

## Mine Disaster

Once again tragedy strikes a Whitehaven pit and the  
unhappy town is plunged in grief. ~~Its streets are~~  
deserted as fear and hope drag its inhabitants to the  
scene of the disaster, William Pit, oldest of the  
undersea collieries in the country.

One hundred and ~~seventeen~~ <sup>seventeen</sup> men ~~were~~ <sup>are</sup> known to be in the  
workings six hundred feet below the Solway Firth, when  
the explosion occurred. Ten only ~~were~~ <sup>are</sup> reported safe to  
the anxious, waiting people.

Sc 9.

Rescue teams race to Whitehaven from all over the North.

So great is the rush of volunteers that only one in  
every ten can be accepted. If a bright spot exists in  
this grim tragedy, ..it is the willingness of men to  
risk their lives for others. The rescuers face a near  
hopeless situation, for the haulage road is filled with  
poison gases and a hundred yards of fallen roof ~~has~~  
cut off the entombed men.

Sc 13

Onlookers watch the pithead winding gear ~~fixing~~  
~~and~~..and the message it brings confirms the  
darkest fears of all.

End of

Sc 26. Supports arrive to prop the sagging roof, beneath  
which rescue workers hew their way.. but effort is in vain.  
Only three men are found alive.

Sc 34. Lord Hyndley, Coal Board President, expresses  
national feeling as he thanks the rescue workers. All  
Britain grieves ~~for Whitehaven's three hundred orphans.~~  
~~for~~ Whitehaven's great loss )

( ~~for~~ Whitehaven's great loss )

3 after diagram

1 after STV  
equipment sent  
van.

SCU policeman

Pit prop arrive

Shaking hands.