

ON THIS DAY IN WEST VIRGINIA HISTORY DECEMBER 12



William E. Eubank, who commanded the National Guard force at the Battle of Blair Mountain, was born on December 12, 1880.

CSO: SS.8.7, SS.8.8, SS.8.24, SS.8.25, ELA.8.1

Investigate the Document: (Logan Coal Operators Association, Ms90-82)

1. How many miners were assumed killed according to the correspondence? To where did the miners retreat?
2. The Springfield rifles found in the Wilkinson Yard was the popular weapon of choice of many men, returning from what contemporary conflict?
3. Were explosive and gas bombs dropped via planes on the miners' location(s)?

Think Critically: What was the objective of the miners? Describe the working conditions that existed in the coalfields prior to unionization. Who were the key people involved in the development of labor in West Virginia? Mother Jones? Don Chafin? Bill Blizzard? Sid Hatfield? Baldwin-Felts Detectives? Describe life in company towns. What was coal scrip? What do you know about the immigrant and African American population in the southern coalfields? Think about what your decision would have been given the opportunity to unionize? You're just in your anger but does it outweigh the consequences of losing your job and losing your family's home?

September 2, 1921.

Report by Carl Dodge.

Commander Lt. Lilly.

1500 attacked Crooked Creek, about nine last night; opened up again at 7.45 this morning at head of Crooked Creek. I left 12.30 P. M. No casualties on our side. Estimate loss of fifty miners. Ammunition low. Been shooting all day. They retreated towards Hewett Creek. My address, Jefferson Hotel. We had about 300 men.

Rexlie. 11.45 A. M.
Crooked Creek Plane New D.
Between Lake and Syracuse Branch, four autos between Crooked Creek and are going back.

Headley 12.15 P. M. Plane Curtis D
Blair Nothing except 3 or 4 cross roads
Shapples Nothing
Lumber Creek 7 autos near left fork
Clothier Nothing
Jeffrey 15 or 20 between barracks and bridge through town
50 autos and trucks.

Madison: Few cars 10 more, one truck at Fort found coming toward Logan - Rock Creek to Hewitt, between Jeffrey and Hewitt 15 or 20 coming up each. 1/2 mile below Prussom branch - some men.

30 men 1 mile out of lake and up creek.
five trucks at lake and 25 or 30 men
two cars aboe lake going up.

10 Cars coming in to Darville from Racine.
21 Cars coming up Hewett Creek
7 Cars coming up Beach
200 Men at Clothier
300 Men at Ottawa
150 men at Mifflin
six or seven jundred men coming down the West Fork on foot from Bald Knob. Train on Pond Fork where West Fork meets, We cannot find the truck train No. 5 Block. 100 men in a coal car at the head of Beach. It is full of men, flat bottom car.

W. F. D.

Number of Springfield rifles found in Wilkinson Yard.
51408; 401234; 41994; 189490; 83361; 310380; 462717; 72103;
50074; 581486; 307885; 39634;

Memo.

Capt. Asher leaving at 11.45 A. M. Sept. 2 with 57 men for Crooked Creek. Lieut. French with Capt. Asher.
130 Men left for Crooked Creek at 11.10 A. M. Commanded by Capt. Hollandsworth.
Lieut. Asher and French, leave for Balri Mountain to report to Capt. McNulty.

September 2, 1921.

Hanes - Plane that dropped bomb.

Went to Blair and circled around. Before we got to Blair one-half mile two cars and twenty five men in the middle of the road. Dropped one bottle, struck 100 feet from crowd. Went on to Blair and dropped bomb, do not know whether bomb went off or not. Circled again and dropped bottle, struck just across road from barracks. Went on to Bald Knob, struck road east of Bald Knob, turned west and followed railroad to Bald Knob. Saw no men out there at all. Dropped three bottles at Bald Knob.

Garret - Second Plane.

At Blair did not see anyone at barracks. Seven cars in front of barracks. Saw no men at Bald Knob at all. Came back to Crooked Creek, saw three cars on road from Crooked Creek to Blair, one car toward Crooked Creek from ~~Blair~~ Blair.

Report G. H. Gwinn.

Position: Dividing ridge between waters of Coal River and Guyan. (Crooked Creek Sector)

Observed in due East direction from our position, orange and blue lights resembling electric or acetylene lamp, gradually rising and oscillating as if controlled by line from ground. The light were visible in varying intensity for period of from five to forty five minutes, finally disappearing altogether.

The lights observed at 2.15 A. M. and 4.00 A. M. were to the right of that observed earlier in the evening in respective order, the last light appearing in a southerly direction and being visible ~~from~~ for only a few minutes. The erratic movement of the lights was proven by crude twig levels, the lights disappearing out of a fixed position and steadily rising above the horizon to some distance, where they disappeared. The observers estimated that the lights were sent up from points five to ten miles distant from our position.

August 31st at 11.15 P. M.

Sept. 1st at 2.15 A. M.

Sept. 1st at 4.00 A. M.

Memo to Col. Eubanks.

23 Men under Lt. Reel, equipped ready for duty.

60 men under Capt. Fred O. Mitchell, equipped ready for duty.

J. M. Cockett, Adjutant.

2 Planes left at 2 P. M. One plane carrying one bomb and 8 containers gas. Second plane carrying 7 containers gas. Bomb will be dropped at Blair and gas at "Bald Knob". Third plane at field awaiting instructions.

Pixler.

Special messenger Maloney sent to Mill Creek, returns, reports white patches distributed. Capt. Lawson reports to his sector is quiet.

Mr. Randolph reports from scouting trip on head of Peach Creek, as follows:

One of our posts should be moved from head of Peach Creek to head of right hand fork of Crooked Creek. There is fighting going on on the left hand fork of Crooked Creek, but none on the right hand fork.

September 3, 1921.

7 - A. M.

Col. Eubanks:-

Please fill the order that I sent you last night. We need it damn bad.

We are fighting to beat Hell from daylight to present today. Enemy using light browning against us and doing fine range work. We are setting pretty and having lots of fun.

Ernest Gaujot
I. G. Hollandsworth.

10 A.M. Sept. 3, 1921.

September 3, 1921.

To Colonel Eubanks:-

Lt. Connell and ten men called out last night have reported to Capt. Gaujot and will remain under his command until further orders.

(Signed) Lt. Connell.

10 AM

Troops Sent out September 3, 1921.

30 men to relieve men at Blair Mr. 8:00 A.M. under Leslie.

30 men to relieve men at Blair Mt. 9:15 A.M. Capt. Mitchell

General Charnock, H.B. Conwell, Palmer Stacy, to Crooked Creek.

Dr. Vaughn to Crooked Creek - 8:00 A.M.

Lt. Connell and nine men at 2:00 A. M. to Communication lines with Crooked Creek.

Mr. Lowry, nine Men, to Georges Creek, 1:40 A.M. to report to Capt. Brockus.

Headquarters, Sept. 3, 1921.

To Supply Officer:-

Deliver to bearer:-

1 Shirt - Size 15
1 Pr. Pants - Size 32
1 Pr. Leggings

By order of Col. Eubanks.

Joseph M. Crockett, Adjt.