

10023-2

DRAMATIC SLIDES CRUSH BELGIAN HAMLET

35 mm. developed positive : 66 meters - 220 ft

Seven bodies were recovered by rescue workers following the collapse of a giant rain-sodden slag heap on to a row of houses in near-by Moulin-sous-Fleurons, in the ~~industrial~~ industrial area northeast of Liege in Belgium. The slag comes from coal used by the Bresoux power station. Moulin-sous-Fleurons is located a few miles from Liege, between Jupille and Queue-du-Bois

A Liege official said coal cinder moved down on the hamlet over a distance of about half a mile. The hamlet straggles along a narrow road below the black mountain of coal slag. The heap piled on a slight decline started moving down with a roar against the small brick houses, crumbling walls and quickly reached a height of about 26 feet.

Several houses were completely crushed, others were only partly damaged. The cave-in came to a stop when a small gulch in front of houses was filled. Escapees of the accident said the first thing they knew was when the lights went out and a violent blast resounded. Immediately afterwards there were shouts for help from houses being engulfed by a surging black mass of ashes, coal dust and rubble. The volume was estimated at a million cubic meters.

It is feared that more victims may still be lying under the rubble heaps of their houses. 27 persons may be the victims of this dramatic accident.