

Twitter Thread by Nova Scotia Museum



Nova Scotia Museum

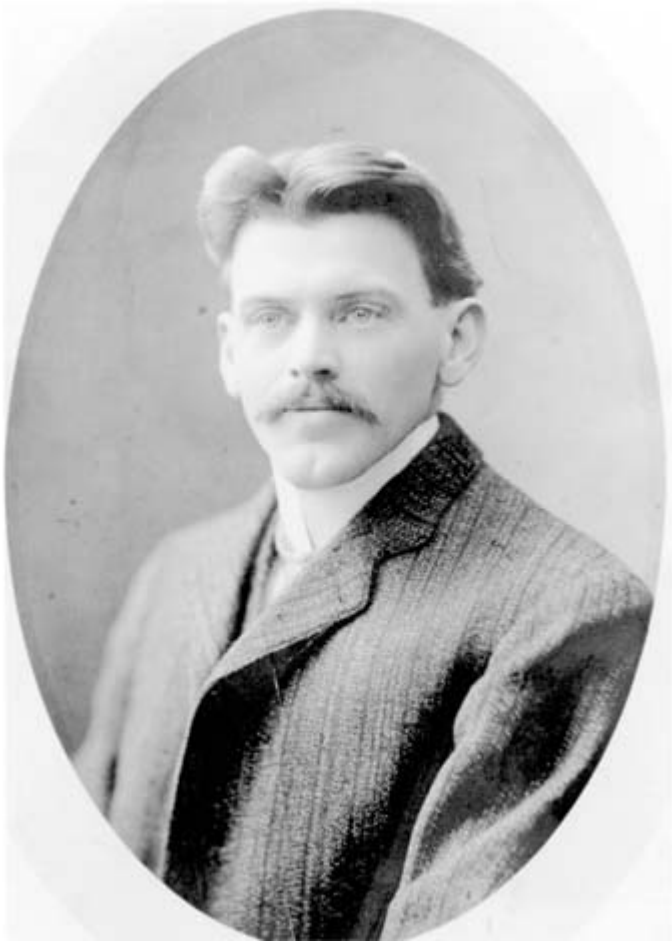
@NS_Museum



1917 - Fully embroiled in the First World War #Halifax was quickly evolving into a world class port and major base of naval operations. #HalifaxExplosion



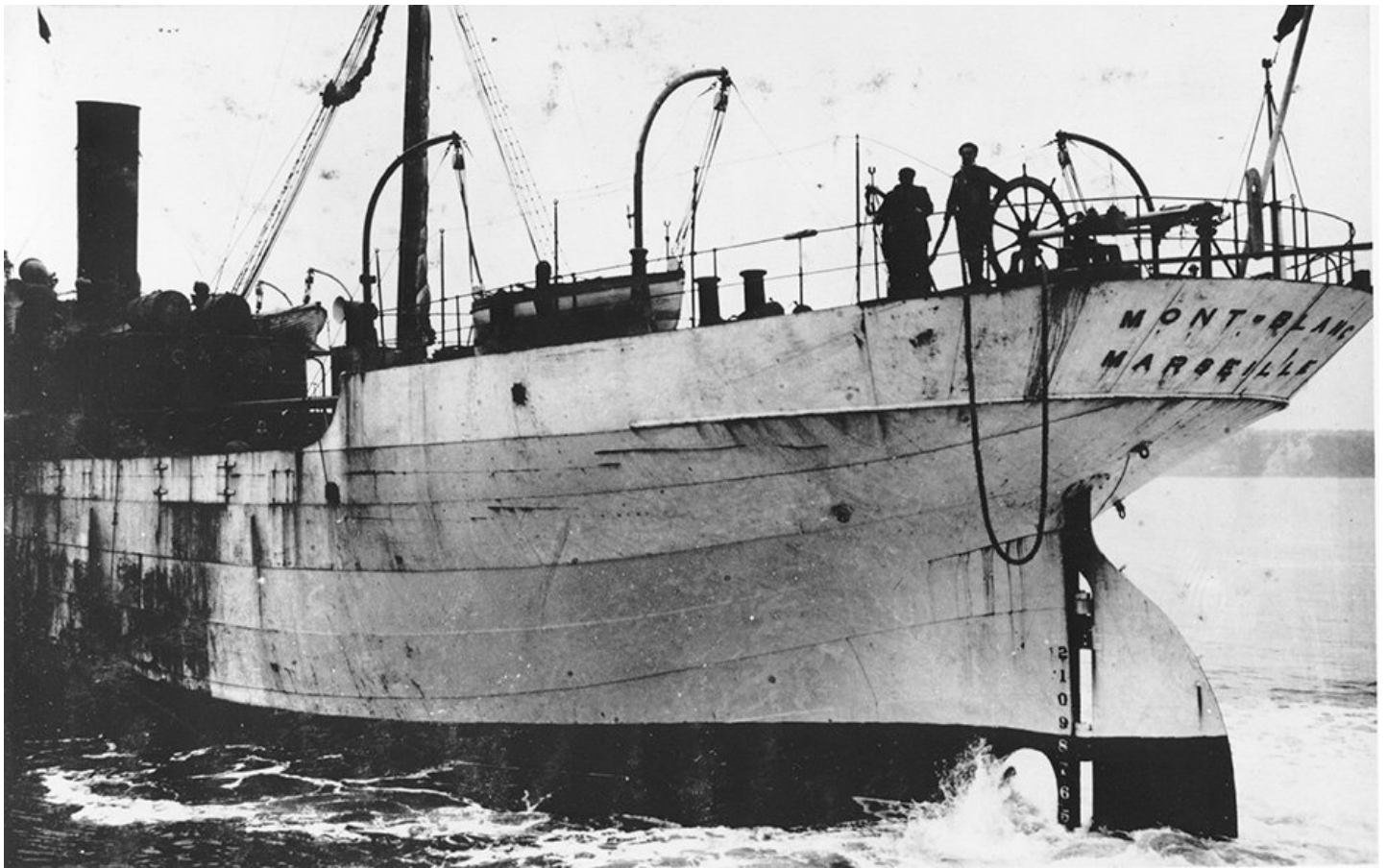
December 6, 1917, Railway Dispatcher Vincent Coleman goes to work from his home on Russell St in Halifax's North End. He left his wife Frances & their 2 year old daughter Eileen, dressed in a cheerful blue dress handmade by Frances.



#Halifax was a hub of activity. Troops bound for battle swept in & out of the city. The First World War brought activity & prosperity to the port

#HalifaxExplosion<https://maritimemuseum.novascotia.ca/what-see-do/halifax-explosion/ships-halifax-explosion>

7:30 am Dec. 6, 1917 the French ship Mont-Blanc, loaded with a highly explosive cargo, moves to join a convoy in Bedford Basin #HalifaxExplosion



At the same time the Norwegian vessel Imo, in ballast, set off from the Basin bound for New York #HalifaxExplosion

At the entrance to the Narrows, after a series of ill-judged manoeuvres, the Imo struck the Mont-Blanc on the bow.
#HalifaxExplosion



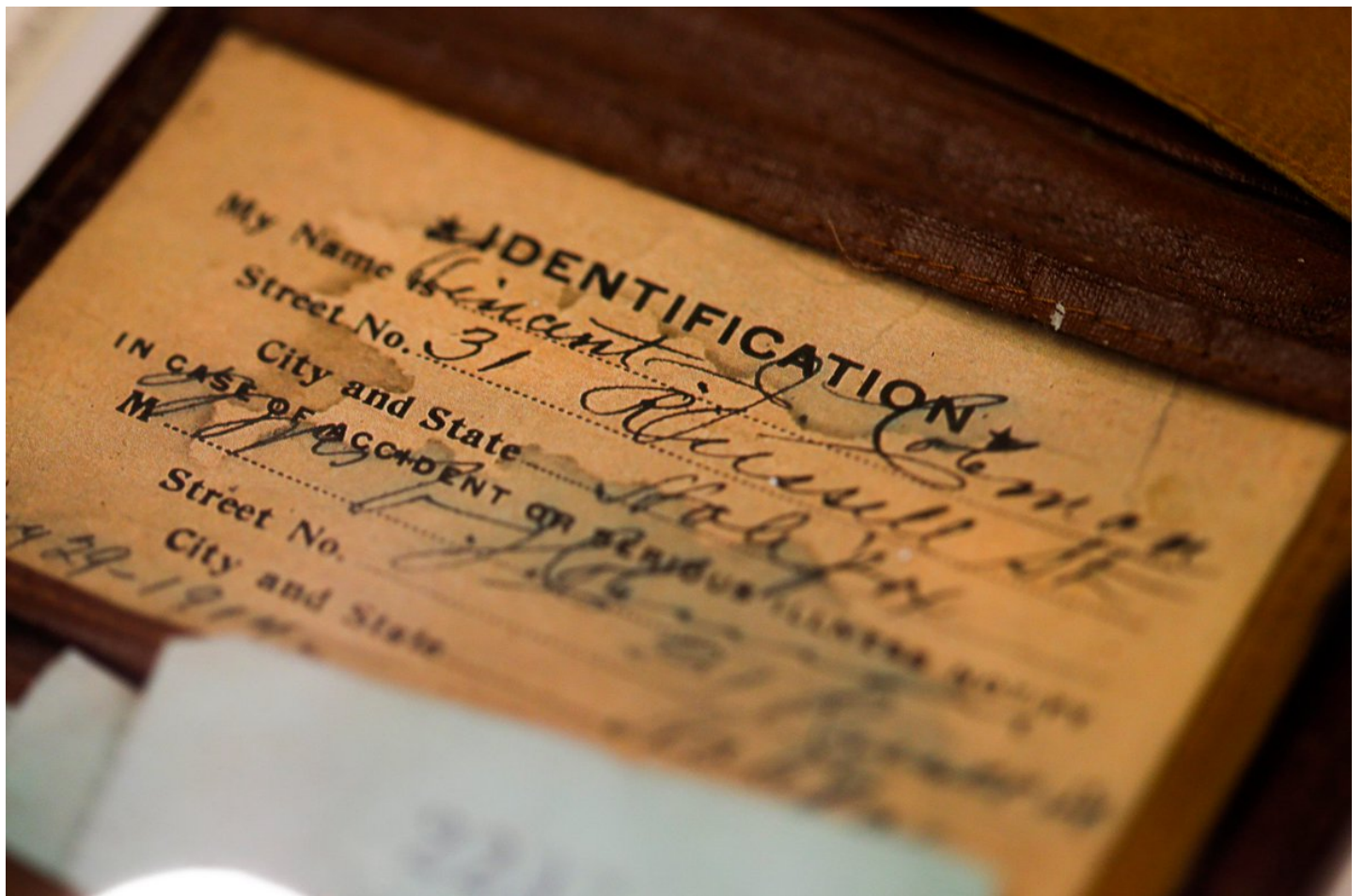
The collision was not severe, fire immediately broke out on board the Mont-Blanc. The captain, pilot and crew, left the ship.
#HalifaxExplosion



James Burn Russell Nova Scotia Archives accession 2007-062

Mont-Blanc burned for 20 minutes - the spectacle was thrilling, and drew crowds of spectators, unaware of the danger.
#HalifaxExplosion

Only a handful of naval officers & a railway dispatcher had learned of Mont-Blanc's explosive cargo with little time for warning
#HalifaxExplosion



Railway Dispatcher, Vincent Coleman, was especially worried about Passenger Train No. 10, the overnight train from New Brunswick. It had about 300 people aboard and was due in Halifax at 8:55 am. #HalifaxExplosion



“Hold up the train.
Ammunition ship afire in
harbor making for Pier 6
and will explode.
Guess this will be my last
message.
Good-bye boys.”

- Vincent Coleman, reported final message

Just before 9:05am, the Mont-Blanc exploded. The Halifax city hall clock stopped at the precise moment of the explosion:
9:04:35am December 6, 1917. Today, a replica forever serves as a reminder of the fateful moment.
<https://t.co/bCVVydTEhm> #HalifaxExplosion



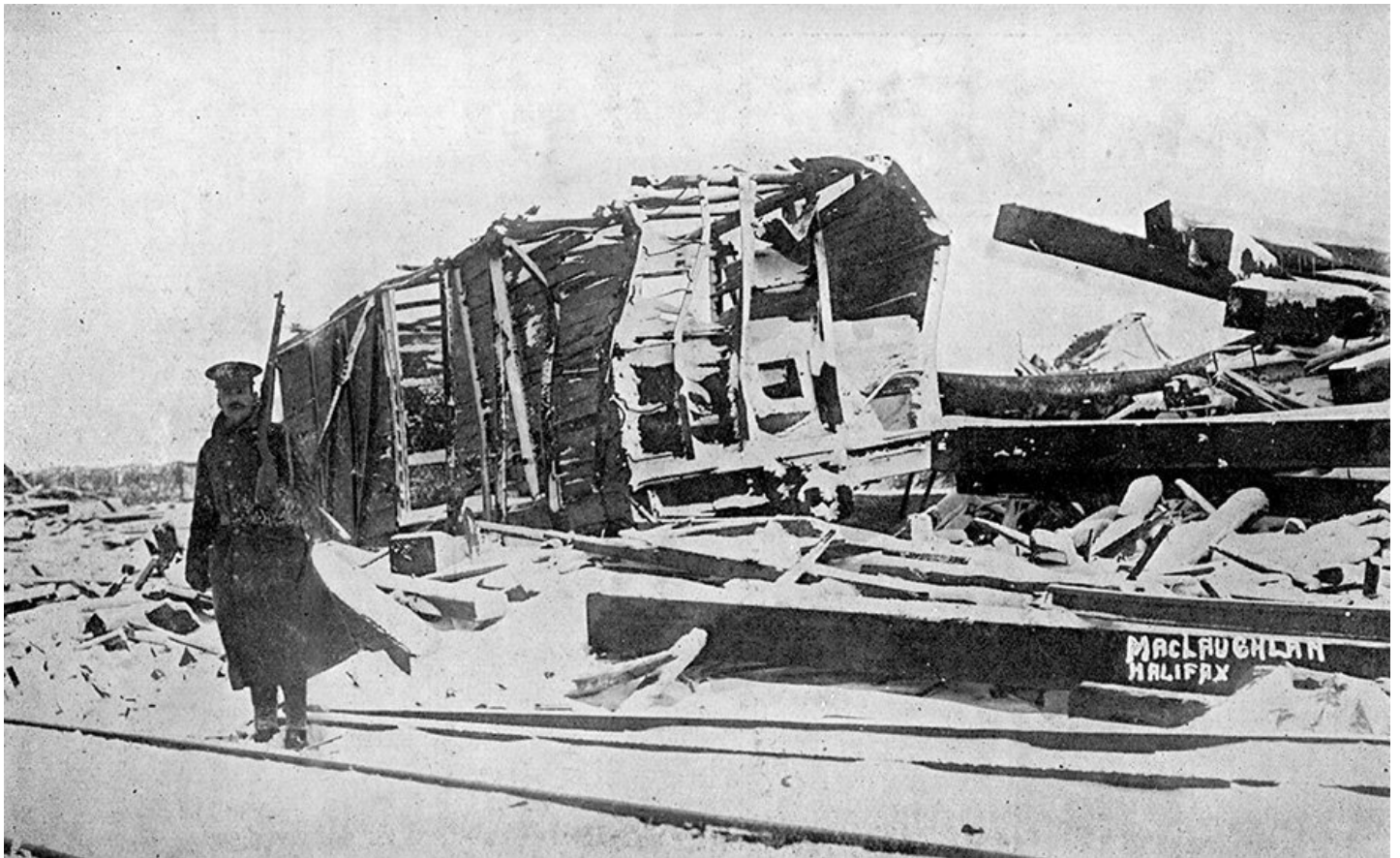
Our hero, Vincent Coleman, dies sending his final message. It was received in Truro, Nova Scotia. They filled a relief train & were in Halifax within an hour. #HalifaxExplosion



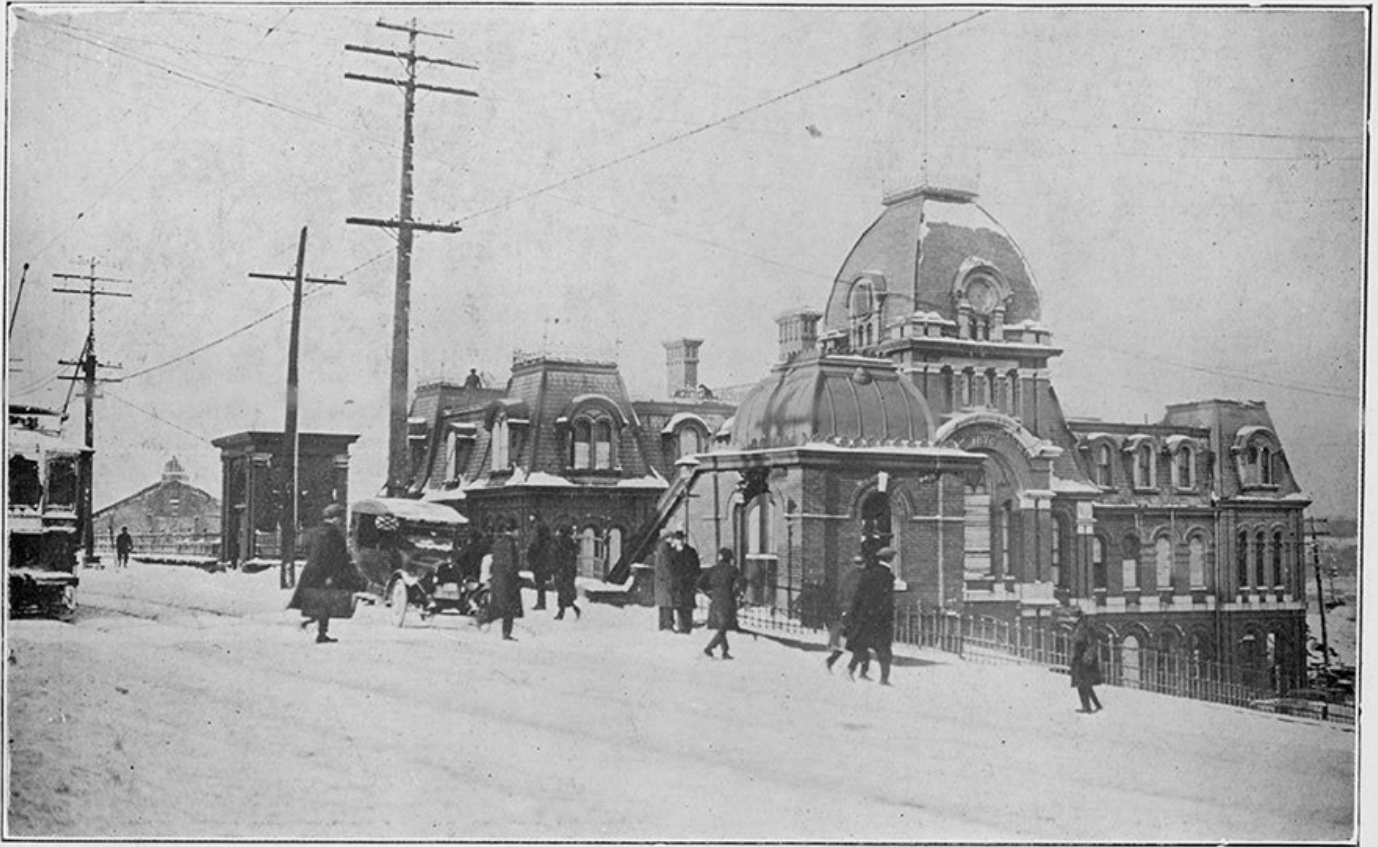
The explosion destroyed 2.59 sq km, including 1,630 buildings and 7 ships. 12,000 buildings were damaged
#HalifaxExplosion



The deadly blast instantly killed 1,650 people, injured 9,000 others, leaves 6,000 homeless. #HalifaxExplosion



Injuries were frightful, blindness from the splintering glass adding to the shock and bewilderment. #HalifaxExplosion



North Street Station.—Entrance from street. The glass roof was blown in and many people injured and killed.
Photo by Cox Bros.

Vincent Coleman's home, 2000 feet from Ground Zero, was wrecked & burned by the explosion. The kitchen sink crashed down on two year old Eileen cutting her neck, leaving her little blue dress spattered with bloodstains. #HalifaxExplosion



Coleman's wife Frances suffered serious back injuries. Her two older children Gerald and Eleanor rushed home from school to take their mother & sister to Gottingen Street where soldiers took them to the Camp Hill Hospital. #HalifaxExplosion



The day after, captured on film - this rare footage provides a glimpse of the devastation and rebuilding efforts after the explosion. It was captured in eerie silence by cameraman W.G. McLaughlan. <https://t.co/uTuejdIDrk> via @NS_Archives #HalifaxExplosion

Frances Coleman and all four of her children survived and recovered. A few days later, searchers found Vincent Coleman's body in the wreckage of the Richmond rail yards. #HalifaxExplosion



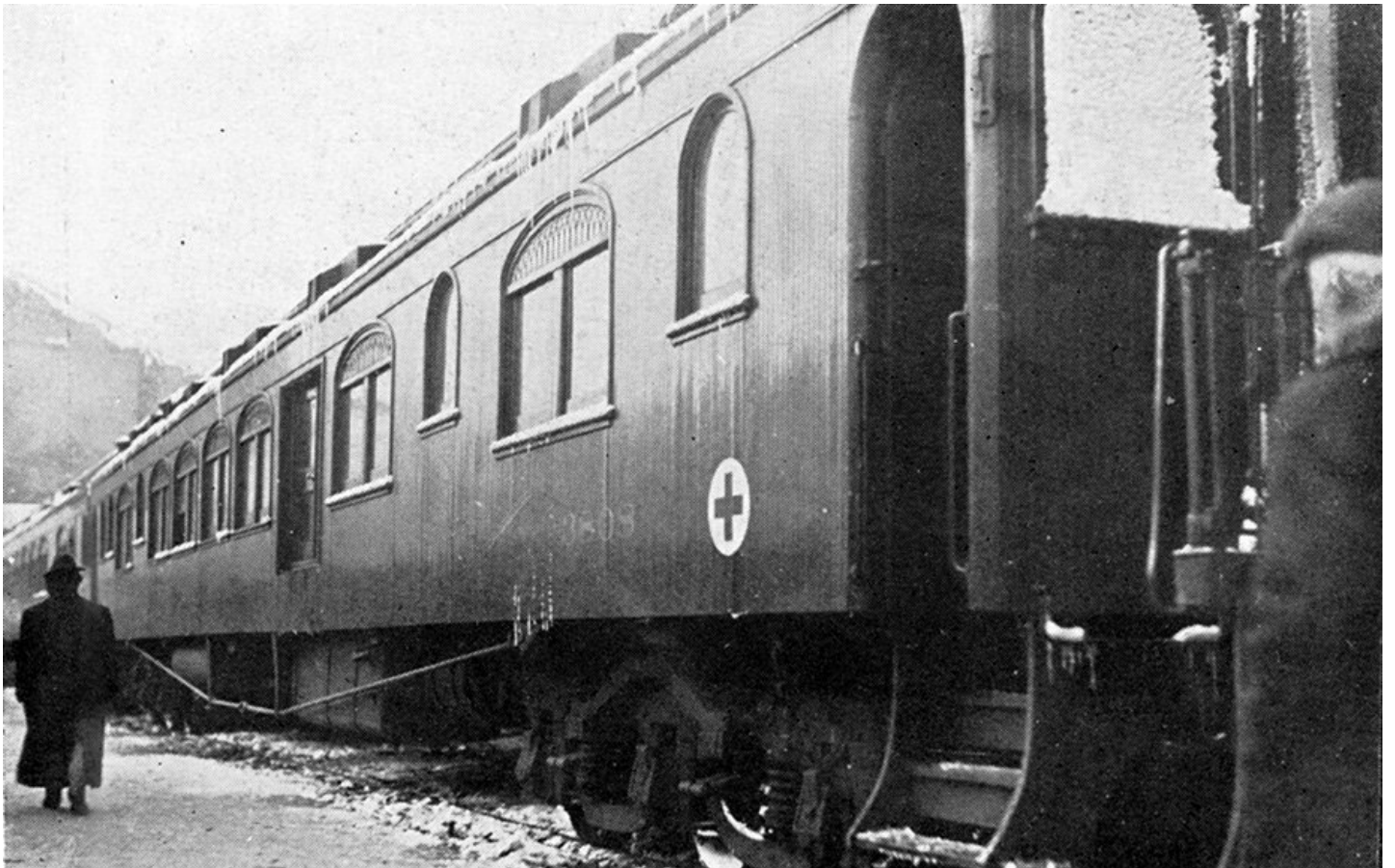
Frances was presented with the telegraph key, the watch and the pen of her husband. The Coleman artifacts form a special part of [@ns_mma](#) permanent exhibit on the 1917 Halifax Harbour Explosion <https://t.co/bCVVydTEhm> #HalifaxExplosion



Rescue began quickly with troops & naval strength. City officials arranged volunteers and relief committees were formed that day #HalifaxExplosion



News of the disaster reached [@CityOfBoston](#) the same morning. That night a train loaded with supplies & volunteers left for Halifax #HalifaxExplosion



This mug from the #HalifaxExplosion that says "Remember Me" belonged to the Swetnams, who lived in North End Halifax.
<https://t.co/zh2Ke6gFPW>



You can find the names of the Swetnams, in the #HalifaxExplosion Book of Remembrance. Lizzie Swetnam & her son, Carmen

Stockall Emma 2 School
 Stockall James sr 2 School
 Stockall May 8 Veith
 Stoddard Clement 45 Bauer
 Stokes John jr 2 Acadia
 Stokes John R 21 Acadia
 Story Jeanie McNeil 569 Gottingen
 Stratton Alfred 1351 Barrington
 Stratton Percy 1351 Barrington
 Stratton Vincie 1351 Barrington
 Stratton Willie 1351 Barrington
 Stratton Winifred 1351 Barrington
 Stratton Wm 1351 Barrington
 Sturmev Wm Protestant Orphanage
 Sullivan Daniel 1st C G A
 Sullivan Mrs D Flynn Block
 Sullivan Ethel Flynn Block
 Sullivan Dennis A 112 Gerrish
 Sullivan Gerald Flynn Block
 Sullivan Helen Flynn Block
 Sullivan Kathleen 1418 Barrington
 Sullivan Michael Flynn Block
 Sutherland Margt Old Ladies' Home
 Suttie James 101 Coburg Rd
 Suttie Jas Harold 96 Albert
 Suttie Mrs James 96 Albert
 Sweet Mrs William 49 Duffus
 Sweet Borden Robt 49 Duffus
 Sweet ——— 49 Duffus
 Sweet ——— 49 Duffus
 Sweet William 49 Duffus
 Swetnam Carman 6 Young
 Swetnam Mrs Elizabeth 6 Young

T

Tapper Dorothy 34 Union
 Taylor Annie 21 Merkel
 Taylor Catherine 21 Merkel
 Taylor Elizabeth 21 Merkel
 Taylor Gladys Protestant Orph
 Taylor William 56 Columbus
 Theakston Major 111 Agricola
 Thomas Bernadette C 93 N Albert

Tufts George Longard Rd
 Tufts Harold H 91 N Albert
 Tufts Richard A 91 N Albert
 Tummonds G B Veith
 Tupper Geo Edw visiting 75 Veith
 Tupper Lydia Jane N Kingston
 Turner Henry Lorne Club
 Tyrer Douglas 6 Lorne Terrace

U

Underwood Benjamin 1 Lowe
 Underwood Mrs Emma B 1 Lowe
 Underwood Margaret 1 Lowe
 Underwood Mildred 1 Lowe
 Upham Chas H jr 12 Rector
 Upham Mrs C Hooper 12 Rector
 Upham Constant 1299 Barrington
 Upham Ellen K 12 Rector
 Upham Everett 1376 Barrington
 Upham Hattie G Union
 Upham Jennie E 12 Rector
 Upham Jenny 1376 Barrington
 Upham Lewis Richmond
 Upham Vera 1299 Barrington
 Upshaw Albert Windsor Plains

V

Vallee Peter S S "Colonne"
 Vaughan Bernard 103 N Albert
 Vaughan Catherine 62 Roome
 Vaughan Mrs Margaret 103 N Albert
 Vaughan Charles 103 N Albert
 Vaughan Dorothy 103 N Albert
 Vaughan Irene 101 N Albert
 Vaughan Leo 144 Creighton
 Vaughan Mrs Mary 101 N Albert
 Vaughan William M 62 Roome
 Veales George H M C S "Niobe"
 Verner Lewis Louisburg
 Victory John
 Voetz William Fred 51 Cornwallis

The Halifax Explosion Remembrance Book contains a list of the known dead from the 1917 Halifax Harbour Explosion
 #HalifaxExplosion [@NS_Archives](https://t.co/AmDvF7McBi)



Halifax is a living memorial to what happened that day & in the days that followed the 1917 Halifax Harbour Explosion.
#HalifaxExplosion



Halifax Explosion Commemoration - Take a moment to remember the historic event by visiting one of the monuments that can be found in Halifax and Dartmouth. Please note that [@ns_mma](#) is closed accordance with Public Health guidelines.
<https://t.co/pgK2Dw9bLn>