

5/19.

BOY RESCUED.

All Australia holds its breath as volunteer mineworkers labour round the clock to rescue two-year-old Graham Davis from a borehole at Mandurah, near Perth. Vacuum cleaners are brought to help draw out the stale air and keep the boy alive.

Graham fell 25 feet down the borehole, and for a day and a night he is trapped there while the miners sink another shaft alongside, as fast as they dare, in an attempt to reach the child.

Every minute counts - but a single false move might cause a "rock fall" to crush the child - and entomb the rescue workers.

Oxygen tubes carry their life-giving gas to the bottom of the shaft. Ambulance men stand by, and water is lowered to the thirsty miners as they edge their way forward. Graham's father calls down to him: "It's all right, son - you'll be safe - you'll be out soon". Faintly the miners can hear the boy crying.

At last they're through - they reached the borehole - and a ladder is lowered into the shaft for the miners to bring up their precious load. Gently, from hand to hand, Graham is passed to the surface - bruised, dirty, shivering with cold - but alive.

On the board stretcher, little Graham reaches the waiting ambulance men - his life saved after 24 dreadful hours which held a nation in suspense.