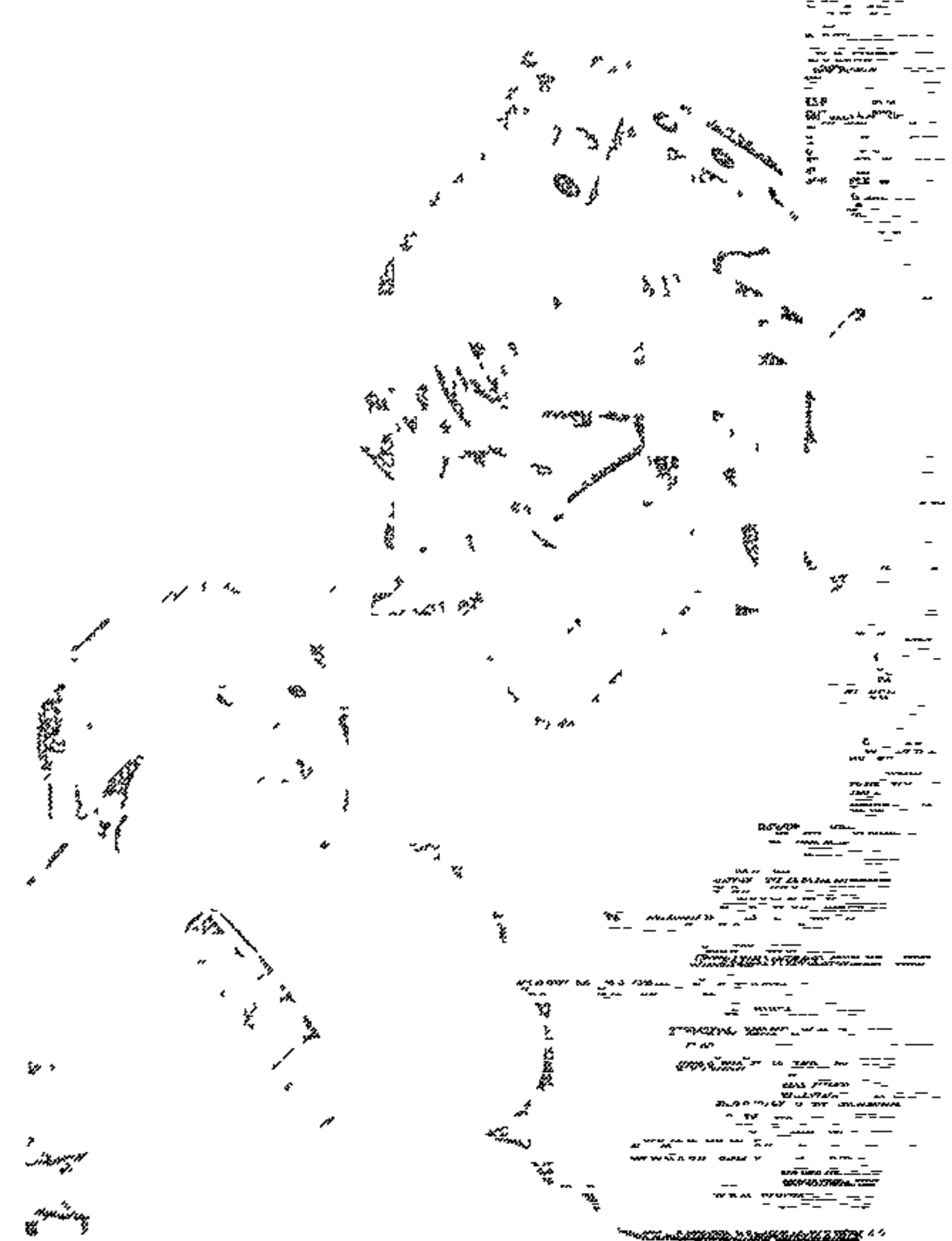
There were no known  
survivors but the possi-  
bility of even one being  
alive at the bottom of the  
mine is not ruled out

AS Mr. McCann, Chief  
Technical and Labour Ad-  
viser of the Chamber, said in  
a television interview:  
"Mining men all over the  
world help other mining  
men"

checks that



Everything ready, now we're all set Tweefontein Electricians Trix Mare (left) and  
Hendrik Bester

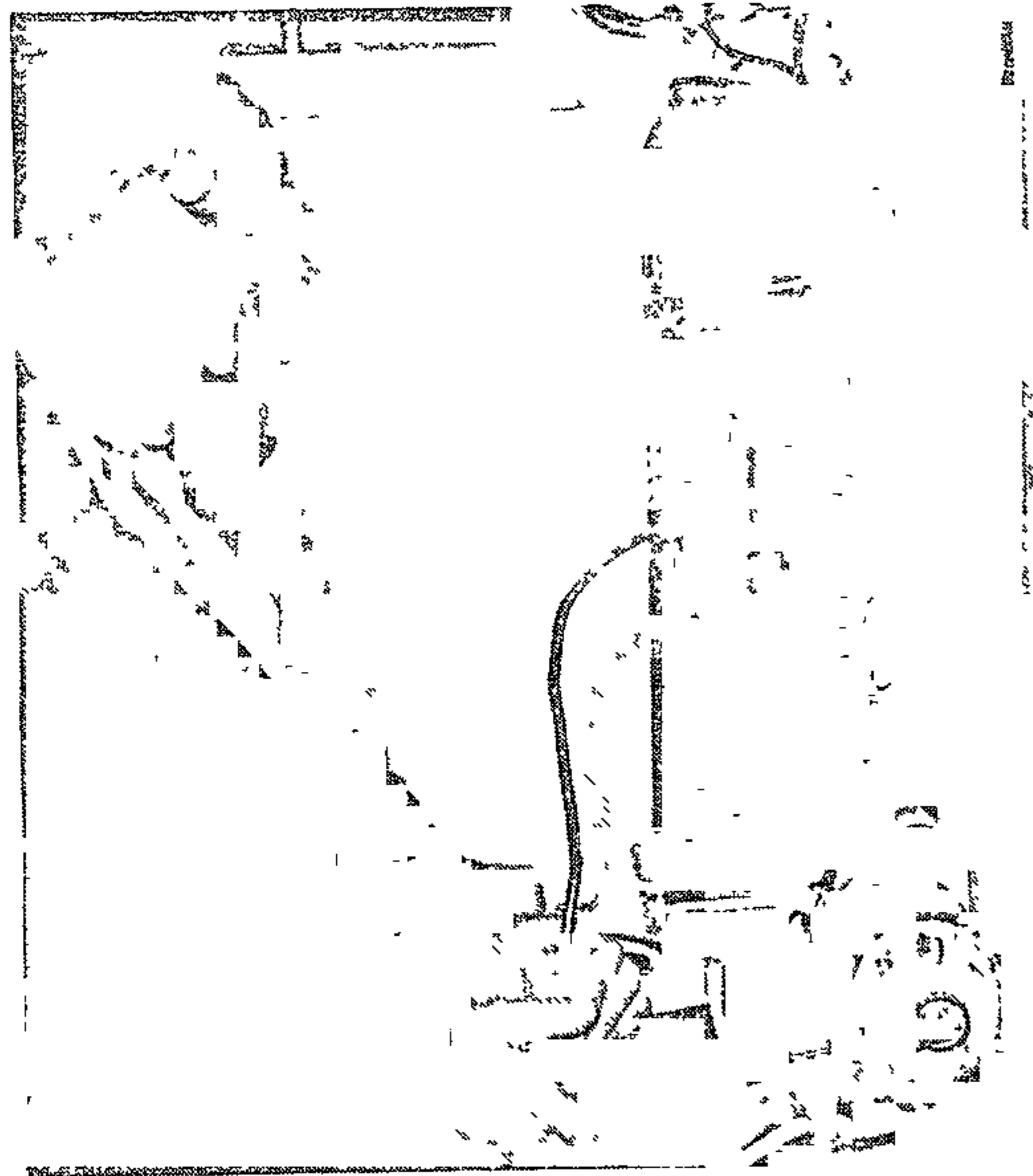


Gurgling with delight 11-month-old Corne plays with  
her father, Attie van Wyk, shortly before he left on another  
Proto mission



They're not polished, but that doesn't matter Witbank  
Shiftboss Floris Coetzee fetches his boots, cap, and  
white to assist Protomen to see one another in den-  
smoke





Firefighting and other emergency equipment is taken along just in case. Here Reg Berrington, a Tweefontein Shiftboss, makes sure the oxygen cylinder is full

# The mining industry the pride of South Africa

Staff Reporter

**JOHANNESBURG** — "The mining industry and South Africa can be very proud of these men," the President of the Chamber of Mines, Mr Lynne van den Bosch, told Mining News when he met the weary Witbank Proto teams at Jan Smuts Airport on their return from the Moatize Mine disaster in Mozambique

The President and the Chamber's Chief Technical and Labour Adviser, Mr

A B Daneel, waited several hours to meet the men at the airport on Sunday night, August 7. Soon after the Protomen landed, the President thanked them for their efforts to assist at Moatize, and asked for first-hand information from the team's leader, Mr Colin Duncan, Senior Station Officer of the Chamber's Rescue Training Station at Witbank.

Mr Van den Bosch told Mining News "In spite of the fact that we at the Chamber asked for and received an assurance of protection for our men from

the Mozambique authorities, they went knowing that all the Whites at the mine had been murdered and that there was no one in charge, that the mine was most certainly full of a lethal quantity of methane gas, and that there was no ventilation and that their job of searching for and rescuing possible survivors would be arduous and dangerous.

"They and their families who waited anxiously for their safe return deserve our admiration and sincere thanks."

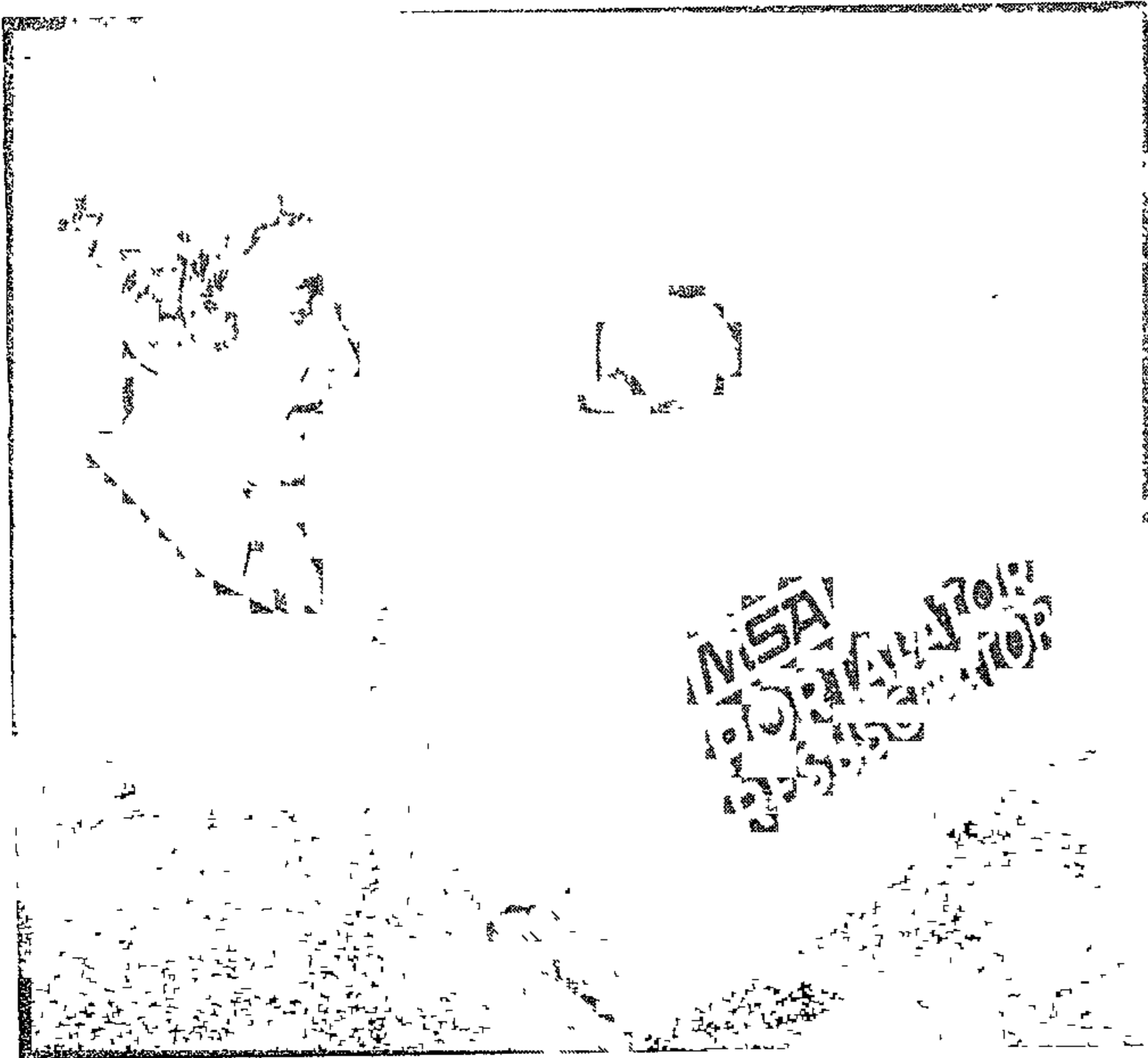
Mr Duncan said "On entering the mine I could see definite signs of a blast. I reckon it was a methane explosion."

At the time of the explosion the mine was full of methane and their first task was to rebuild the fan drift which had been destroyed in the explosion.

That night someone decided to look inside a couple of huge boxes standing nearby and found they contained bodies. In a nearby store they also found between 10 and 20 bodies which had apparently been brought out and left there.

"How this was done with

## Voluntate servio.....



Dean Wilson of Springbok helps carry the equipment to the departure counter

\* They went knowing that all the Whites at the mine had been murdered

' There were bodies in some huge boxes and in a nearby store

"I resign myself to the fact that my husband is needed"

"They and their families deserve our admiration and thanks"

"Mining men all over the world help other mining men"

### INQUIRY

This was the opinion he expressed at an official inquiry held at Maputo airport. It was an unscheduled return that he delayed several hours. He said he also told the Mozambican Director of Mining and Geology that the country could be reclaimed.

When they arrived at Chipanga a typical and apparently peaceful Sunday on a main street there. Well-dressed Blacks were usually strolling about and there was no immediate sign of tragedy. There was no official to assist the Proto teams and they had to hunt for mine plans which were incomplete and not much help.

With no mechanical ven-

"I wonder who my daddy is of"

Below At Jan Smuts airport Mine Overseer Cliff Simmonds (now sans moustache) checks that his faithful canary has enough food shortly before the team left for Mozambique



RDM 29/8/77

# Three miners die in President Steyn fire

WELKOM. — Three black mineworkers were killed in a fire in the President Steyn gold-mine near Welkom on Friday night, a spokesman for the mine said at the weekend.

Their names were being withheld pending notification of their families.

Thirty-two other mineworkers were taken to hospital for observation for suspected gassing.

The fire occurred in a stoping area adjoining the

shaft on the 71 level, shortly after the night shift comprising 250 men had gone underground.

Smoke from the outbreak cut off a number of the workers on this level, and proto teams were quickly summoned to rescue the men in danger, the spokesman said.

Other mineworkers were also evacuated from the mine. Proto teams were still working to contain the fire, the spokesman said. — Sapa.

(E)

on presenting themselves at the Association's 'Northern Rhodesia'. In addition, the W.N.L.A. Active Labour Limited (originally entered into miners' Union in 1943), whereby W.N.L.A. would those workers recruited for the mines but remained undisturbed <sup>12/</sup> This agreement 65 when the A.N.L.L. folded up and ceased

mpetition' between the two bureaux worked

the higher wages stipulated on the latter's contracts being the all important determinant of the distribution of labour supplies between them. Only Nyasaland government limitations on permissible W.N.L.A. recruitment levels enabled the R.N.L.S.C. to secure a growing level of supplies as its permit maximum was periodically re-negotiated upwards. In northern Bechuanaland a similar pattern of W.N.L.A. superiority prevailed, the supply of R.N.L.S.C. recruits from this country being very small. South of latitude 22° S. the N.R.C. operated for the Chamber of Mines.

Even after the establishment of the Federation in 1953, whereby Nyasaland became more firmly under the political power of Southern Rhodesian employers, W.N.L.A. continued to dominate the Nyasaland foreign contract labour market. However, Southern Rhodesia continued to place most of its reliance on the 'free-flow' system though the R.N.L.S.C. did build up annual recruitment to a relatively high level. The peak was reached in 1956 with a total recruitment of 16 234 workers. After 1958, with the onset of economic recession in the Federation, the growth of a substantial labour surplus in Southern Rhodesia and the adoption of a new foreign labour policy by the Southern Rhodesian government, the R.N.L.S.C. contract system faced steadily increasing supply constraints. Its annual throughput began systematically to be run down. This occurred as W.N.L.A. hegemony in Nyasaland became more easily asserted and as farm wages fell seriously in real terms in Rhodesia after 1963. By 1960 the Chamber of Mines (S.A.) had recruited 83 000 'Tropicals' (20,9 per cent of all their African mineworkers in South Africa). By 1973, as may be seen in the table below, the figure for Malawian workers alone had reached 106 638 or 27,7 per cent of the total complement.

/Table 1 .....

RDM 30/8/77  
**Mine death** 212

A WHITE shift boss, Mr Michael La Grange, was killed yesterday when he was buried following a blast in a blocked ore pass at the Rand Mines ERPM gold mine in Boksburg. A mine spokesman said the accident occurred on 68 level at 11.40 am. Mr La Grange, 57, was married. — Sapa.

workers who, upon presenting themselves at the Associations' to work in Southern Rhodesia'. In addition, the W.N.L.A. Agricultural Native Labour Limited (originally entered into an National Farmers' Union in 1943), whereby W.N.L.A. would in Rhodesia farms those workers recruited for the mines but ed as 'unfit', remained undisturbed.<sup>12/</sup> This agreement

continued to function until 1965 when the A.N.L.L. folded up and ceased operations.

In Nyasaland 'duopsonistic competition' between the two bureaux worked largely in favour of W.N.L.A., the higher wages stipulated on the latter's contracts being the all important determinant of the distribution of labour supplies between them. Only Nyasaland government limitations on permissible W.N.L.A. recruitment levels enabled the R.N.L.S.C. to secure a growing level of supplies as its permit maximum was periodically re-negotiated upwards. In northern Bechuanaland a similar pattern of W.N.L.A. superiority prevailed, the supply of R.N.L.S.C. recruits from this country being very small. South of latitude 22° S. the N.R.C. operated for the Chamber of Mines.

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/Table 1 .....

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Francis Wilson read and gave valuable advice on the drafts of this paper. Valuable aid was provided by Rick Granelli of Urban Problems Research Unit, who also wrote the concluding section on Family Housing. Ronnie Levitan of Urban Problems Research Unit took all the photographs. Farouk Stemmet drew the Figures and did the additional map work. Ken Behr of the U.C.T. Geography Department, reduced the maps for publication. Eileen Hughes and Valerie Firth did the typing.

I am grateful also to the Bantu Affairs Administration Board and its Black and White officials who provided me with information and directed me around the townships. I am grateful too, to the contract workers who gave me access to their quarters, and provided additional information on their housing conditions.

This report dovetails with the wider study of Black housing in Cape Town being undertaken by the Urban Problems Research Unit at the University of Cape Town.

PHOTOGRAPHS BY: RONNIE LEVITAN

the Salisbury City Council. 53/

In terms of the 1976 amendment the Act now makes it not only an offence to engage a 'foreign African' (defined as a person born outside Rhodesia) for employment in a closed labour area (presently the main urban areas) b  
I. **Miner killed** 212  
h. JOHANNESBURG - A married shift boss, Mr. Michiel Grange (57), was killed yesterday when he was buried after a blast in a blocked ore pass on the 68th level at the Rand Mines ERPM gold mine in Boksburg. - (Sapa.)  
m. to the Act will only apply to men, but the Minister  
m. should be amended to apply to women. The 69 000 foreign  
p. African or mining employment would appear to be those  
affected by this measure. They constitute 35  
number (196 000) of foreign male workers in 1975.

TABLE 6.

FOREIGN AFRICAN WORKERS IN RHODESIA  
1972-75

YEAR	Foreign			All Workers		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
1972	203 658	18 130	221 788	696 663	105 177	801 840
1973	201 987	18 461	220 448	733 497	119 487	852 984
1974	199 333	18 418	217 752	766 055	123 373	889 428
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TABLE 7.

FOREIGN AFRICAN WORKERS IN RHODESIA  
1956-75

Year	Number	% of Total
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As an .....

# Battle to save 22 2km down

Staff Reporter

Rescue teams at the Blyvooruitzicht mine disaster today spoke to one of 22 miners entombed 2,5 km below ground by tons of rubble that caved in after a pressure burst yesterday. A mine spokesman said the trapped men had a 50-50 chance of survival.

22 men

From page 1

shovel out the rubble at any one time

Three black miners are still missing at the Hartbeestfontein Gold Mine near Stilfontein, where two black miners were killed after the same earth tremor yesterday.

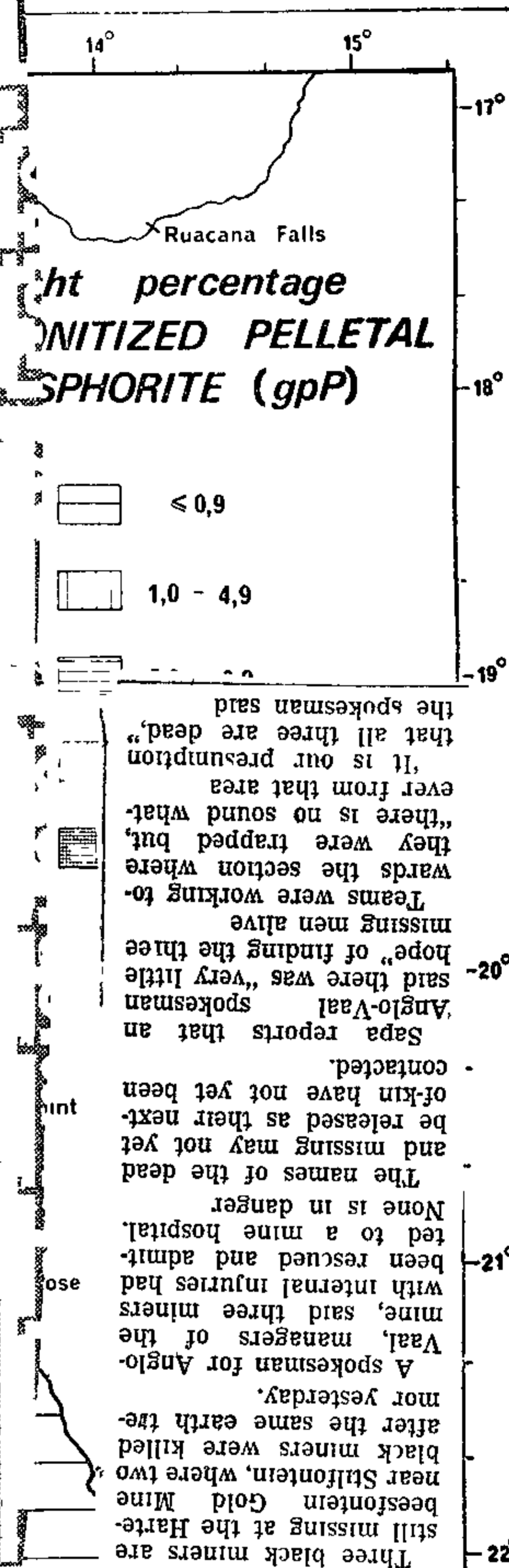
A spokesman for Anglo-Vaal, managers of the mine, said three miners with internal injuries had been rescued and admitted to a mine hospital. None is in danger.

The names of the dead and missing may not yet be released as their next-of-kin have not yet been contacted.

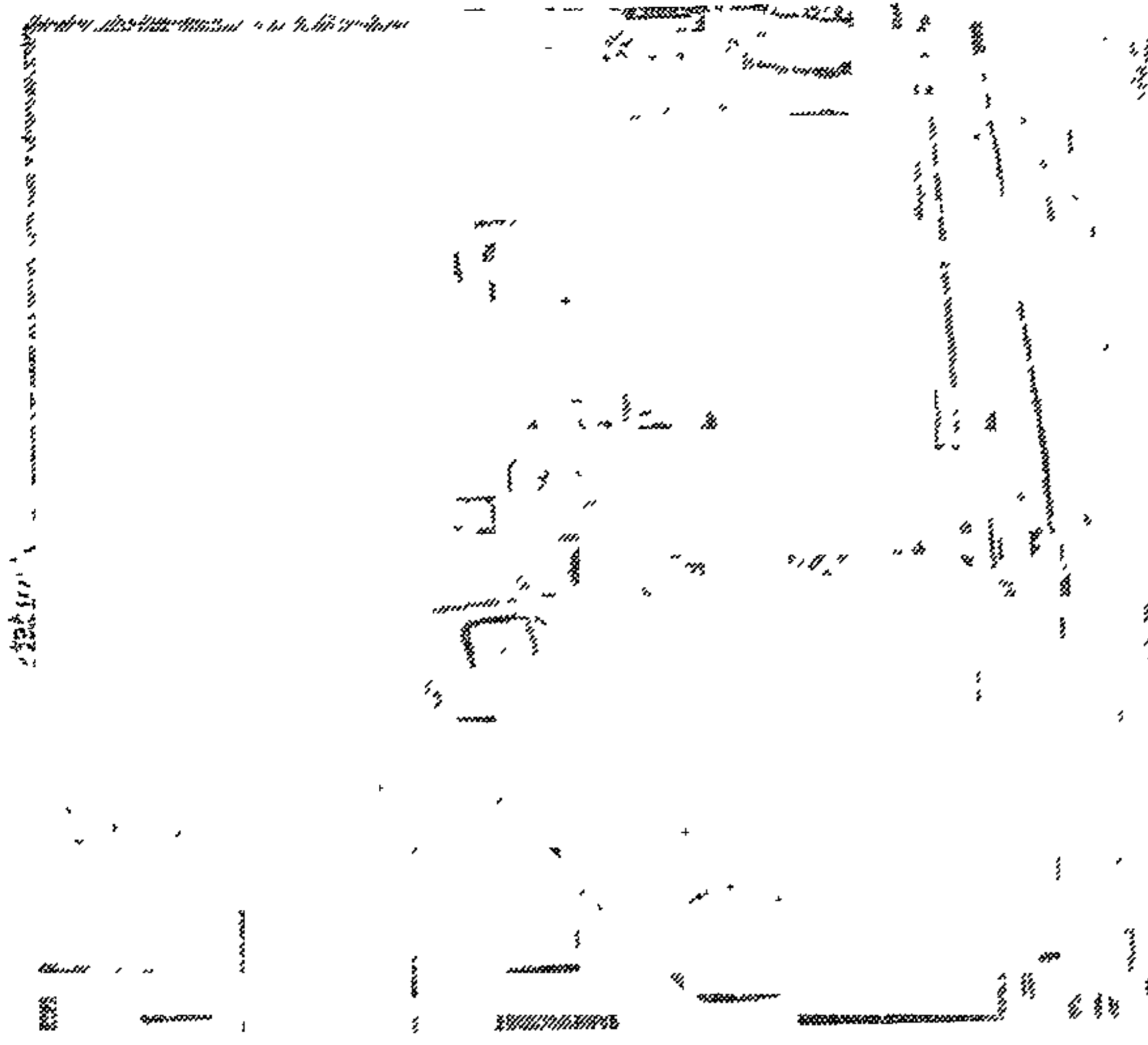
Sapa reports that an Anglo-Vaal spokesman said there was "very little hope" of finding the three missing men alive.

Teams were working towards the section where they were trapped but "there is no sound what- ever from that area

"It is our presumption that all three are dead," the spokesman said.



The scene at No 4 shaft of Blyvooruitzicht Mine today, 2,5 km below lay destruction and death



3/09/77

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"We trust they are still alive," said Mr Karl Eick, the mine's assistant general manager, who worked to within 15 m of where all 22 trapped men are thought to be.

By late this morning, the death toll at the gold mine near Carletonville had risen to 10.

At the head of number four shaft, a fleet of ambulances has been running a shuttle service to the hospital.

The whole mine is involved in the rescue operation which is being directed by the mine's general manager, Mr Paul Forbes, from an office overlooking the shaft head.

He and other top mine officials are in continuous contact with the rescue teams by telephone.

### 60 rescued

Among the miners still missing is Mr W J Bester (27). The remaining 21 are migrant workers whose identities can not be revealed at this stage.

Nearly 60 miners have so far been rescued from the burst area and 16 of these are in the mine hospital, including Shift Boss Mr Ashley Jenkins.

"The one metre high working area is half-filled with rubble in most places. In some places it completely fills the working space," he said.

This morning, two injured miners and two bodies were brought to the surface.

A mine spokesman discounted earlier reports that the pressure burst and the accident at Hartebeesfontein yesterday, were related. He said there was no evidence to suggest that the rock fall was triggered by an earth tremor.

Mr Eick said the rescue operation might continue up until tomorrow afternoon. He said rescue workers were working in six-hour shifts in teams of about 100.

Because of confined space, only about 35 could

(2/2)

# Sunday Times

C.S. O. African Emp  
Salisbury, (mimeo)

DURBAN, SEPTEMBER 4, 1977

TRANSVAAL	30c
FREE STATE	30c
BORDER	30c
TRANSKEI	30c
EASTERN PROVINCE	35c
CAPE PENINSULA	35c
SOUTH WEST AFRICA	40c
NATAL 25 cents	

As an .....

Salisbury, (mimeo)  
C.S. O. African Emp  
C.S. O. African Emp

Sun. Trib. 4/9/77

## 19 earns battle to find trapped men in 'Villagers' death mine



NINETEEN miners were still entombed more than two kilometres underground last night as rescue teams worked through tons of rubble to reach them.

The death toll at Blyvoortzicht Gold Mine near Carletonville — the mine where the TV series "The Villagers" is filmed — has risen to 13 since a pressure burst sent tons of rock plummeting into the shafts.

### Debris

Sixteen men have been admitted to hospital after being pulled from the debris and teams are working their way into the areas of destruction.

By PATRICK TAYLOR

Gold Mine near Klerksdorp three black miners are still missing. Two bodies were recovered and three men escaped alive.

The Carletonville disaster is the worst at the mine.

At Blyvoortzicht the teams are working 2 500 metres underground. A spokesman said progress was slow because of the danger of further rockfalls.

One of the luckiest men alive is Mr Ashley Jenkins, who was trapped for nearly seven hours at the Carletonville mine while rescuers battled through fallen rock to the pocket

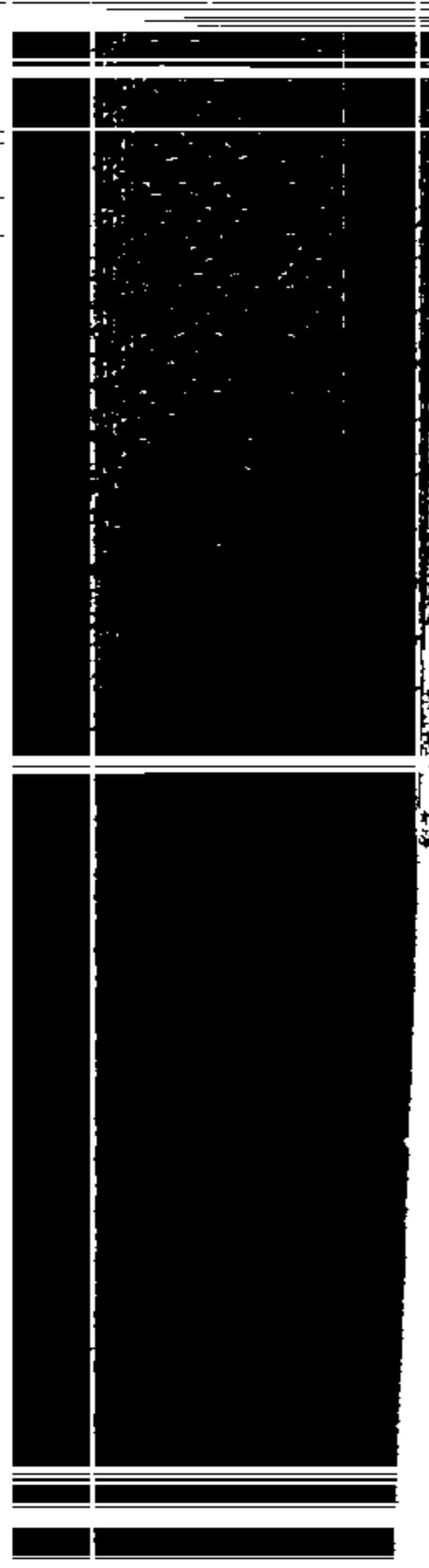
The spokesman said Mr Jenkins, a shift boss, was not seriously hurt, but he was being treated for shock and a back injury at the Chamber of Mines Hospital in Johannesburg.

Among the Blyvoortzicht miners missing is Mr Willem Bester, 27, who is married with three children. The other 18 are migrant workers.

Nearly 60 miners have been rescued from the burst area.

### Bodies

The mine's assistant general manager, Mr Karl Eick, said: "The one-metre high workin area is half filled with rubble in most places in others it complete file the bodies, mce





# They watched him die . . .

JOHANNESBURG. — Early on Saturday morning, 20 hours after the pressure burst at Blyvooruitzicht gold mine, miners clawing at packed rock in a tunnel just wide enough to turn around, heard a faint noise beyond the rockface.

Digging stopped as they listened for direction — and then went on, working their way towards it. A trapped miner was still alive.

Two hours later they reached him, his body crushed under rock, barely alive. Tenderly they eased him out.

A doctor at the shaft did what he could — plasma drips were placed in the injured miner's arm, and he was taken by stretcher to the lift. But his broken body was too weak. Anguished bearers watched him in the lift, and saw him die before he reached the surface.

# Mine toll

# 32 as digging goes on

CAPE TIMES  
5/9/77  
912

Own Correspondent

JOHANNESBURG. — An earth tremor, followed by a shower of stones, halted digging at the Blyvooruitzicht gold mine yesterday as rescue teams fought to reach 18 buried miners who have now been given up for dead.

The death toll after Friday's pressure burst, 2 500 metres underground in No. 4 shaft, rose to 32 when officials admitted there was "virtually no chance" of rescuing the men now trapped for nearly 70 hours. If this proves so, it will be the fifth highest loss of life in a South African mining disaster.

The tremor, just after midnight, was short and sharp "The men were terrified They lay dead still, waiting for another rockfall, as stones fell in the half-metre wide tunnels," a mine spokesman said

Some of the rescue workers were treated underground for minor injuries, mainly cuts and bruises caused by falling stones, but work at the rockface was resumed shortly afterwards.

Sixty shaft sinkers were killed in an underground explosion at the Buffelsfontein.

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5/9/77  
212

mosphere.

### Pressure burst

Among the missing men is Mr. Willem Bester, 27, of Carletonville, whose wife Maria and two children, one a boy of five months, have left the mine to stay with relatives.

The pressure burst occurred near the end of the 25th, 26th and 27th levels, affecting nearly 100 men working on and around the stone faces in the area.

Sixty men were treated for injuries and 16 are in hospital. Disaster measures came into effect immediately after the burst and a "control command" was set up in offices on the surface, as a centre for operations.

Three teams, of 20 whites and 80 blacks each have been working eight-hour shifts since Friday.

Operations have been hampered by the presence of a fault area directly above the collapsed sections.

The miners are having to remove the rubble with extreme caution. Passing rocks back hand over hand through the cramped tunnels, which have been reduced to half their size as a result of the rockfall.

### Brought to surface

A mine spokesman said the pressure burst had caused thousands of tons of rock to fall and pack itself like "virgin rock". But a ventilation engineer said on Saturday that the stricken section appears to be still getting air, although no signs of life could be detected through the rubble at that stage.

Rescue teams take an hour to reach the rockface. They are taken by lift to the 17th level before being "trained" to another lift which takes them to the 25th level.

Injured men are transported to the surface in just under an hour.

Bodies were brought to the surface every few hours over the weekend. A medical team stood by underground to treat the critically injured, and four ambulances waited at the shafthead.

Weary men trudged back and forth from the shafthead, many of whom had worked hours beyond the end of their shifts to free the dead and injured.

Mine manager Mr Paul Forbes stood by for 36 hours at "control command" directing the operation with his assistant Mr Kaal Eick, who visited the disaster area twice for an on the spot assessment.

Continued on page 2

D.D. 5/7/77

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# Tremor at mine halts rescue bid

JOHANNESBURG — An earth tremor, followed by a shower of stones, halted digging operations at the Blyvooruitzicht gold mine yesterday as rescue teams sought to reach 18 buried miners now given up for dead.

The death toll after Friday's pressure burst 2 500 m underground rose to 32 when officials admitted there was "virtually no chance" of rescuing the men now trapped for nearly 70 hours.

In the other mine disaster at the Hartebeestfontein mine near Stilfontein, two men were killed.

The tremor, at Blyvooruitzicht, just after midnight, was short and sharp. The men were terrified. They lay dead still, waiting for another rockfall, as stones fell in the half-metre wide tunnels, a mine spokesman said.

Some of the rescue workers were treated underground for minor injuries. Work at the rockface was resumed soon afterwards.

By last night only 14 bodies had been recovered. Names of the dead are not being released until the operation is completed.

Yesterday afternoon masked miners continued the search in foul atmosphere.

The pressure burst occurred on three levels affecting nearly 100 men.

Sixty men were treated for injuries and 18 are in hospital.

Mine officials have discounted the theory that the pressure burst was caused by an earth tremor. They said it was caused by undermined rock structures.

Early on Saturday morning, 20 hours after the pressure burst, miners clawing at packed rock in a tunnel just wide enough to turn around, heard a faint noise beyond the rockface.

Digging stopped as they listened for direction — and then went on, working their way towards it. A trapped miner was still alive.

Two hours later they reached him, his body crushed under rock, barely alive. Tenderly they eased him out.

A doctor at the shaft did what he could — plasma drips were placed in the injured miner's arm, and he was taken by the stretcher to the lift — still alive.

But his broken body was too weak — anguished bearers watched him in the lift, and saw him die before he reached the light.

Meanwhile, rescue teams were still working non-stop last night to locate the missing black miners at the Hartebeestfontein gold mine near Stilfontein.

"They will continue the search until the men have been found," he said.

Two blacks were killed and five have been rescued after a serious tremor at the mine last Friday — DDC-SAPA.

# Terror in mine, and hope goes

(212)

Mercury Correspondent 5/9/77

**JOHANNESBURG** — An earth tremor, followed by a shower of stones, halted digging operations at Blyvooruitzicht gold mine yesterday as rescue teams fought to reach 18 buried miners now given up for dead.

Operations have been hampered by the presence of a fault area directly above the collapsed sections

### Ventilation

The miners are having to remove the rubble with extreme caution, passing rocks back hand over hand through the cramped tunnels, which have been reduced to half their size as a result of the rockfall

A mine spokesman said the pressure burst had caused thousands of tons of rock to fall and pack itself like "virgin rock" But a ventilation engineer said on Saturday that the stricken section appeared to be still getting air, although no signs of life could be detected through the rubble at that stage

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The death toll after Friday's pressure burst 2500 metres underground in No 4 shaft rose dramatically to 32 when officials admitted there was "virtually no chance" of rescuing the men, now trapped for nearly 70 hours

The tremor, just after midnight, was short and sharp "The men were terrified. They lay dead still, waiting for another rockfall, as stones fell in the half-metre-wide tunnels," a mine spokesman said

Some of the rescue workers were treated underground for minor injuries, mainly cuts and bruises caused by falling stones, but work at the rockface was resumed shortly afterwards

By last night only 14 bodies had been recovered, but Blyvooruitzicht officials have refused to release the names of the dead until the operation is completed

### Masks

Digging conditions were reported to have eased yesterday afternoon as masked miners continued the search in the foul atmosphere. Among the missing men is Mr Willem Bester (27) of Carletonville, whose wife Maria and two children, one a boy of five months, have left the mine to stay with relatives

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Sixty men were treated for injuries and 16 have been admitted to hospital

Three teams of 20 Whites and 80 Blacks each have been working eight-hour shifts since Friday

**SOMBRE FACED** miners, weary from the struggle to free those trapped below, carry the body of another man found in the rubble. The rescuers have had to work in tunnels reduced to half a metre wide as the result of a new fall of rock underground. The original fall occurred at 2500m and even after a body was recovered it took two hours to bring it to the surface

YEAR	F	
	Male	F
1972	203 658	
1973	201 987	1
1974	199 333	1
1975	195 725	1

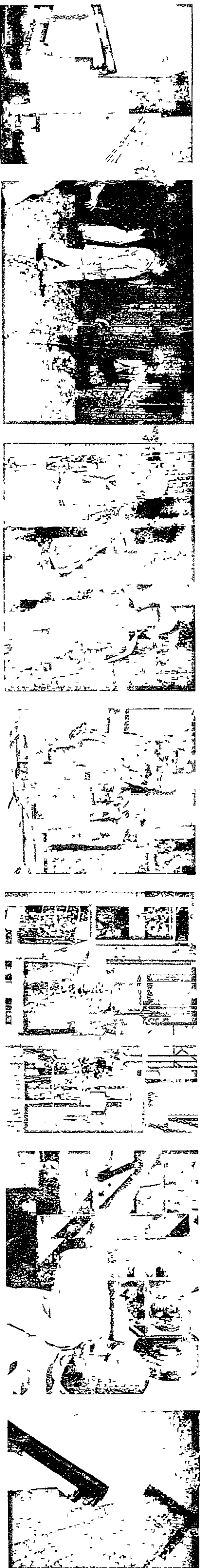
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As an .....



It was a grim weekend at Blyvoortzicht. Weary miners carried the bodies of their dead colleagues to ambulances waiting at the shaft head. Stony-faced and streaked with sweat, men trudged from the lift as the next shift made ready to go. Others waited at the shafthead for news from below.

PICTURES: ALAN VAN ROOYEN

# ALL 32 SURVIVED

## Showers of stones halts rescue work

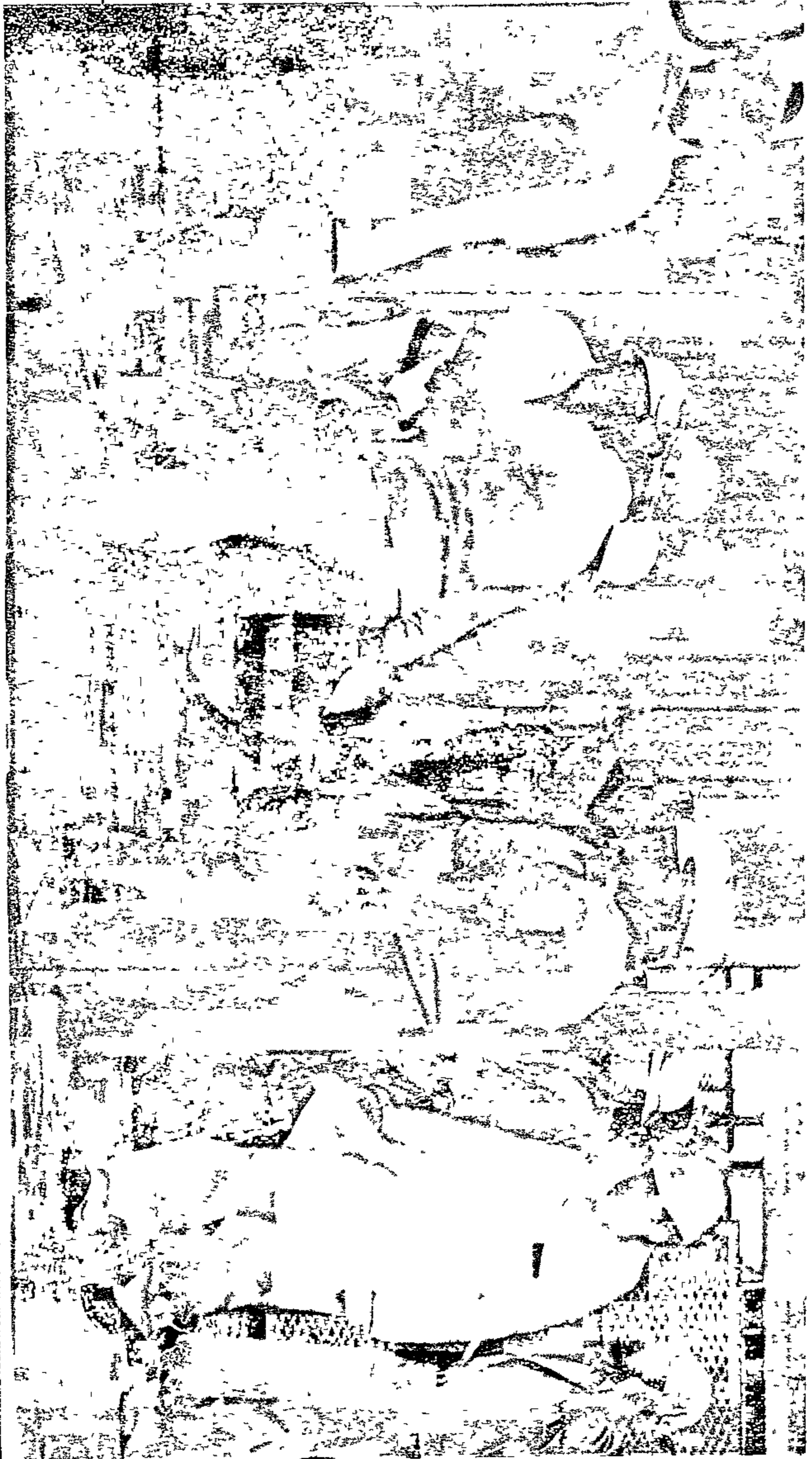
By PAUL BELL

**A N EARTH tremor, followed by a shower of stones, halted digging operations at Blyvoortzicht Gold Mine yesterday as rescue teams fought to reach 18 buried miners who have been given up for dead.**

The death toll after Friday's pressure burst 2500 m underground in No 4 shaft has almost certainly risen to 32. Officials admitted there was no chance of rescuing the men, now trapped for nearly 70 hours.

The tremor, just after midnight, was short and sharp. "The men were terrified. They lay dead still, waiting for another rockfall, as stones fell in the half-metre wide tunnels," a mine spokesman said.

Some of the rescue workers were treated underground for minor injuries, mainly cuts and bruises caused by falling stones, but work at the rockface was resumed shortly afterwards.



A critically injured black miner — put on a drip by a medical team underground — is carried to an ambulance at the shafthead. He died on the way to hospital.

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5/9/77

22

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The pressure burst occurred near the end of the 25th, 26th and 27th levels, affecting nearly 100 men working on and around the stope faces in the area. Sixty men were treated for injuries and 16 are still in hospital.

Disaster measures were put into effect immediately after the burst and a "control command" was set up in offices on the surface. Department heads stationed themselves at the command centre to receive reports from and give instructions to the men underground.

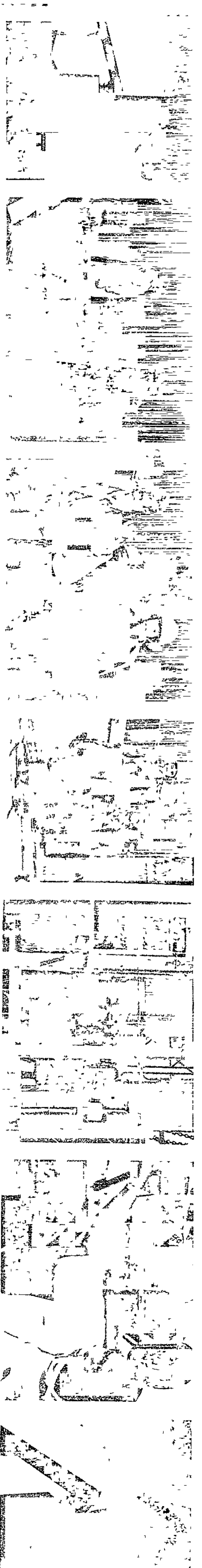
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Rescue teams take an hour to reach the rockface. They are taken by lift to the 17th level. A mine train then takes them to another lift which lowers them to the 25th level. Injured men are transported to the surface in just under an hour.

Bodies were brought to the surface every few hours over the weekend. A medical team stood by underground to treat the critically injured, and a fleet



It was a grim weekend at Blyvooruitzicht. Weary miners carried the bodies of their dead colleagues to ambulances waiting at the shaft head. Stony-faced and streaked with sweat, men trudged from the lift as the next shift made ready to go. Others waited at the shafthead for news from below.

R.M. 5/19/77

# AWAITING DEATH

## Shower of stones halts rescue work

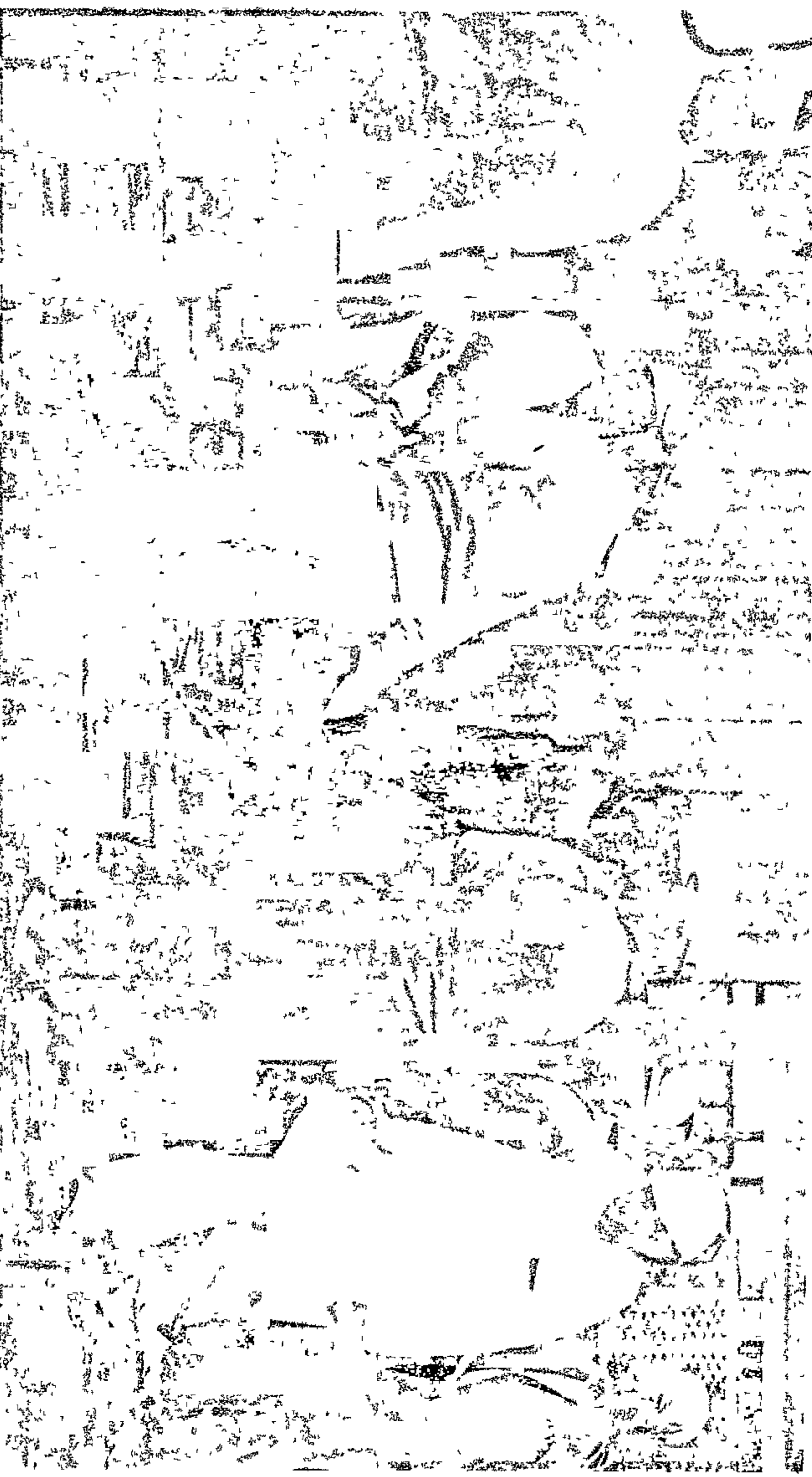
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But his broken body was too weak — anguished bearers watched him in the lift, and saw him die before he reached the light.

RDM 5/9/77  
 Rescue  
 work (212)  
 halted

of four ambulances waited at the shafthead.

A trapped miner who was rescued in the morning, 24 hours after the burst, was immediately put on drips, but he died on the way to the surface.

Mr Ashley Jenkins, a shift boss who was found crouching in a space left by the rockfall six hours after the burst, is "doing very well" at the Coronation Mine Hospital in Johannesburg.

Mine officials have discounted the theory that Friday's pressure burst was caused by an earth tremour. The burst, they said, was caused by undermined rock structures.

Meanwhile, the search is continuing for three men missing since Friday after a rockfall at the Hartbeestfontein Gold Mine. Three others — two of whom were seriously injured — were admitted to hospital.

● The disaster at the Blyvooruitzicht could prove to be the second worst since January 1961 when 437 miners were entombed and died at the Clydesdale Colliery in Coalbrook.

The expected death toll of 32 at Blyvooruitzicht is only overshadowed by those at Coalbrook and at three other mines.

In October 1926, 126 miners were killed in an explosion at the Dannhauser Coal Mine in Natal.

Seventy-seven miners were killed in an underground explosion at the New Marsfield Colliery, at Estantia, near Breyten in the Transvaal in the 1930s.

At Coalbrook, 437 men were entombed and died after a rockfall at the Clydesdale Colliery, 14 miles from Vereeniging on January 21, 1961. Rescue teams tried to reach the trapped men for 16 days.



# Mine death tolls rise

D.D.  
6/9/77  
212

JOHANNESBURG — The death toll in Western Transvaal's twin mine disasters rose to 21 last night with 17 men still trapped underground, presumed dead.

Another miner was found dead and brought to the surface at Blyvooruitzicht. This brings the total dead at Blyvooruitzicht to 17.

Two more bodies were recovered from the Hartebeestfontein gold mine near Stilfontein yesterday, bringing the toll to four.

One miner is still trapped underground at Hartebeestfontein following the severe earth move-

ment on Friday. Fellow workers are battling against the clock to find him.

A spokesman for the Blyvooruitzicht mine said there was little or no hope for the 16 men still trapped 2,5 km. underground.

"It is about three days they've been down there, and that's too long," he said.

Proto teams are battling to tunnel their way through tons of rock which collapsed in a pressure burst on Friday.

A total of 16 miners are in hospital at Blyvooruitzicht, all of them out of danger — SAPA.

Act now makes it not only an offence (defined as a person born outside Rhodesia) in the area (presently the main urban areas) to employ a person already in employment. This measure will only apply to men, but the Minister has decided to apply to women. The 69 000 foreign workers in mining employment would appear to be those affected by this measure. They constitute 35 per cent (10) of foreign male workers in 1975.

IN RHODESIA

1972-75

YEAR	Foreign			All Workers		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
1972	203 658	18 130	221 788	696 663	105 177	801 840
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As an .....

# Death toll now 21 in twin disasters; 17 missing

CAPE TIMES

6/9/77

212

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One miner is still trapped underground at Hartebeestfontein following the severe earth movement last Friday.

A spokesman for the Blyvooruitzicht mine said there was "little or no hope" for the 16 men — Mr Willie Bester, and 15 others — still trapped 2.5 km underground at the No. 4 shaft.

"It is about three days that they've been down there, and that's too long," he said.

Proto teams are battling to tunnel their way through tonnes of rock which collapsed in a pressure burst.

Sixteen miners are in hospital at Blyvooruitzicht, all of them out of danger.

Mr Willie Bester, 28, one of the miners entombed at Blyvooruitzicht on Friday, was a brave man, but shared one fear with his colleagues — being trapped in darkness by tonnes of rock.

His wife, Mrs Rita Bester, 27, said yesterday her

husband was afraid of nothing in life, but was scared by the thought of a slow death in a tomb thousands of metres underground.

He told her many times he hoped to be killed instantly if ever involved in a rockfall.

A clearly shocked Mrs Bester said it was the first time her husband had been in an underground accident.

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212 PDM 7/9/77

# Gold's worst disaster in 49 years

By ADAM PAYNE

THE Blyvooruitzicht rock burst disaster is the second worst in the history of South African gold mining, the first having been at ERPM in 1928 when more than 100 miners were killed.

A rock burst is a small earthquake, and the Witwatersrand and West Wits goldfields are the worst areas for rock bursts in the mining world.

The concentration of more than 30 deep level mines, its hard rock and its narrow ore body all contribute to the hazards.

Rock bursts cannot be predicted, but the layout of stopes — working places — can be planned in such a way that there is less likelihood of bursts, Dr M D G Salamon, research adviser to the Chamber of Mines and a specialist on rock mechanics, told the 'Mail'.

"This planning is done with computers or analogues to calculate stresses and energy release," he said. "Then stopes are designed to minimise their proneness to rock bursts."

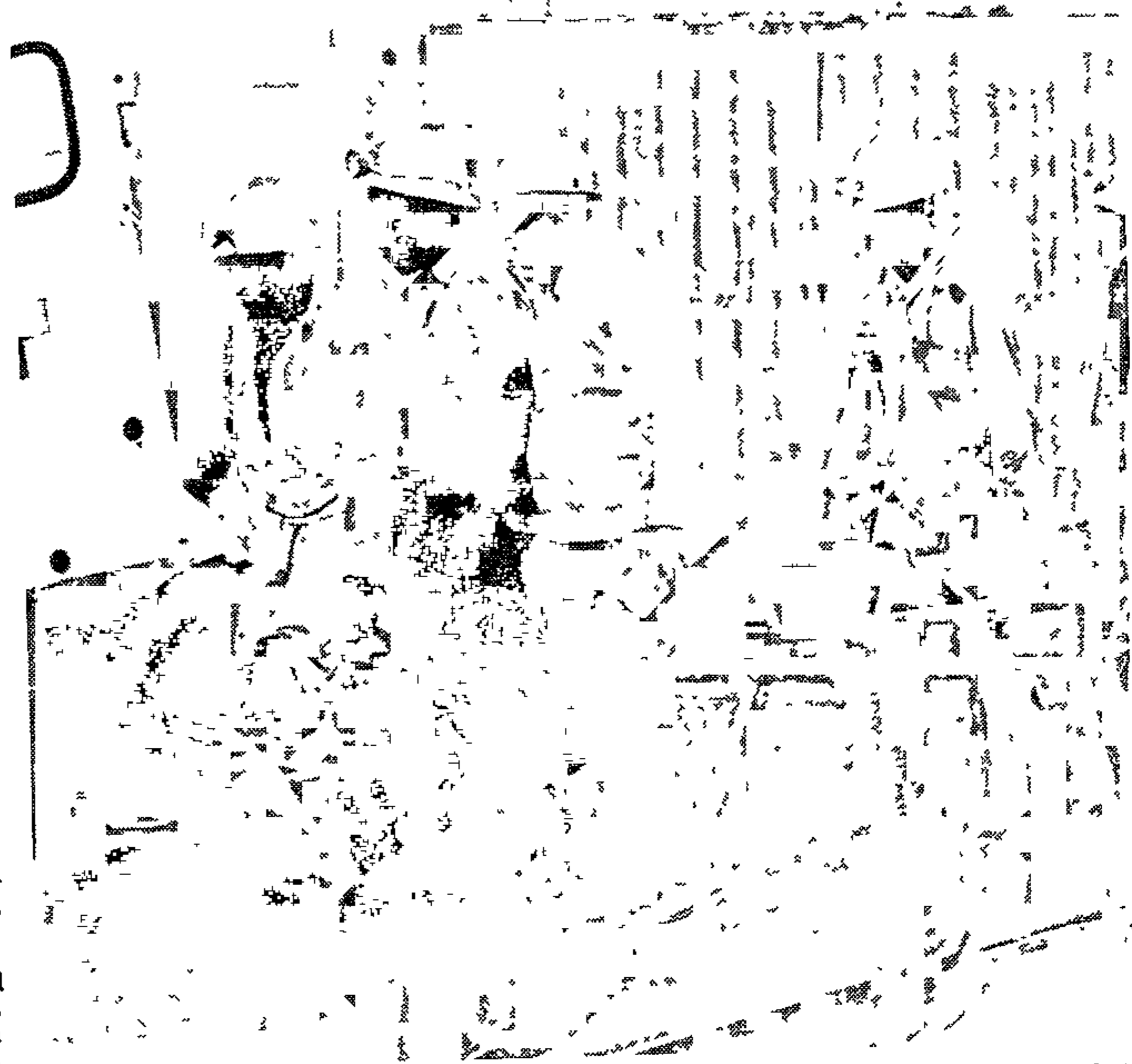
Earthquakes, tremors, rock bursts — or 'bumps' as the miners call them — are all associated with the cracking or fracturing of the earth's crust under stress caused by natural weaknesses or mining excavations.

Stresses of up to 25 times the strength of concrete may build up in the rock around a deep mine until a fracture releases the energy.

For every large rock burst there are countless fractures so small that they pass unnoticed. Between these extremes lies an intermediate range of lighter jolts or bumps. When a miner says that the rock is "talking", he is referring to the sounds of barely perceptible fractures.

Rock bursts usually occur at a distance from the excavation where the weight of the overlying masses, left unsupported by the excavation, is concentrated and generates the greatest stress.

Engineers and scientists of the Chamber of Mines and of the Anglo American Corporation have goldmines such as Western Deep Levels under seismic observation and recently expanded one of their seismic networks to monitor the complete Klerksdorp goldfield. Scientific planning can reduce the incidence of rock bursts but cannot eliminate them altogether.



The body of a miner killed in the weekend tragedy at Blyvooruitzicht Gold Mine is carried by fellow miners to an ambulance.

## A rock burst is always a possibility

Chief Reporter

CHIEF rock mechanics engineer, Mr Dave Ortlepp, admitted yesterday that the Blyvooruitzicht death shaft was a high risk area.

Engineers working in it lived with the possibility of a rock burst but were helpless when it came to pinning down when, or if, one would happen.

"To specify a moment in time when a disaster might occur was not on," said Mr Ortlepp in an interview on the Blyvooruitzicht Gold Mine disaster.

Twenty-three bodies have now been recovered,

and nine are still missing after Friday's pressure burst 2 500 m underground in No 4 shaft.

"In any deep mine the possibility of rock burst is always on the mine manager's mind," said Mr Ortlepp, who is rock mechanics engineer for the group which owns Blyvooruitzicht.

"The disaster area was one of the areas in which we took every possible precaution. All the best supports and techniques were used," he added.

But the mining men were still beaten — by "lack of predictability"

"Nowhere in the world can one put a time on when these things will occur. They are by character sudden and violent," said Mr Ortlepp.

"Pressure bursts are a problem that's plagued mine fields since the turn of the century. A lot of work has been done but no-one yet has an answer."

It was acknowledged that South Africa's understanding of the problem was more advanced than anywhere else in the world with the possible exclusion of east of the Iron Curtain, he said.

Meantime, reports of

dissension among miners at Blyvooruitzicht over working in the high risk No 4 shaft were dismissed by the mine's managing director, Mr Don Waterman.

"We have not heard of any dissension on the mine at all," he said. "There's no shortage of volunteers to carry out rescue operations."

Mr Waterman stressed his mine's safety record. Several times it has won the millionaires' shield — a sort of pat on the back from the Chamber of Mines for any mine that works a million fatality-free shifts.

## Three more bodies found in mine

THE bodies of three black mineworkers who have been missing since Friday after the rockfall in the Hartebeestfontein Gold Mine, near Stilfontein, have been found, a spokesman for the mine said yesterday. The accident death toll was now five. Two of the five miners admitted to hospital have been discharged and the others were in a satisfactory condition, the spokesman said.

SANCHEZ - ICAP LONDON

# Death mine risky — engineer

D.D. 7/9/77

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JOHANNESBURG — Chief rock mechanics engineer, Dave Ortlepp, admitted yesterday that the Blyvooruitzicht death shaft was a high risk area.

Engineers working on it lived with the possibility of a rock burst, but were helpless when it came to pinning down when or if one would happen

"To specify a moment in time when a disaster might occur was not on," Mr Ortlepp said.

The death toll now stands at 23 dead, one missing after Friday's pressure burst 2 500 m underground

"In any deep mine the possibility of rock burst is always on the mine manager's mind" Mr Ortlepp said.

"The disaster area was one of the areas in which we took every possible

precaution. All the best supports and techniques were used.

"But the miners were still beaten by lack of predictability

"Nowhere in the world can one put a time on when these things will occur. They are by character sudden and violent," Mr Ortlepp said.

Meanwhile, the bodies of Mr William Bester, 27, and four other miners missing at Blyvooruitzicht were recovered yesterday. The death toll now stands at 22. No hope remains for the 10 migrant miners still unaccounted for

"According to rescue teams it would appear Mr Bester was killed instantly in the burst," a mine spokesman said

Mr Bester is survived by his wife, Rita, and two children

Of the 16 miners injured at Blyvooruitzicht, six are from Transkei, four from Botswana, three from Lesotho, two from the Cape Province and one from Natal

At Hartebeesfontein gold mine, scene of the other mining disaster on Friday, the body of the last missing miner was recovered yesterday. This brings the toll to five.

Of the five injured workers admitted to hospital, one has been discharged. The others are in a satisfactory condition.

Rescue workers at Blyvooruitzicht are expected to continue operations for another day — DDC

RDM 10/9/77

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## Mine death

A BLACK mineworker was killed yesterday in the Buffelsfontein gold mine near Johannesburg, the General Mining Company announced.

The miner, a winch driver, was fatally injured when struck underground by falling rocks.

His name will not be released until his next-of-kin have been informed. — Sapa.

## Mine death

*N Mercury 24/9/77*

JOHANNESBURG — A Black mineworker was killed in a rockburst yesterday at Rand Mines' ERPM digging, according to a statement from the company. — (Sapa.)

(212)

# Another death in disaster mine

RDM 22/9/77

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By JOHANN STOLTZ  
A PRESSURE burst killed a miner and trapped two others underground at Blyvooruitzicht Gold Mine near Carletonville yesterday less than three weeks after the mine claimed the lives of 32 men.

Rescue teams hoped to reach the missing men last night or early this morning but it was not known if they were still alive.

The name of the dead miner will be released after his next of kin are

notified.

A white nightshift cleaner, Mr W R Smith, of Carletonville, and seven black miners were injured and brought to the surface by rescue workers.

The pressure burst occurred in a stope about 2000 m underground between levels 19 and 21 of the mine's B2 shaft.

On September 2 32 miners were killed in an underground collapse which was apparently caused by an earth tremor.

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7. Donnez des locutions équivalentes aux mots soulignés (ne recopiez pas les phrases):

(10)

- Il (venir) \_\_\_\_\_ mercredi dernier s'il avait pu.
- Ce sera dommage qu'elle n' (aller) \_\_\_\_\_ pas au concert.
- Jean et moi (venir) \_\_\_\_\_ vous voir ce soir.
- (b) Le français ainsi que l'italien (dériver) \_\_\_\_\_ du latin.
- paternels.
- qu'il ne s'en (sortir) \_\_\_\_\_ pas sans quelques conseils
- \_\_\_\_\_ aux yeux, (répondre) \_\_\_\_\_ il,
- comment il (se tirer) \_\_\_\_\_ d'affaire. Cela (sauter)
- plusieurs semaines, son père lui (demander) \_\_\_\_\_
- (a) Après que Robert (hanté) \_\_\_\_\_ la Sorbonne pendant

6. Mettez les verbes entre parenthèses au mode et au temps convenables:

(12)

- Il faut que vous contentiez de peu.
- Son père dit qu'elle devait se dépêcher.
- Il prétend qu'il a été très heureux.
- Il est temps que nous levions.
- 5. Remplacez la proposition subordonnée par une proposition infinitive:



# Gold mines

## hit by

## fires

212

2.

(3) Rites  
Van  
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with the 30M

About a quarter of South Africa's richest gold mine - West Driefontein near Carletonville - is out of action owing to a fire which broke out there yesterday

Nobody was endangered by the fire which started on a small scale in a disused area at No 3 sub-vertical shaft but spread rapidly along inaccessible, worked-out areas, about 2 000 m under the surface. About 2 500 men had to leave their working places, causing a production drop of about 25 percent

### STILL BURNING

Operations to seal off the area are expected to be completed today. It is not known how long the area will have to remain closed.

A spokesman for Gold Fields confirmed today the fire which broke out in the group's Kloof gold mine, near Westonaria, more than a month ago is still burning and the affected area has not yet been reopened.

According to a previous estimate, production was expected to be reduced by about 20 percent

V. Jones and S. Salte excused at 9.10 p.m.  
12.4. Athlone to change meeting days to Mondays.  
12.3. A Jones to change meeting days to Mondays.  
12.2. Athlone asked for assistance. K. Dantle to  
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physiological events are socially defined.

is depending on the minor topographic variations, the history  
that social and the preparation of the...  
information to be posted to other chapters  
The meda triandra - Elyonurus argenteus - Eragrostis

inant grassed dwarf shrubland community (Plots 184 and 211)  
11.6. A. Stevin to report at G.B.M. re point sys  
characterised by plot 184 and is similar to the previous  
will be accepted.

points are required to make it a dominant. In spite of this  
limited to Elyonurus argenteus and Themeda triandra, with  
11.1. No headcount available.  
11.2. No socials/ recruitment drives held during  
The dwarf shrub, Aster

Other species, usually found in this situation, such as  
Tristachya leucotrix and Hapochloa faly are absent.

The photo image showed an open dark brown Grey (dbr Gy) with a stippled texture due to the presence of a dwarf shrub situation is not

Plot 211 occurs on an ancient river terrace of the Caledon river.

These terraces, being at 1 550m, form part of the pediment but the plant species associated with the heavy, weathered soils are similar to those of the dolerite

lying on Molteno Sandstone and are unsuitable for poor grazing if poorly managed.

Members' interests forms have been drawn up and will be managed.

as a stostion chloromelas, Elyonurus argenteus, Eragrostis chloromelas, Heteropogon contortus and provide good grazing but deteriorate to dwarf

shrublands with over 12 per cent aerial cover if mismanaged, with lower

212 ROM. 5/10/77

## Mine rescue teams recover three bodies

STAFF REPORTER

THREE black miners killed in a pressure burst at the Doornfontein gold mine near Carletonville on Monday were brought to the surface by rescue teams yesterday.

Another miner was rescued soon after the pressure burst and admitted to hospital with multiple injuries. He is being kept under sedation.

A spokesman for the mine said yesterday the pressure burst occurred in a stope about 2 000 metres underground near the No 1 sub-vertical shaft.

The names of the miners involved will be released when their next of kin have been informed.

Turning against this es  
 whose writings are now  
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 i.e. as encompassing all  
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 as one of the precursors  
 artist within the broader context of his time. This led him to locate  
 Van Eijck firmly within his own culture, and to offer a new understanding  
 of the Middle Ages not as a time consisting of roots of the Renaissance,  
 but as an epoch steadily declining, a dying civilization.

# Mine victim at camp by choice

The Argus Correspondent  
 JOHANNESBURG — A  
 17-year-old infantryman,  
 Rifleman Brian Allan  
 Ross who was killed in  
 the operational area on  
 Thursday while setting  
 landmines, had volunt  
 eered for the camp he  
 was attending.  
 A statement released in  
 Pretoria by Defence  
 Headquarters said Rifle  
 man Ross detonated a  
 mine while connecting  
 another.  
 His father, Mr Eric J  
 Ross of 10th Street, Be  
 zendenhout Valley, Jon  
 nesburg, said his son's  
 scheduled camp was not  
 due to begin till Decem  
 ber.  
 When his son's friend  
 received a letter saying  
 he was due for his  
 camp his son thought  
 he must have forgotten  
 to tell the Defence Force  
 of his chance of ad  
 vance.  
 HAD CHOICE  
 He was advised then  
 that he had a choice  
 between leaving in Au  
 gust or in December.  
 He chose to go inde  
 pendently.  
 Mr Ross described his son  
 as small for his age and  
 of leader build.  
 Rifleman Ross turned 21  
 four days after the  
 camp started. He was  
 married and lived  
 with his mother, Mrs  
 Anne Ross of Bush  
 Hill, Sandburg.

S, was Johan Huizinga,  
 attributed much to cultural  
 same way as had Burckhardt,  
 e. In the perfect culture,  
 . technology, ... every-  
 must be balanced by  
 moral, and aesthetic values.<sup>1)</sup>  
 society he studies,  
 as. 'For cultural history ...  
 birit it attempts to  
 of events.'<sup>2)</sup> This stress  
 e, unlike Burckhardt, he  
 historian to describe whole  
 was quite sufficient;  
 to remain cultural history,  
 tery history, it must

in Huizinga's best known  
 the author sub-titled 'A Study  
 ice and the Netherlands ...'  
 ing of the understanding  
 on this period had  
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 he history they produced,  
 and economic aspects of the  
 ing other forms of culture,  
 Middle Ages. Furthermore, the  
 Burckhardt and those who  
 'lots' of the Renaissance  
 Middle Ages, but Huizinga now  
 Van Eijck, who was regarded  
 prompted him to study the  
 This led him to locate  
 Van Eijck firmly within his own culture, and to offer a new understanding  
 of the Middle Ages not as a time consisting of roots of the Renaissance,  
 but as an epoch steadily declining, a dying civilization.

1) Weintraub, K. Visions of Culture, p.216;  
 2) Huizinga, J. 'The Task of Cultural History' in Men and Ideas, p.65.  
 3) Ibid.

# Miners in shaft

Mercury Correspondent

**WELKOM — At least three men died when a kibble — a large ore — carrying bucket — and tons of rock plunged to the bottom of No. 3 shaft of the Free State Saaiplaas Gold Mine near Welkom yesterday.**

Of the 66 men working at the bottom of the shaft 1 680m underground only one Black miner had been brought to the surface by 7 p.m. and the bodies of three men, all Whites, had been found. One was Mr. Morgan Henderson, (40) of Virginia whose father is the chief area inspector of mines for the Virginia district.

A rescue team in another kibble took five hours to reach its way down the shaft — a trip that normally takes 12 minutes — because they did not know the extent of the damage to the kibble guides.

The team reached the stricken area at 6 p.m. and an hour later the injured Black was brought to the surface and taken to the Saaiplaas mine hospital. He had been given a drip in derground.

The accident occurred just after 6 am when the rope hauling the kibble to the surface was severed. It is

believed the kibble snagged on a staging platform high up in the shaft, but mine officials are not yet sure how far it fell.

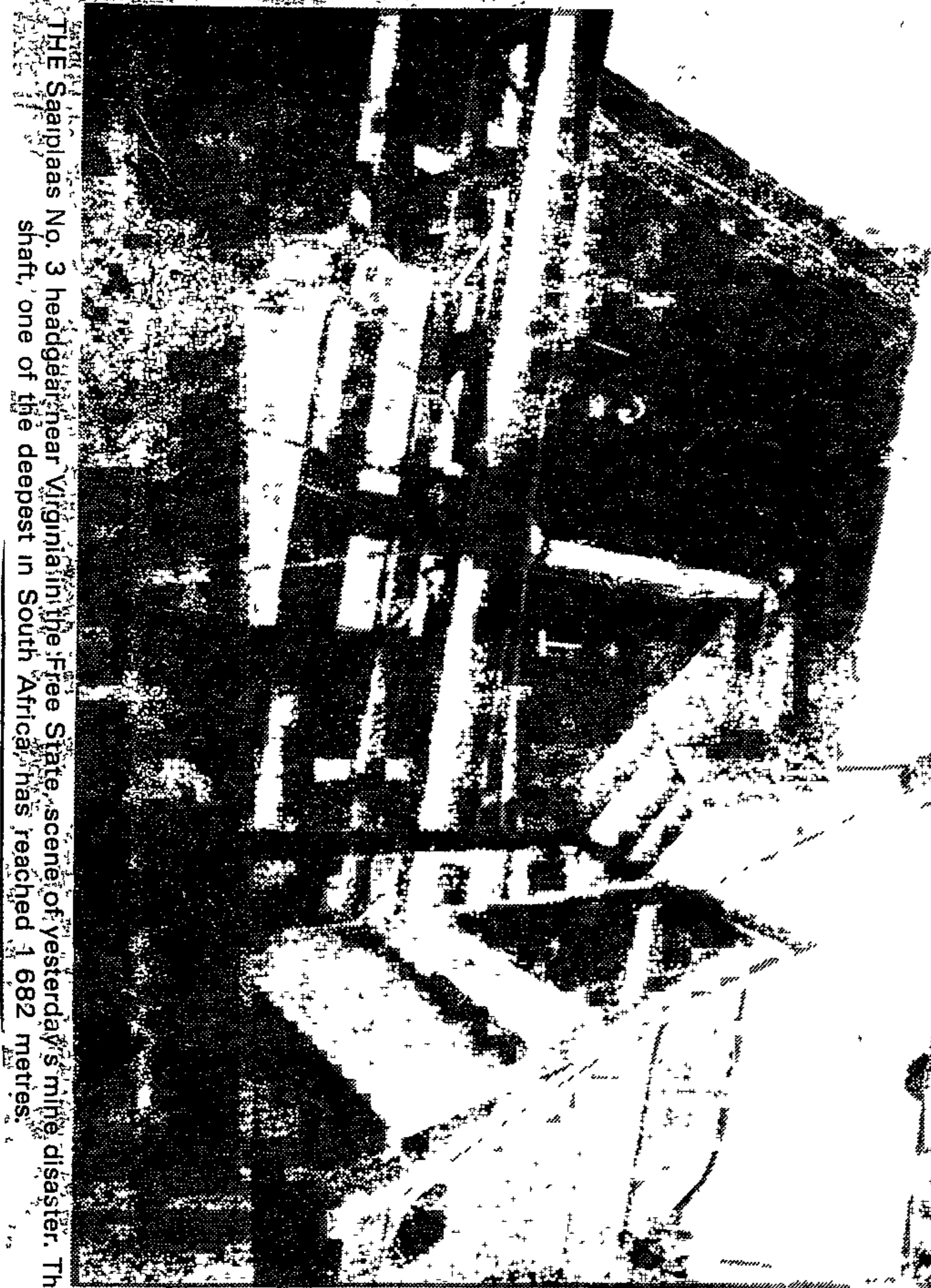
The platform was badly damaged and kilometres of wire rope were piled on top of the fallen kibble.

Mine manager Mr. John Eplett said he believed the rescue operation could be completed in 12 hours.

The kibbles, which were running again at normal speed, could bring six to seven men to the surface at a time.

Because there are no communications between the surface and the bottom of the shaft news of the extent of the accident was delayed until the rescue kibble reached the scene, reports reached the surface.

Mr. TONY MOUNTED NATAL RUSHW



THE Saaiplaas No. 3 headgear near Virginia in the Free State scene of yesterday's mine disaster. The shaft, one of the deepest in South Africa, has reached 1 682 metres.

Mercury

8/10/77

(212)

8/10/77 (212)

# 62 trapped:

RDM 8/10/77

212

# Rescue team

By PAUL BELL  
WELKOM

**AT LEAST three men died and 62 were trapped when a giant bucket carrying nine tons of rock plunged to the bottom of a shaft at a Free State gold mine yesterday.**

Of the 66 men working 1 680 m below ground at the base of Number 3 shaft at the Saaiplaas gold mine near Welkom, one injured black miner had been brought to the surface by 9 pm.

**The bodies of three dead men, all whites, have also been brought to the surface.**

One of the dead men was Mr Morgan Henderson, 39, of Virginia, whose father, Mr Pieter Henderson, is the chief area inspector of mines for the Virginia district.

The two other dead men are Mr J J Fleming and Mr P. van der Merwe. A rescue team in another bucket, called a kibble, took five hours to inch its way down to the base of the shaft — a trip that normally takes 12 minutes — because they did not know how badly damaged the kibble guidelines were.

The team reached the stricken area at 6 pm. An hour later the injured black was brought to the surface and taken to the Saaiplaas mine hospital. He had been given a drip underground.

The accident occurred just after 6 am when the rope hauling the kibble to the surface was severed.

It is believed the kibble snagged on a staging platform high up in the shaft, but mine officials are not yet sure how

The platform was badly damaged and several kilometres of rope were found piled on top of the fallen kibble.

The mine manager, Mr John Epiett, said he believed the rescue operation could be completed in 12 hours.

The kipples, which were running again at normal speed, could bring six to seven men to the surface at a time.

Of the 62 trapped miners, three are whites.

Mr John Pank, spokesman for the mine, said: "Two kipples are on their way down. Rescue teams, medical supplies, stretchers and food are in the kipples."

He said emergency treatment would be given to survivors before they were brought to the surface.

Mr Henderson, a foreman, leaves a wife, Joey, and two sons, Joey, 13, and Louis, 9.

Last night, Mrs Henderson was under sedation and her younger son fainted several times.

Mr Alex Henderson said last night his brother had returned to No 3 shaft only a month ago.

He had been studying for his Mine Captain's "ticket" and before that he had been an electrician in No 3 shaft. "He was a damned good worker. He loved his work and he wasn't afraid," Mr Henderson said.

Mrs Henderson told a neighbour yesterday morning that her husband had seemed reluctant to go to work this week.

Sapa reports that the operation was made more difficult as there was no communication between the surface and the bottom of the shaft.

The accident happened at the number three shaft at a new development due to be completed by the end of next year.

The sinking of the No 3 shaft began in October 1975. Planned final depth is 2 225 m.

'Dis my werk', sê Saaiplaas-man

21

# Gered—en dadelik weer op sy pos

**GISTERAAND** om tienuur, toe die hysbakklokke by Welkom Saaiplaas-goudmyn begin lui om te waarsku dat die nagskof pad ondertoe is, was Wynand Venter, 42, op sy pos.

Die oggend nog was hy een van die 65 mynwerkers wat onder tonne rots in stikdonkerte op redding sit en wag het. Hy het die paniekbevange swart mynwerkers om hom help vasdruk en hulle gekalmeer.

disturbance has occurred

Heteropogon con

„Dis my werk Dit sal tog niks help om tuis te sit nie,” het hy gesê voordat hy, en die nuwe nagspan gisteraand opnuut ondertoe gerammel het.

Hy is 'n mynwerker van Virginia, met 'n vrou en dogtertjie tuis Laasnag, as sy hulp nodig sou wees, sou hy gaan help soek na sy drie makkers wat nog iewers onder die tonne rotse lê. Hulle het jare saamgewerk, vriende geword.

## Geen hoop

Daar is geen hoop dat die drie, John Fleming van Saaiplaas, Morgan Henderson van Virginia en Piet van der Berg, lewend gevind sal word nie. Nog net een lyk, dié van 'n swartman, is uit die rampskag gehaal. Tien ton erts

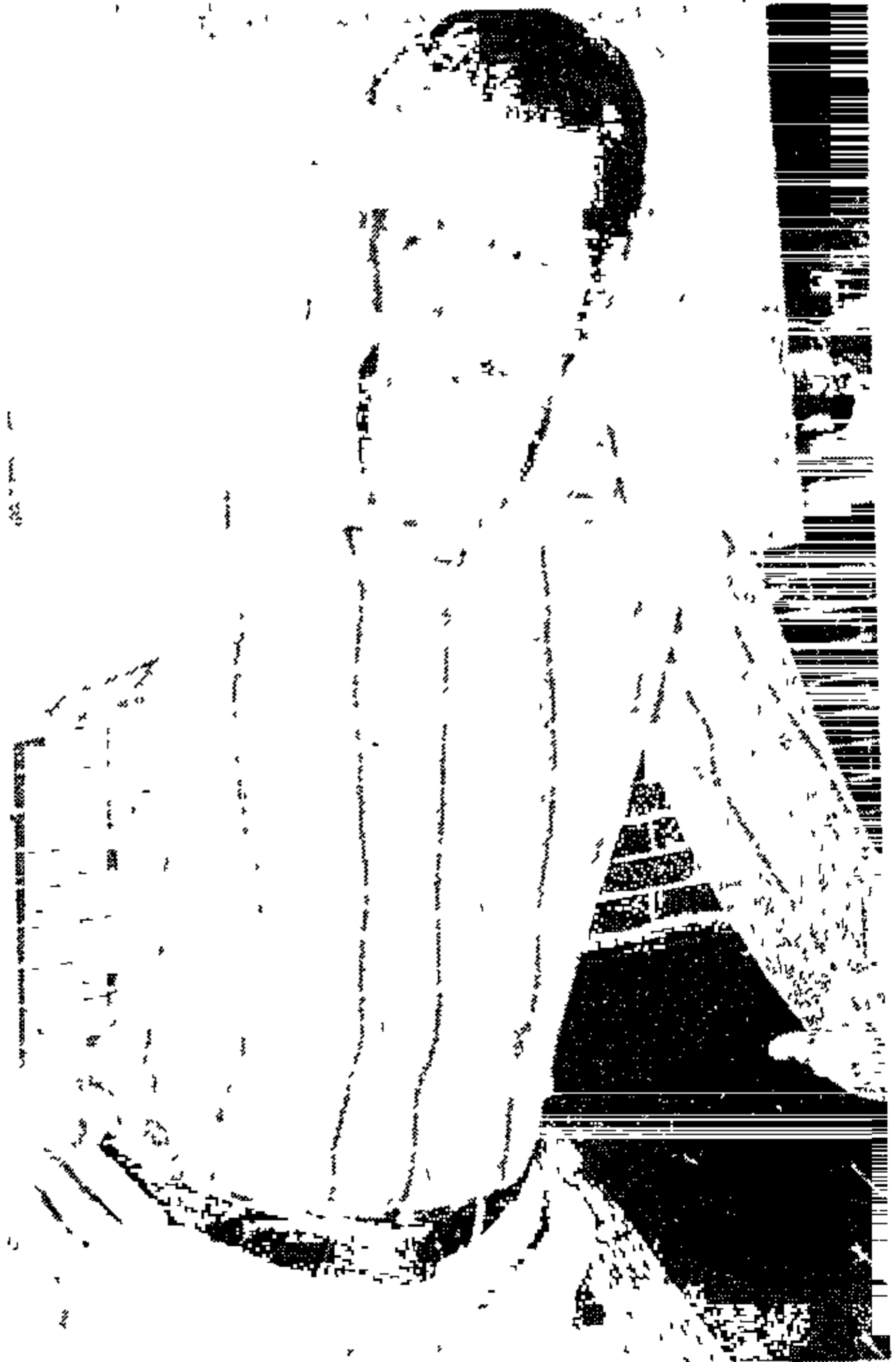
in 'n reusehysemmer het hulle van 'n hoogte van 1 600 meter getref toe die kabel breek.

Saam met Wynand Venter is 48 swartes twee blankes gered: D. Louw van Oendaalsrus en P. K. Schutte van Virginia. Veertien mynwerkers lê nog iewers onder die puin.

Dit kos tyd om die lyke uit te kry, sê mnr J. C. Eplett, mynbestuurder. Dit duur 'n uur voordat die hysbak onder kom en dit sal dae verg om al die lyke te bereik.

Mnr Venter het gister vertel hoedat hy en tien swart mynwerkers dertig uur lank in die donker op redding sit en wag het. „Van die swartes het paniekerig geraak en begin rondhardloop en skreeu. Ons het hulle vasgehou en hulle gekalmeer deur te sê dat ons baie gelukkig kan wees dat ons nie beseer is nie.

„Ek was self nooit paniekerig nie ek het geweet dat hulp sou opdaag. Die tyd het vir my wonderbaarlik gou verbygegaan. Vanaand gaan ek weer werk — dis tog my beroep. Bowendien het ek en die drie vermiste mans twee gelukkige jare saamgewerk en mekaar goed leer ken,” het hy gesê.



**MYNWERKER** Wynand Venter 'n Uur voor sy skof oor was, is hy en tien swartes dertig uur lank vasgekeer — maar gisteraand was hy weer terug in die myn

# Hope dims for 10 in mine

BY BARRY LEVY

THERE is little hope left of saving the remaining 10 Black miners buried under tons of rubble 1680 m down the No 3 shaft at Free State Saaplaas Mine.

The next attempt to free them is only expected to be made in "several days" because of the dangerous condition of the shaft.

Four mineworkers were killed and eight seriously injured when a nine-ton kibble - an ore bucket - plunged down the shaft early on Friday morning.

Mr Wynand Venter, who described his escape as a miracle, watched in horror as three of his colleagues standing near him were suddenly crushed by a heavy steel cable. All three died.

A distraught Mrs Joey Henderson told me tearfully: "I was shocked when I heard the news. I didn't know at first that my husband was one of the men trapped below. Only learnt 12 hours later that Morgan was dead."

The three dead White miners were Mr Morgan Henderson, 39, of Virginia, Mr Piet van der Berg, 33, of Welkom, and Mr John Fleming, of Saaplaas. They were all married and had children.

The alarm was given soon after the bucket cable snapped but the shaft, unstable after the huge kibble smashed down, stopped immediate rescue operations. Only seven hours later did rescue teams descend.

They returned five hours later with one seriously injured Black miner and two uninjured shaft sinkers.

The injured man was taken to hospital immediately and the rescue team went down again in a slow tandem shuttle - one above the other - and returned early yesterday morning with seven seriously injured Black workers and eight others, including Mr Venter.

A last shuttle at 5.30 yesterday morning returned with the body of a Black man and seven other injured workers.

Andre Rossi, (Angel)  
2 Akkerdal Avenue,  
NETLANDS, 7700.

Pierre André  
Ann Steinhilber  
3 Peacehaven,  
CSTUDIES DEGREES AND  
GARDENS, 8001.

- Baccalauréat  
Eleanor Twiss  
18 Lisane, Khâgne  
Main R6  
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13/10/77 1969-1970 : Un

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- 1971-1973 : West Chester State College, West Chester, Pa, U.S.A. (Assistant-  
(b) Coloured students  
- since 1974 : University of Cape Town, South Africa (Lecturer)  
- present position: Maître-Assistant (France)  
Assistant-Professor (U.S.A.)  
Lecturer (South Africa)

### (c) Indian students to: COURSES AND LECTURES GIVEN:

- Elementary and Intermediate French
- Elementary and Intermediate French by individualized methods
- French I, II, III (language and grammar)
- Prospective students should note that their applications for admission to courses of study at the University must be made separately on the appropriate application forms, and must be sent to the Registrar, University of Cape Town, Private Bag, Rondebosch, 7700. It is advisable that such applications be made as early as possible prior to the closing date which is indicated on the application forms.
- Stylistic exercises (graduate seminar)
- The 20th century French novel
- Survey of French 19th and 20th century literature
- Contemporary French theatre (Anouilh, Sartre, Beckett, Ionesco, Genet)
- French novel and cinema (seminar)
- André Gide: autobiography and the novel (seminar)
- formal lectures: \* Benjamin Constant - Adolphe  
\* François Mauriac - Thérèse Desqueyroux  
\* André Gide - Les Caves du Vatican  
\* André Gide - L'Immoraliste  
\* Jean-Paul Sartre - La Nausée  
\* Le Nouveau Roman

O. METCALF  
For Registrar

:sr

der Velde, (Patricia)  
Road, O. 437001  
7800. H. 717106

(Ann)  
ie, O. 531231  
ad, Ext. 567  
, 7700. H. 654477

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Four dead, 10 still missing as death mine rescuers battle debris hazard

# HOPPE ENDS FOR TRAPPED MINERS

Mr J. V. Eplett, manager of Free State Saaplaas mine, as he directed rescuers yesterday

Sun. Trib. 9/10/77

Tribune Reporter

(212)

THERE was no hope of any further survivors being brought to the surface at the Free State Saaplaas gold mine, the mine's management said in Virginia last night.

**'KIBBLE ROARED, AND THEN ALL WENT DARK'**

**Tribune Reporter**

HELPER shaft-sinker Mr Wynand Venter, rescued after 20 terrifying hours of darkness in the shaft of the disaster mine, yesterday described how the kibble roared past him before it smashed into the bottom of the shaft, leaving men dead and injured.

Ten men are still trapped at the bottom of the shaft while four bodies have already been recovered. The men were killed when a kibble — a large ore-carrying bucket — plunged to the bottom of the shaft on Friday.

Rescue teams who had brought 55 men to safety yesterday halted their search for the 10 missing mine workers because the bottom of the shaft had become too dangerous.

The mine management said: "After the rescue operation was completed a thorough reconnaissance was made in the No. 3 shaft which showed that there was no hope of any further survivors."

"Potentially dangerous conditions were present in the shaft. The management has decided that the only safe and practical method of recovering the

**SHAFT NOW TOO DANGEROUS FOR SEARCH TEAMS**

bodies of the personnel at the shaft bottom is to begin making the shaft safe, working from the top down. This operation is now being undertaken.

"We are still making every effort to recover the men, but at this stage rescue attempts are hampered by a mass of loose rubble at the bottom of the shaft," said Mr John Pank, chief Press officer for Anglo American.

Mr Pank said three bodies had still to be brought to the surface.

"An exploratory team is in the shaft now making sure that it is safe," he said. "The team which brought the body of a dead black mineworker to the surface and rescued eight other injured workers took a calculated risk in their operations, but we had to call a halt because it became too dangerous."

Names of three of the four men killed in the accident have so far been released.

They are: Mr J. J. Fleming of Tunstien Street, Saaplaas, Mr P. H. M. Henderson and Mr P. A. van den Berg. They were shaft-sinkers.

The 14-ton kibble plunged 900 metres to the bottom of the shaft, taking with it 1 000 metres of cable and a stage used for shaft sinking with which the kibble is thought to have collided on its way up the shaft.





*N-Mercury 10/10/77*  
**A hose  
was <sup>(212)</sup>  
lifeline  
to 40  
in mine**

**Mercury Correspondent**

**JOHANNESBURG** — Forty miners trapped at the bottom of No 3 shaft at the Free State Saaplaas gold mine were kept alive by air fed to them through a makeshift hose lowered by a shaftsinker 80m above

Mr Wynand Venter (42), working with 10 Africans at the 1 622m level, heard the screams of the men below as they realised their air supply had been severed by the fallen kibble which crushed 14 others

He shut off the damaged section of the air column, joined pieces of hose into an 80m length which he attached to the air feed at his level, and lowered it to the bottom of the shaft.

Recovery operations to reach the bodies of the 10 men given up for dead continued yesterday with a plan to clear the shaft by cutting the remaining rope hanging in the shaft. The death roll is 14

Four new kipples — ore-carrying buckets — are to be rigged to transport to the surface more than 200m of rope lying at the bottom of the shaft

Bodies are lying under rope and a recovery team will cut it away to free them

The body of Mr. Ha-

◆ TURN TO PAGE 2 ◆

**MINER Mr Ntja Seleso** who was brought to the surface on Saturday — "I didn't think I'd see the light of day again."

I heard what I describe as a loud zooming noise and realised that something was falling. It happened so fast I hardly had time to realise an accident was happening.

"The next thing there was a loud bang and the kibble hit the shaft — below us. The cable had snapped above us," Mr Venter said.

At the instant of the impact the mine lights went out on the upper level station where he and his crew were working.

## Hotter

And then the long wait — 20 hours — began.

Because the shaft's ventilation system was broken by the accident the mine started to heat up and Mr Venter said he and the 10 black mineworkers felt the atmosphere get hotter and hotter.

"I realised we were safe but that help would take a long time.

"At first the blacks panicked because they saw the guide lines for the kibble, and our life-line to the surface, were gone. But I pointed out to them that they were safe and uninjured and that help would come eventually.

"The first sign we had of a rescue was a light in the distance. We were jubilant when they arrived.

"After we came out of the shaft I washed because I was terribly dirty and then went home to bed.

"But first of all I phoned my wife, Anne. She cried on the telephone when I spoke to her."



Yesterday's picture — rescue workers wait at the shaft head for word from the men trying to reach the trapped miners and bring out bodies

# Hose lifeline

◆ FROM PAGE 1

Khtlane (27), a Lesotho citizen, was brought to the surface early on Saturday.

The eight injured miners who were taken to the Ernest Oppenheimer Hospital at Saaplans were in a satisfactory condition yesterday. They are Mr.

Ralibakiso Matsela, Mr. Lekhetho Rakhiba, Mr. Thabo Makoa, Mr. Boreli Mabote, Mr. Solomon Mashamba, Mr. Basso Nqhae, Mr. Thabiso Leraha and Mr. Khethang Sekobolo.

Mr. Venter was trapped for 26 hours, said he and his 10-man team were working on the 1 622m level when he heard "a tremendous 'ssshhh'ing." The winding rope snapped the seconds later, the kibble rushed past our level. "All we could see was sparks through the black smoke which filled the shaft when the kibble hit an oxy-acetylene cylinder."

"My workers began to panic when the lights went out. I made them lie on the floor and kept talking. I told them they were out of danger and must keep calm.

"I kept telling them how lucky they were. I said, 'Trust me - I'll get you out.'"

Mr. Venter ordered his men to put out their helmet lamps to save the batteries. Then he realised the air supply to the men below had been cut off and he fashioned his make-shift hose.

"The Blacks below were pinned down by the shattered stage, the kibble and the rope. They had to cut the steel structure away to free the injured and we could hear their screams," he said.

Mr. Venter also cut off the water supply to the bottom of the shaft because pipes below him were damaged and those at the bottom were in danger of drowning.

Mr. Piet Schutte (30), one of the three White survivors, was surrounded by screaming workers and the bodies of four of his team.

Mr. Schutte was standing in a recess when the kibble fell.

"Any later and I would've been dead - I was walking to the centre of the shaft," he said.

Another survivor, Mr. Ntja Seleso, said: "There was fire all over the shaft - I don't know how I got out of there. I thought I would not see the light of day again."

# 10 miners still buried: rescue battle goes on

212 RDM 10/10/77

STAFF REPORTERS

**R**ESCUE workers at the Free State Saaiplaas gold mine were last night battling to clear the damaged No 3 shaft before continuing the search for the bodies of 10 miners buried under 20 km of rope.

Mine officials decided to clear the shaft of broken ropes which snapped and dropped a 14-ton kibble on 65 miners, killing 14 about 900 m below.

Operations at the bottom were called off until the shaft could be made safe, but a team is expected to return to the bottom today to cut away the rope.

Mr Wynand Venter, 42, working with 10 Africans at the 1 622 m level, heard the screams of the men below as they realised their air supply had been severed by the fallen kibble.

He shut off the damaged section of the air column, joined pieces of hose into a 80 m length which he attached to the air feed at his level, and lowered it to the bottom of the shaft.

The body of Mr Hape Khutlane, 27, a Lesotho citizen, was brought to the surface early on Saturday. The names of three other dead miners were released at the weekend: They were Mr Johan Fleming, 26, Mr Morgan Henderson, 39, and Mr Piet van der Berg 33.

The eight injured miners who were taken to the Ernest Oppenheimer Hospital at Saaiplaas were in a satisfactory condition last night.

They are Mr Ralibakiso Matsela, Mr Lekhetho Rakhiba, Mr Thabo Makoa, Mr Boreli Mabote, Mr Solomon Mashamba, Mr Basso Nqhae, Mr Thabiso Leraha, and Mr Khethang Sekobole.

Mr Venter, who was on duty for 26 hours, said he and his 10-man team were equipping the 1 622m level when he heard "a tremendous sshh-ing". The winding ropes snapped and seconds later the kibble rushed past the level.

"All we could see was sparks through the black smoke which filled the shaft when the kibble hit an oxy-acetylene cylinder," he said.

"Forty miners trapped at the bottom of the shaft were kept alive by air fed to them through a kibble lift hose lowered by shaftsucker."

Mr Venter began to panic when the lights went

out. I made them get on the floor and kept talking. I told them they were out of danger and must keep calm and still. "I kept telling them how lucky they were I said: 'Trust me—I'll get you out safe.'"

Mr Venter ordered his men to put out their helmet lamps to save the batteries. Then he realised the air supply to the men below had been cut off and he fashioned his makeshift hose.

"The blacks below were pinned down by the shattered stage, the kibble and rope. They had to cut the steel structure away to free the injured. We could hear their screams," he said.

Mr Venter said his wife, Annie, knew he was safe. "I contacted her telepathically." I sat down and concentrated on telling her I was safe. You develop this sense when you've been married 24 years."

Mr Venter also cut off the water supply to the bottom of the shaft because pipes below him were damaged and the men below were in danger of drowning.

Communications with the shafthead were also cut off and contact was re-established only when the first rescue kibble reached the area at 5 pm on Friday, with a telephone cable tied to its winding rope.

Another survivor, Mr Ntja Seleso, said: "There was fire all over the shaft. I don't know how I got out."



A medical team gives emergency aid to an injured miner brought to the surface after more than a day underground.

# Mine disaster hero saves trapped men

*D. Disp. 10/10/77 (212)*

VIRGINIA — A hero has emerged from the disaster at the Free State Saaiplaas gold mine in which 14 men died.

Forty miners trapped at the bottom of No 3 shaft after a kibble — a large ore-carrying bucket — plunged to the bottom of the shaft after its cable snapped, were kept alive by air fed to them through a makeshift hose lowered by a shaft sinker 80 m above.

Mr Wynand Venter, 42, working with 10 men at the 1 622 m level, heard the screams of the men below as they realised their air supply had been severed by the fallen kibble.

He shut off the damaged section of the air column, joined pieces of hose into an 80 m length which he

attached to the air feed at his level, and lowered it to the bottom of the shaft.

Recovery operations to reach the bodies of the 10 men given up for dead continued yesterday with a plan to clear the shaft.

Four new kibbles are to be re-rigged to transport to the surface the more than 20 km of rope lying at the bottom of the shaft. The bodies are lying underneath the rope and a recovery team will cut it away to reach them.

The body of Mr Hape Khtlane, 27, a Lesotho citizen, was brought to the surface early on Saturday. The names of three other dead miners released at the weekend were Mr John Fleming, 26, Mr Mogan Hendeson, 39, and Mr Piet van der Berg, 33. All were married.

Mr Venter, who was trapped for 26 hours, said he and his 10-man team were equipping the 1 622 m level when he heard a "ssshh-ing" noise. The winding ropes snapped and seconds later the kibble rushed passed the level.

"All we could see was sparks through the black smoke which filled the shaft when the kibble hit an oxy-acetylene cylinder. My workers began to panic when the lights went out. I made then lie on the floor and kept talking."

Mr Venter ordered his men to put out their helmet lamps to save the batteries. Then he realised the air supply to the men below had been cut off and he fashioned his makeshift hose.

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(212) ROM 12/10/77

ROM 12/10/77

## Mine dead may be got out today

RECOVERY teams at the Saaiplaas Gold Mine, where scores of workers were trapped last week, hope to start today on bringing out the bodies of the 10 men they think are crushed at the bottom of the shaft.

A spokesman for Anglo American, the mine's owners said yesterday ventilation had been restored to the stricken number three shaft

"Work is now proceeding and will continue through the night to fix guide ropes for kibles to enable a quicker rate of descent and ascent in the shaft," a statement said.

"Work on clearing the debris at the bottom of the shaft and recovering the bodies of the 10 black miners still trapped is expected to start tomorrow morning," it added

The bodies of four men were brought to the surface soon after the accident in which a kibble, a bucket-like container which was hoisting about 14 tons, broke loose and fell to the bottom of the shaft. — Sapa.

# Coronation Syndicate

LIMITED

INCORPORATED IN THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

## Report of the Directors for the Quarter ended 30 September 1977

(Subject to Audit)

ISSUED CAPITAL R15 000 000 DIVIDED INTO 6 000 000 SHARES OF 25 CENTS EACH FULLY PAID

### OPERATING RESULTS OF THE SUBSIDIARY COMPANY CORSYN CONSOLIDATED MINES LIMITED

MINE	ARCTURUS		MASHONA KOP		MAZOE		MURIEL		INYATI	
	30 Sep 1977	30 June 1977	30 Sept 1977	30 June 1977	30 Sept 1977	30 June 1977	30 Sept 1977	30 June 1977	30 Sept 1977	30 June 1977
Tons milled (000 s)	23	21	25	22	31	33	17	16	66	82
Working costs per ton milled R	22.40	22.85	18.03	18.25	16.00	15.96	19.97	20.03	26.52	18.78
<b>PRODUCTION</b>										
Gold (kg)	172	165	15	15	179	172	169	170	22	29
Copper (t)	-	-	-	-	-	-	108	114	1035	1224
<b>PRIMARY DEVELOPMENT</b>										
Advanced (m)	830	1087	60	60	901	896	674	668	1729	1819
Sampled (m)	345	366	32	118	512	600	373	252	591	589
Payable (m)	131	40	16	14	168	318	183	138	413	359
Payable (t)	38.9	45.8	3.3	11.8	26.7	48.2	49.3	53.8	69.9	63.0
Grade (g ton <sup>-1</sup> )	16.7	18.2	49.5	8.1	7.6	22.0	17.7	16.3	2.74	3.03
Width (cm)	2.3	2.29	2.00	97	61	101	126	105	161	164
Shaft sinking (m)	49.2	21.6	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	105	120

MINE	MINES WORKING PROFIT (R000 s)			CAPITAL EXPENDITURE (R000 s)		
	QUARTER ENDED		FINANCIAL YEAR 12 MONTHS TO	QUARTER ENDED		FINANCIAL YEAR 12 MONTHS TO
	30/9/77	30/6/77	30/9/77	30/9/77	30/6/77	30/9/77
Arcturus	155	163	746	70	25	158
Mashona Kop	12	10	88	23	1	34
Mazoe	207	157	574	145	15	241
Muriel	356	353	1267	37	22	55
Inyati	(337)	70	(677)	105	109	735
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>393</b>	<b>753</b>	<b>1930</b>	<b>470</b>	<b>232</b>	<b>1264</b>
<b>PROFIT FROM MINING</b>	<b>290</b>	<b>639</b>	<b>1546</b>			
Other income (expenditure) (Note 6)	103	2	30			
Interest payable	(39)	45	(158)			
<b>PROFIT BEFORE TAXATION</b>	<b>148</b>	<b>596</b>	<b>1300</b>			
Taxation	-	-	-			
<b>PROFIT AFTER TAXATION</b>	<b>148</b>	<b>596</b>	<b>1300</b>			
<b>DIVIDEND DECLARED TO THE HOLDING COMPANY</b>	-	-	-			

#### NOTES

- Mines working profit is after adjustment from final cuttings in respect of outputs produced prior to the relevant period
- All development results are unreduced. Adjustments necessary before assessing ore reserves have not been made
- Rhodesian currency has been converted at R\$ 1 = R1.34
- Capital expenditure at Mazoe Mine in the quarter ended 30/9/77 includes capital expenditure for the full year of R124 000 on the Bernheim Project which now forms part of the Mazoe Mine complex
- In addition to the capital expenditure on the mines shown above R101 000 was incurred during the year on the Viceroy Project and R127 000 on the Ayrshire Project. The option over the Ayrshire claims has been abandoned
- An amount of R98 000 has been provided for possible obsolete stores held at the mines
- As previously announced the milling rate at Inyati was reduced during the quarter

### OPERATING RESULTS OF THE COMPANY

	QUARTER ENDED		FINANCIAL YEAR 12 MONTHS TO
	30/9/1977 (R000 s)	30/6/1977 (R000 s)	30/9/1977 (R000 s)
Dividends received - subsidiary	-	-	-
Less Non residents shareholders' tax - subsidiary	-	-	-
Interest received - subsidiary	31	31	124
- other	36	35	141
Expenditure - net	(35)	(30)	(120)
<b>NET PROFIT</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>145</b>
Dividends declared	150	-	150

#### NOTES

- No provision for taxation has been made as the company has a computed tax loss
- Dividend No 43 of 2.5 cents per share declared on 14 October 1977 is payable to shareholders registered on 28 October 1977.

For and on behalf of the board:  
S. C. NEWMAN | Directors  
R. A. LEE

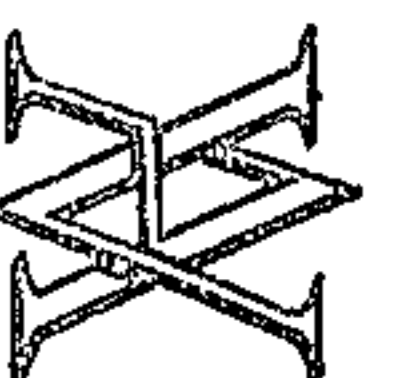
Johannesburg  
17 October 1977

# ANGLOVAAL GROUP

Quarter ended 30 September 1977

All companies mentioned are incorporated in the Republic of South Africa. All financial figures for the quarter and progressive figures for the current year to date, including those of Loraine Gold Mines Limited are unaudited. Development results given are the actual sampling results. No allowance has been made for adjustments necessary in the valuation of the corresponding ore reserves. Shareholders requiring copies of these reports regularly each quarter, should write to the Transfer Secretaries, 56 Main Street Johannesburg 2001 (P.O. Box 62379 Marshalltown, 2107).

RDM 19/10/77



## Preston Copper Mines (Proprietary) Ltd.

Issued capital 1,500,000 shares of 50 cents each

	Quarter ended 30 Sept 1977	Quarter ended 30 June 1977	Financial year ended 30 June 1977
Operating results			
Ore milled	703 000	689 000	2 744 000
Concentrates produced			
Copper	29 425	28 993	114 394
Zinc	34 857	30 169	129 860
Concentrates despatched			
Copper	21 444	24 341	119 994
Zinc	28 645	40 035	144 190
Financial results			
Operating profit	R000 183	R000 2 407	R000 16 089
Non-mining income	156	674	1 163
Major paid stores adjustment and other expenses	339	3 081	17 252
Net (loss) profit	702	1 351	3 585
Loan repayments	(363)	1 730	13 667
Development	47	1 644	4 742
Advanced	804	2 870	5 015
	851	4 514	9 757
Development	m 7 433	6 594	26 460
Advanced			

Expenses, which vary from quarter to quarter are brought to account at their estimated actual value. Operating profit takes into account adjustments following final price determination on concentrates made during previous quarters.

Taxation  
No taxation was payable as the Company has an assessed loss.

Capital expenditure

Outstanding commitments at 30 September 1977 are estimated at R779 000 (30 June 1977, R895 000).

## Hartebeestfontein Gold Mining Co. Ltd.

Issued capital 11 200 000 shares of R1 each

Planned operations for year ending 30 June 1978

Ore milled 2 900 000 t  
Yield 11.0 g/t

	Quarter ended 30 Sept 1977	Quarter ended 30 June 1977	Financial year ended 30 June 1977
Operating results			
Gold			
Ore milled	776 000	719 000	2 830 000
Gold recovered	8 535.38	7 909.33	31 974.17
Yield	11.0	11.0	11.3
Revenue	45.15	42.45	39.24
Costs	28.44	26.10	25.91
Profit	16.71	16.35	13.33
Revenue	35 037	30 518	111 049
Costs	22 072	18 764	73 314
Profit	12 965	11 754	37 735
Uranium oxide			
Pulp treated	776 000	725 000	2 865 000
Oxide produced	90 440	102 921	369 308
Yield	0.12	0.14	0.13
Financial results			
Working profit — gold mining	R000 12 965	R000 11 754	R000 37 735
Profit from sales of uranium oxide and pyrite	2 318	1 501	4 424
Non-mining income	757	1 018	2 665
Interest paid, stores adjustment and service benefits	16 040	14 273	44 824
	15	794	895
Profit before taxation and State's share of profit	16 025	13 479	43 989
Taxation and State's share of profit	7 988	6 460	20 828
Profit after taxation and State's share of profit	8 037	7 019	23 140
Capital expenditure	2 462	2 642	7 371
Loan repayments	67	67	268
Dividends	—	7 840	15 120
	2 529	10 549	22 749
State loan levy	834	717	2 277

## Consolidated Murchison Ltd. — continued

Financial  
The revenue from the sale of primary concentrates brought to account each quarter is based on actual shipments made which can vary considerably from quarter to quarter. Due to a determination of the primary market, sales for the fourth quarter will be significantly lower.

Dividend  
Interim dividend No. 65 of 20 cents per share declared in June 1977 was paid in August 1977.

### Capital expenditure

Capital expenditure inclusive of prospecting and investigations for the year end 31 December 1977 is estimated at R2 200 000. Outstanding commitments at 30 September 1977 are estimated at R1 690 000 (30 June 1977 R1 060 000).

## Lorraine Gold Mines, Ltd.

Issued capital 16 366 936 shares of R1 each

Planned operations for year ending 30 September 1978

Ore milled 1 300 000 t  
Yield 6.5 g/t

	Quarter ended 30 Sept 1977	Quarter ended 30 June 1977	Financial year ended 30 Sept 1977
Operating results			
Gold			
Ore milled	323 000	305 000	1 234 000
Gold recovered	2 028.96	2 059.46	8 264.67
Yield	6.3	6.8	6.7
Revenue	26.63	27.57	25.68
Costs	28.81	29.06	27.25
Profit	2.17	1.49	1.57
Revenue	8 603	8 410	31 696
Costs	9 305	8 863	33 632
Loss	702	453	1 936
Financial results			
Working loss — gold mining	R000 702	R000 453	R000 1 936
State assistance	1 284	955	4 245
Profit from sales of uranium oxide and pyrite	88	15	221
Non-mining income	125	124	421
	795	641	2 961
Stores adjustment, employee service benefits and raising of mine dumps	384	—	384



# Eastern Transvaal Consolidated Mines, Ltd.

43 6 878 shares of 50 cents each  
 6 301  
 64 g/t

Quarterly results  
 Quarter ended 30 June 1978  
 Quarter ended 30 June 1977  
 Financial year ended 30 June 1977

Operating results	Quarter ended 30 June 1978	Quarter ended 30 June 1977	Financial year ended 30 June 1977
Revenue	83 500	85 100	331 500
Costs	54 923	56 858	2 180 399
Profit	28 577	28 242	1 131 101
Profit per share	6 4	6 7	2 101 310
Dividend	24 68	26 22	6 6
Dividend per share	5 8	5 2	23 02
Retention	3 89	16 70	16 68
Retention per share	0 9	3 3	0 34
Reserves	2 135	2 231	7 632
Reserves per share	0 4	0 4	1 531
Dividend cover	1 461	1 421	5 531
Dividend cover per share	3 5	3 5	2 101

Financial results  
 Revenue  
 Costs  
 Profit  
 Profit per share  
 Dividend  
 Dividend per share  
 Retention  
 Retention per share  
 Reserves  
 Reserves per share  
 Dividend cover  
 Dividend cover per share

Revenue	710	940	2 411
Costs	40	70	131
Profit	670	870	2 280
Profit per share	274	228	586
Dividend	396	642	1 694
Dividend per share	89	204	598
Retention	—	863	1 079
Retention per share	—	—	—
Reserves	89	1 067	1 677
Reserves per share	41	33	86

Development  
 Advanced  
 Channel width  
 Channel value

Advanced	1 365	1 353	5 455
Channel width	868	1 022	4 180
Channel value	179	175	171
Channel value	331	141	95
Channel value	5 915	2 459	1 617

State assistance  
 The Company remains classified as an assisted mine in terms of the Gold Mines Assistance Act 1968  
 Dividend  
 Final dividend No 54 of 20 cents per share declared in June 1977 was paid in August 1977  
 Capital expenditure  
 Capital expenditure for the year ending 30 June 1978 is estimated at R650 000  
 Outstanding commitments at 30 September 1977 are estimated at R59 000 (30 June 1977 R44 000)

Development  
 Advanced  
 Sampling results on Vaal reef  
 Channel width  
 Channel value — gold  
 — uranium oxide

Advanced	11 484	10 002	40 498
Channel width	1 880	1 246	6 200
Channel value — gold	52	56	53
Channel value — uranium oxide	335	283	313
Channel value	1 729	1 582	1 652
Channel value	0 55	0 49	0 51
Channel value	28 66	27 45	25 91

Dividend  
 Final dividend No 43 of 70 cents per share declared in June 1977 was paid in August 1977  
 Capital expenditure  
 Capital expenditure for the year ending 30 June 1978 is estimated at R15 000 000 (previously R9 000 000)  
 Outstanding commitments at 30 September 1977 are estimated at R10 085 000 (30 June 1977 R755 000)

## Consolidated Murchison Ltd.

Issued capital 4 160 000 shares of 10 cents each

Operating results	Quarter ended 30 Sept 1977	Quarter ended 30 June 1977	9 months ended 30 Sept 1977
Ore milled	187 500	163 100	501 300
Antimony concentrates plus cobbed ore	6 110	4 867	15 405
Antimony concentrates plus cobbed ore shipped	4 765	5 012	13 435

Financial results  
 Sales of antimony concentrates less realisation charges  
 Gold and silver sales  
 Sundry mining income  
 Working costs  
 Working profit  
 Interest received less paid  
 Finance charges and scheme rebates and sundry non-mining income  
 Prospecting and investigations  
 Profit before taxation  
 Taxation  
 Profit after taxation  
 Capital expenditure  
 Dividend  
 State loan levy

Sales of antimony concentrates less realisation charges	4 598	5 413	3 955
Gold and silver sales	126	52	239
Sundry mining income	9	27	44
Working costs	4 733	5 492	14 236
Working profit	3 836	3 689	10 820
Interest received less paid	897	1 903	3 413
Finance charges and scheme rebates and sundry non-mining income	39	53	176
Prospecting and investigations	936	2 330	3 968
Profit before taxation	18	82	120
Taxation	918	2 248	3 848
Profit after taxation	292	435	727
Capital expenditure	626	1 813	3 121
Dividend	353	554	1 778
State loan levy	363	832	832
State loan levy	40	1 386	2 610
State loan levy	—	61	101

## Development

Advanced	3 771	3 335	12 926
Channel width	110	185	438
Channel value	43	54	50
Channel value	8 2	27 9	21 9
Channel value	353	1 514	1 086

Basal reef  
 Sampled  
 Channel width  
 Channel value  
 Esburg reefs  
 Sampled  
 Channel width  
 Channel value  
 Total — all reefs  
 Sampled  
 Channel width  
 Channel value

Basal reef	416	438	1 204
Channel width	9	10	9
Channel value	67 0	69 2	64 6
Esburg reefs	597	699	607
Channel width	292	380	1 314
Channel value	117	101	114
Channel value	7 0	6 4	8 7
Channel value	818	649	990
Total — all reefs	818	974	2 956
Sampled	52	54	62
Channel width	12 4	15 5	13 7
Channel value	643	835	848

Taxation  
 No taxation or State share of profit was payable as the Company has assessed losses  
 Capital expenditure  
 Capital expenditure for the year ending 30 September 1978 is estimated at R1 100 000  
 Outstanding commitments at 30 September 1977 are estimated at R57 000 (30 June 1977 R441 000)

No 3 shaft  
 Ecuiping of the former upcast compartment and commissioning of the 2 500 kW motor for rock hoisting were completed  
 Ore reserve  
 The ore reserve at 30 September 1977 was estimated as follows

Tonnage	1 448 000	499 000	315 000	2 262 000
Stopping width	128	100	85	113
Value	13 2	11 5	12 1	12 6
Value	1 688	1 144	1 029	1 430

\* Not included in the above are four massive bodies of ore estimated to contain a total of 583 000 tons at an average value of 9 7 grams per ton.  
 The above ore reserve is based on an estimated gold revenue of R4 054 per kilogram (equivalent to about US\$145 per ounce).  
 These reports have been approved by the directors of the respective companies and in each case have been signed on their behalf by two of the directors  
 19 October 1977.

KDM 19/10/77  
 (212)

# Johannesburg Consolidated Investment Group

(All companies mentioned are incorporated in the Republic of South Africa)

MINING COMPANIES' REPORTS FOR THE QUARTER ENDED 30TH SEPTEMBER, 1977 WITH COMPARATIVE FIGURES FOR THE PREVIOUS QUARTER

## Western Areas

Western Areas Gold Mining Company Limited  
 Issued Capital R40 306 950  
 (Divided into 40 306 950 units of stock of R1 each)

	Quarter ended		Nine months ended	
	30 9 77	30 6 77	30 9 77	30 9 77
Ore milled — tons	30 977	879 000	2 566 000	15 602
Gold produced — kilograms	1 000 000	5 274	6 000	6,1
Yield — grams per ton	6 000	6,0	6,0	6,1
Total revenue — per ton milled	R28,64	R24,70	R24,83	R21,86
Working cost — per ton milled	R20,20	R21,80	R21,86	R21,86
Operating profit — per ton milled	R8,44	R2,90	R2,97	R2,97

## FINANCIAL RESULTS (R000's)

Revenue from gold	R23 484	R20 937	R60 196
Working costs	20 204	19 161	56 090
Working profit	3 280	1 776	4 106
Sundry revenue	154	778	3 529
Operating profit	3 434	2 554	7 635
Net interest receivable	165	119	410
Profit before taxation	3 599	2 673	8 045
Taxation	240	210	1 185
Profit	R3 359	R2 463	R6 860
Capital expenditure	R1 834	R1 254	R4 486
Loan levy	R30	R30	R175
Dividend declared	Nil	R2 418	R2 418

Note: The working costs for this quarter have been adjusted by R1 235 000 to take into account the direct costs of establishing the surface stockpile.

## DEVELOPMENT

Nine months

## Randfontein Estates

The Randfontein Estates Gold Mining Company, Witwatersrand, Limited  
 Issued Capital R10 827 106  
 (Divided into 5 413 553 shares of R2 each, fully paid)

	Quarter ended		Nine months ended	
	30 9 77	30 6 77	30 9 77	30 9 77
Ore milled — tons	297 000	278 000	819 000	15,8
Gold produced — kilograms	4 455	4 226	12 927	15,8
Yield — grams per ton	15,0	15,2	15,8	15,8
Total revenue — per ton milled	R58,64	R59,42	R60,55	R20,76
Working cost — per ton milled	R21,09	R20,79	R20,76	R20,76
Operating profit — per ton milled	R37,55	R38,63	R39,79	R39,79

## FINANCIAL RESULTS (R000's)

Revenue from gold	R17 274	R16 401	R49 189
Working costs	6 265	5 780	17 005
Working profit	11 009	10 621	32 184
Tribute revenue	7	12	29
Net sundry revenue	136	107	376
Operating profit	11 152	10 740	32 589
Net interest receivable	300	279	1 082
Profit	R11 452	R11 019	R33 621
Capital expenditure	R38 385	R28 796	R75 920
Dividend declared	Nil	R8 120	R8 120

Note: A provision for taxation is not required as the company has an estimated loss for tax purposes

## DEVELOPMENT

A total of 6 335 metres was advanced during the quarter (4 216 metres) bringing the total advanced for the year to 14 329 metres

## SAMPLING RESULTS:

UEIA REEF

## Randfontein Estates continued

### CAPITAL EXPENDITURE

Net expenditure on mining assets during the quarter amounted to R38 385 000 bringing the total net capital expenditure at 30th September, 1977 to R190 228 000. This includes expenditure at Cooke Section amounting to R31 150 000 bringing the total expenditure to date at that Section to R146 551 000. At 30th September, 1977 there were capital commitments amounting to R14 600 000.

For and on behalf of the board,  
 B A SMITH  
 F J L WELLS  
 Directors

## Elsburg

Elsburg Gold Mining Company Limited  
 Issued Capital, R30 203 000  
 (Divided into 30 203 000 units of stock of R1 each)

## RESULTS FOR THE QUARTER ENDED 30.9.77

Stockholders are advised to study the operational results published by Western Areas Gold Mining Company Limited.

DIVIDEND DECLARED (R000's)	Quarter ended		Nine months ended	
	30 9 77	30 6 77	30 9 77	30 9 77
	Nil	R1 178	R1 178	R1 178

For and on behalf of the board,  
 P A VON WIELLIGH  
 F. J. L. WELLS  
 Directors

	30 9 77	30 6 77	30 9 77
Advanced — metres	10 139	8 814	24 151
Sampled — metres	1 461	1 023	3 204
Channel width — centimetres	168	169	166
Av. value — grams per ton	6,7	8,2	7,7
— centimetre grams per ton	1 126	1 386	1 278

## SAMPLING RESULTS: INDIVIDUAL REEFS

	Quarter ended 30 9 77				Quarter ended 30 6 77			
	Total All Reefs	Venters- dorp Contact Reef	Elsburg Massive Reefs	Elsburg Indivi- dual Reefs	Total All Reefs	Venters dorp Contact Reef	Elsburg Massive Reefs	Elsburg Indivi- dual Reefs
Sampled — metres	1 461	12	813	636	1 023	12	405	606
Width — centimetres	168	109	181	152	169	187	193	152
Value — grams per ton	6,7	4,2	6,5	7,0	8,2	7,3	8,4	8,0
— centimetre grams per ton . . .	1 126	458	1 177	1 064	1 386	1 365	1 621	1 216

The values shown in the tabulation are the actual results of sampling development work on reef. No allowance has been made for modifications which may be necessary when computing ore reserves.

## DEVELOPMENT TO S.V. 3 SHAFT

Although operations continued to be hampered by the process of sealing off water-bearing fissures that were intersected during development towards the proposed S V 3 Shaft some progress was made and an advance of 33 metres was achieved during the quarter. Progress to date in all ends now totals 1 796 metres.

## 11 SHIFT FORTNIGHT

The increased level of production is attributable primarily to the availability of additional black labour and to the voluntary working on the "twelfth shift". The necessity for working this overtime has however resulted in increased labour costs.

## EXPLORATION

Exploratory drilling from underground to ascertain the potential of the Middle Elsburg Reefs continued during the quarter. Boreholes in the 36 — 12 West Haulage North, 48 — 6 West Haulage West, 52 Haulage West and 55 — 8 West Crosscut North are still in the course of being drilled and consequently no results became available during the quarter.

## UNDERGROUND FIRES

As a consequence of the unrealistically high cost of renewing its loss of revenue insurance cover the mine was forced to explore ways and means of reducing its vulnerability to underground fires. Ongoing precautions include, inter alia, measures to establish independent ventilation districts which will limit the extent of any loss that may be sustained to that district and also the installation of an automatic early fire detection warning system. A revised loss of revenue insurance cover, considered relevant to the changed circumstances, has been obtained at a considerable saving in premiums.

## REDUCTION PLANTS

Operations have largely been restored to normal but underground production continued to exceed the capacity of the plants and a further 47 000 tons of broken ore were stockpiled on surface during the quarter.

## CAPITAL EXPENDITURE

Net expenditure on mining assets during the quarter amounted to R1 834 000 with other capital expenditure during the quarter amounting to R30 000, bringing the total net expenditure on capital account at 30th September, 1977 to R226 800 000. At 30th September 1977, there were capital commitments amounting to R836 000.

For and on behalf of the board,  
P.A. VON WIELLIGH  
F. J. L. WELLS *Directors*

	Quarter ended		Nine months ended
	30 9 77	30 6 77	30 9 77
Sampled — metres	1 014	801	2 997
Channel width — centimetres	132	145	140
Gold			
Av value — grams per ton	17,2	15,5	16,8
— centimetre grams per ton	2 270	2 248	2 352
Uranium			
Av value — kilograms per ton	0,260	0,244	0,259
— centimetre kilograms per ton	34,32	35,38	36,26

## AREA RESULTS:

### UEIA REEF

	Quarter ended 30 9 77		Quarter ended 30 6 77	
	Cooke No 1 Shaft	Cooke No 2 Shaft	Cooke No 1 Shaft	Cooke No 2 Shaft
Sampled — metres	714	300	501	300
Channel width — centimetres	144	104	139	154
Gold				
Av value — grams per ton	15,4	23,5	16,5	14,0
— centimetre grams per ton	2 218	2 444	2 294	2 156
Uranium				
Av value — kilograms per ton	0,202	0,451	0,169	0,360
— centimetre kilograms per ton	29,09	46,90	23,49	55,44

### Notes

1 In addition to the above, development at the Cooke No 2 shaft on the E8 reef gave the following results

	Quarter ended	
	30 9 77	30 6 77
Sampled — metres	111	105
Channel width — centimetres	175	16
Gold		
Av. value — grams per ton	2,79	3,81
— centimetre grams per ton	488	600
Uranium		
Av value — kilograms per ton	0,200	0,200
— centimetre kilograms per ton	35,00	53,00

2 The values shown in the above tabulations are the actual results of sampling development work on reef. No allowance has been made for modifications which may be necessary when computing ore reserves.

## COOKE SECTION

Construction work on the new gold and uranium plant is proceeding according to schedule.

The erection of the permanent headgear at the Cooke No 2 ventilation shaft has commenced. Stopping operations in the Cooke No 2 Shaft area are building up and planned and 29 000 tons of broken ore, surplus to the capacity requirements of Millsite gold plant, were stockpiled at the new Cooke Plant.

## RANDFONTEIN SECTION

Commissioning of the Millsite uranium plant is still in progress and is expected to be completed in the December quarter.

Dewatering operations at the Ventilation shaft are on schedule and 16 level has now been exposed. Re-equipping of this level has commenced. Stopping operations on the White Reef horizon of the Bird Reefs are in progress and an additional 54 000 tons of broken ore have been stockpiled on surface at 16 shaft.

## LABOUR AND HOUSING

Increases in basic rates of pay were granted to all industry employees during the quarter under review.

The construction of 38 houses at Bhongweni township has been completed. Elanger hostel is now fully occupied as is a section of Emzini hostel.

The first phase of the building programme at the Finsbury and Robin Park townships has been substantially completed.

## 11 SHIFT FORTNIGHT

Production targets are being maintained as a result of the continuing availability of additional Black labour and the voluntary working of the twelfth shift, which has resulted in increased labour costs.

## URANIUM SALES

The commencement of uranium sales must await the completion of the commissioning of the Millsite uranium plant.

RDM 19/10/77

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# Duiker Exploration Limited

(INCORPORATED IN THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA)

## REPORT OF THE DIRECTORS FOR THE QUARTER ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 1977

Issued capital R3 906 444 divided into 11 161 269 shares of 35 cents each, fully paid

The unaudited results of the company and its subsidiaries for the quarter ended 30 September 1977 are set out below

	Quarter Ended 30/9/77	Quarter Ended 30/6/77	Financial year ended 30/9/77	
<b>OPERATIONS</b>				
Sales	(tons)	(tons)	(tons)	
Steam coal	558 688	623 502	2 392 398	
Blend coking coal	29 812	25 553	95 120	
Anthracite	111 091	115 003	452 532	
Asbestos	3 486	3 385	12 541	
<b>FINANCIAL RESULTS</b>				
<b>INCOME</b>	(R000's)	(R000's)	(R000's)	
Mining	2 617	3 001	12 079	
Less Amortisation of mining assets	447	387	1 540	
Other	2170	2 614	10 539	
	305	486	1 438	
<b>NET INCOME BEFORE TAXATION</b>	<b>2 475</b>	<b>3 100</b>	<b>11 977</b>	
<b>TAXATION</b>	<b>688</b>	<b>1 363</b>	<b>4 892</b>	
<b>INCOME AFTER TAXATION</b>	<b>1 787</b>	<b>1 737</b>	<b>7 085</b>	
Minorities	14	17	31	
<b>Income attributable to shareholders in Duiker Exploration Limited</b>	<b>1 773</b>	<b>1 720</b>	<b>7 054</b>	
Loan Levy - Provision	(R000's)	115	122	567
Capital Expenditure	(R000's)	2 026	1 112	5 234
No of shares in issue	(000's)	11 161	11 161	11 161
Earnings per share after amortisation and deferred taxation	(c)	15,9	16,4	63,2
Dividend No 16	(c)	—	—	22,5

**NOTES:**

- Dividend No 17 of 22,5 cents per share was declared on 14 October 1977, payable to shareholders registered on 28 October 1977
- Taxation includes normal and deferred taxation and the liability for taxation arising from the recoupment of capital expenditure allowances in Tweefontein United Collieries Limited and Witbank Consolidated Coal Mines Limited, which liability was assumed by Duiker in terms of the merger agreement. As the respective companies have not yet been assessed on this transaction the above liability and the corresponding taxation allowances have been estimated
- Quarry Interests**  
During the financial year the group's quarry interests in the Richards Bay area were amalgamated with those of Zulu Stone (Proprietary) Limited owned by Grinaker Holdings Limited and Murray and Stewart (Quarries) (Proprietary) Limited. Richards Bay Quarries (Proprietary) Limited has now become the holding company of these quarry interests with Murray and Stewart and Duiker Exploration each holding a 25 per cent interest and Grinaker the remaining 50 per cent interest. By rationalising these activities and operating both quarry companies under a single management there will be substantial savings in operating costs with obvious benefits to all parties
- South African Iron & Steel Industrial Corporation Limited (ISCOR)**  
Shareholders' attention is drawn to the published announcement dated 7 October 1977 by which they were informed of the cancellation by the company of the contract to supply coal from the No 5 seam on the farm Vlaklaagte to ISCOR and that the company was taking legal action to recover amounts payable in terms of the contract and any damages suffered by it. The unaudited results for the financial year ending 30 September 1977 presented above include the following amounts which have been invoiced but remain unpaid by ISCOR

INCOME	(R000's)
Mining	848
Other	255
	<u>1 103</u>

In addition, an amount of R344 000 which has been invoiced in respect of capital expenditure remains unpaid

For and of behalf of the board:  
R. A. LEE | Directors  
M. M. NEL

Johannesburg  
17 October 1977

RAM 25/10/77 (212)

## Tunnel collapses at

### Randfontein mine

PART OF the roof of a tunnel on the 48th level of the Western Areas Gold Mine at Randfontein collapsed yesterday afternoon as a result of a ground movement, a spokesman said. It was not known whether any miners were trapped by the fall but rescue teams were digging through the rubble to find out, the spokesman said — Sapa.

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# Miner killed, 7 injured

CT 25/10/77

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JOHANNESBURG — One miner was killed and seven injured, one of them seriously, at the Western Areas gold mine at Randfontein yesterday afternoon, a spokesman for JCI said here last night. He said all workers at the mine had been accounted for after the accident, in which part of the roof of a haulageway on the 48th level of the mine collapsed as the result of ground movement.

Damage to the mine was not extensive, but production would be down by about a thousand tonnes of ore a day for a few days, the spokesman said — Sapa

RDM 26/10/77

Million up

(212)  
for Kloof

Staff Reporter

KLOOF gold mine near Westonaria is to receive the Chamber of Mines' Millionaire Shield on completion of a million accident-free shifts.

The announcement yesterday came only hours after the mine was presented with the C-shield, won recently for an improvement of 21% in accident-free shifts over a year. The Chamber handed it over at a special function.

The Millionaire Shield will be presented within the next few weeks.

# Mine fires

4/12/77 (212)

## cost R40m

By PAUL DIAMOND

FIRES continue to be the really costly underground hazard on our gold mines, losing the mines as much as R40-m a year.

This is equivalent to R2 a centare mined. The biggest hazard is of course the timber packs employed for roof support

During each working day, some 10 000 packs are prepared and sent underground, most of them are made entirely of timber. The timber industry is paid almost R48-m for the timber that it delivers to the mines each year, and the cost of this timber support to the mines is R2,40 a centare

Chamber of Mines experts have calculated that the cost of protecting every wooden pack with a complete glassfibre wrap would be equivalent to the present loss suffered through fire outbreaks, that is R40-m

Alternatively, an effective fire protection strategy involving wrapping only a quarter of the packs would increase the cost of roof support by only 15-20%

So the recommendations put forward, that will cut down costly fires and which will not cost the earth are

- The use of composite timber and concrete block backs and metal props,
- To apply protection to every all-timber pack,
- and To have a no-litter situation underground and to provide fire barriers in the stopes



# GOLD AND SAFETY IN '78

## Public Enemy

# No. 1 will be FOG in gullies

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*Mining News 16/12/77*

Staff Reporter  
**JOHANNESBURG**

"The importance of this one selected area, falls of ground in gullies, will again be the focal point of the safety programme for gold mines in 1978," says the Prevention of Accidents Committee.

The PAC announced the safety programme for gold and other mineral mines today, that for collieries will be made known later.

On gold mines, apart from the continuation of the present programme directed against falls of ground in gullies, the film "Dis die daad wat tel" will again be circulated.

In addition there will be a programme against transport accidents.

A slide film for team leaders on falls of ground in gullies is being produced as well as a slide series for Whites on drilling and blasting methods in gullies.

The Golden Gully Award for maintenance of good

conditions in gullies will be continued in 1978 - three awards will be made in each Underground Manager's section every four months.

Gold mines will be supplied with various publicity materials.

On other mineral mines the programme against transport accidents will be continued in 1978 and at the request of some of

these mines the question of falls of ground in gullies will also receive some attention.

Certain publicity materials in this connection (ear licence discs and three-dimensional notepads) will be made available.

The Surface Good Housekeeping Programme will continue on the same lines as in 1977.