

BELGIAN MINE FIRE TRAPS 260

They spoke in whispers outside bitter heart Colliery,
near Charleroi. The mine was on fire; more than 270
men were below. Rescue gangs were hurried to the main
20 shaft, ^{hastening} hurrying with no thought of danger to the aid of
their comrades cut off from escape, many of them more than
3,000-feet below the surface. Women tried hard to believe

35 ~~the news that the mine was on fire and that the men were
40 all dead and that the mine was on fire and that the men were
all dead and that the mine was on fire and that the men were~~

37 There was still hope. Quickly mobilised were hospital
staffs, on the scene some time before any injured miners
were brought up. The bodies of eight dead men were
50 recovered, ~~namely~~ all killed by suffocation, not burns. Seven ~~men~~ ^{men}
~~men~~ were rescued alive. // Soon after eight in the morning
60 a hopper bin, ^{of falls} fell down the shaft, short circuiting electric
wires and starting the fire.

80 After long hours at the pit head hope faded. It was
feared that this would be the worst mining disaster Belgium
had ever known.