

## 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**



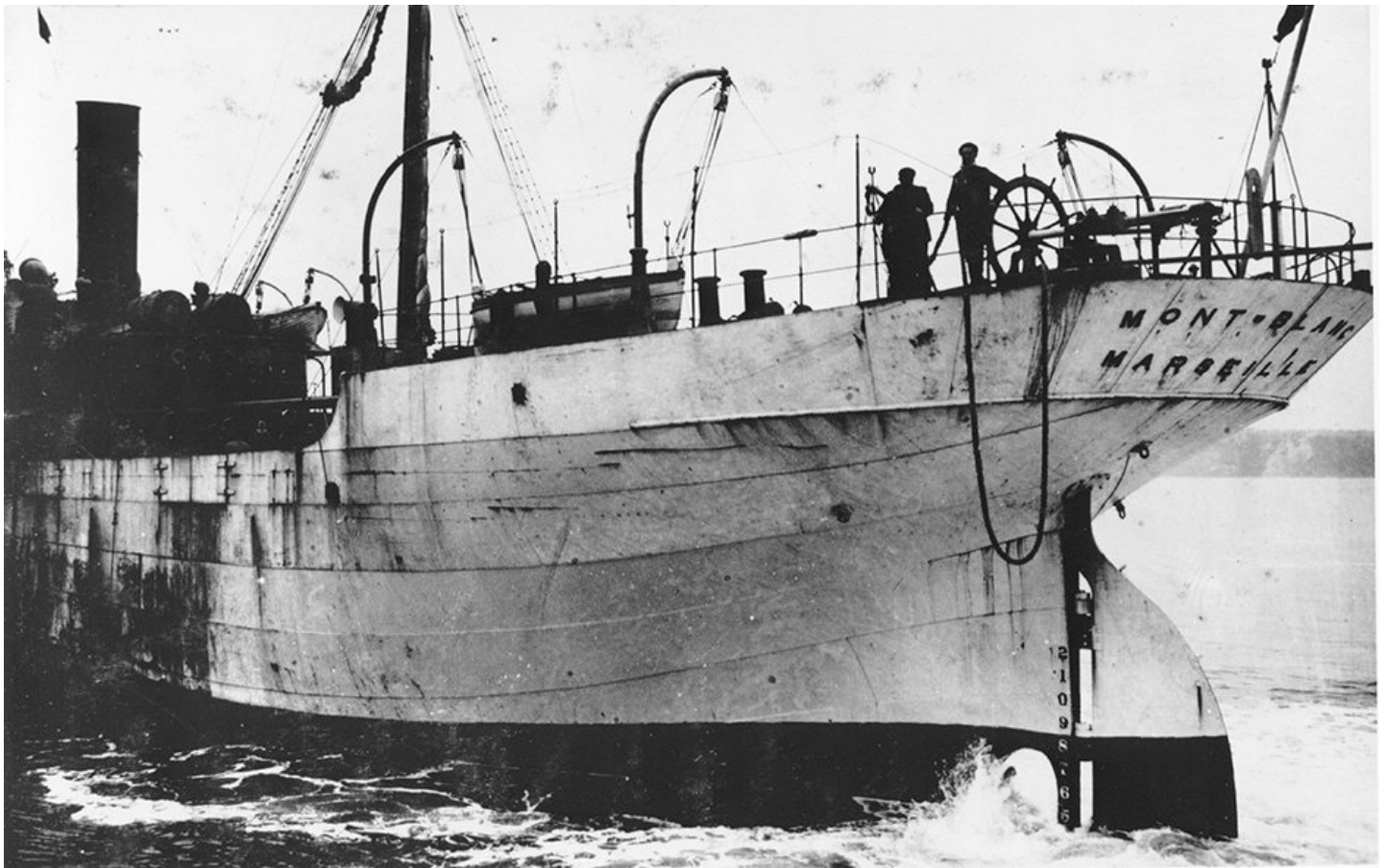
December 6, 1917, Railway Dispatcher Vincent Coleman goes to work from his home on Russell St in Halifax's North End. He left his wife Frances & their 2 year old daughter Eileen, dressed in a cheerful blue dress handmade by Frances.



#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

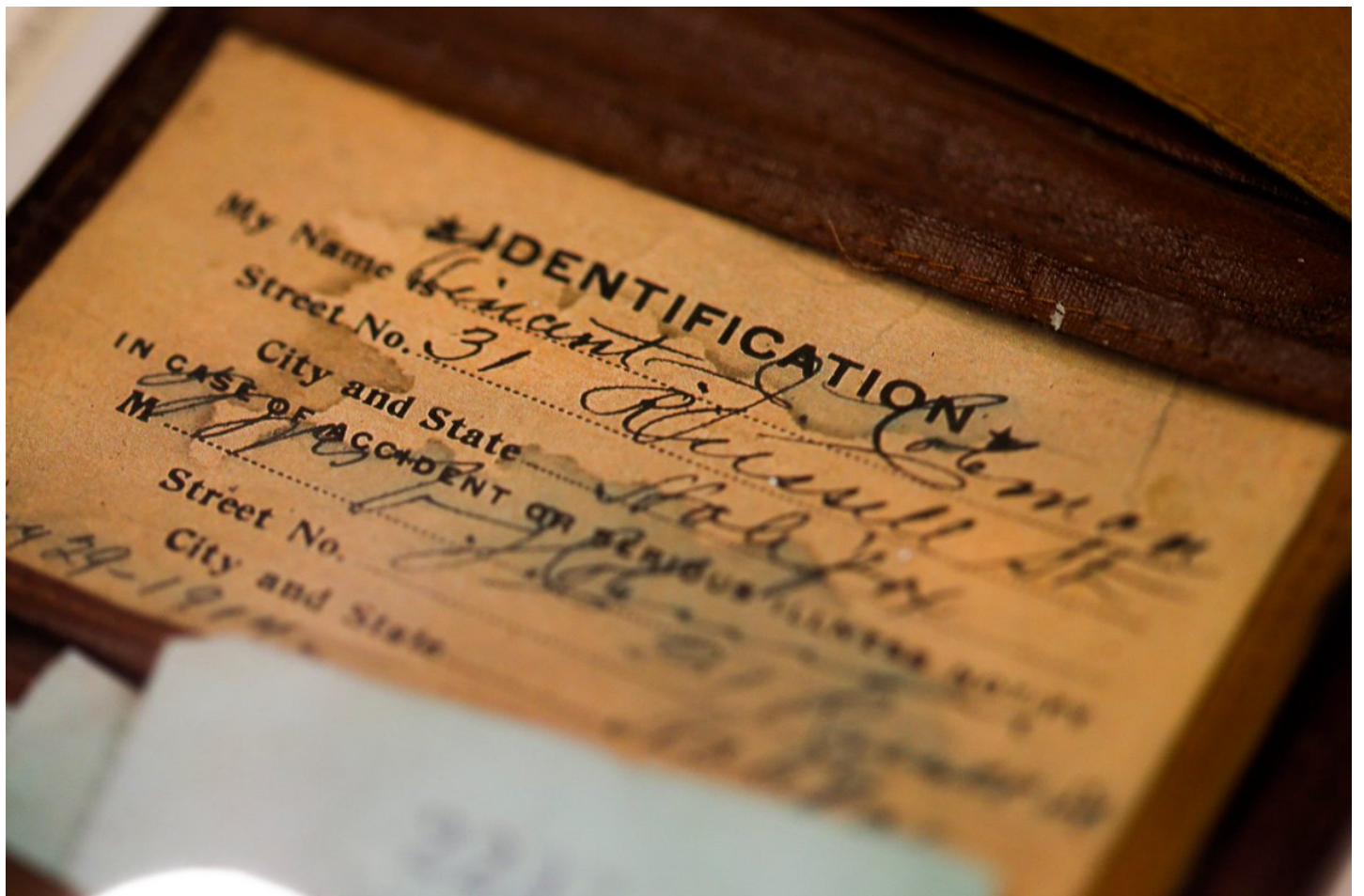


James Burn Russell Nova Scotia Archives accession 2007-062

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



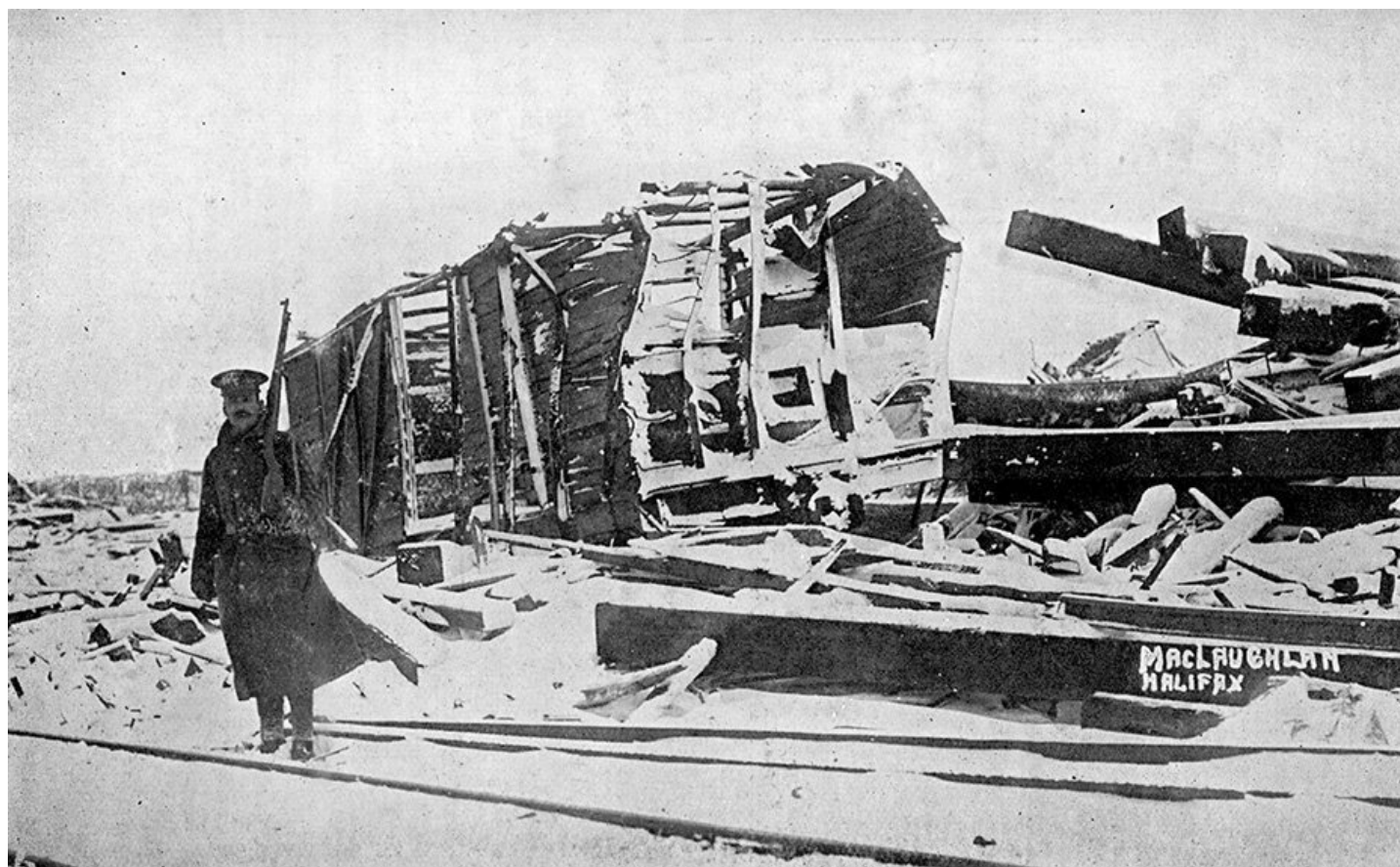


The explosion destroyed 2.59 sq km, including 1,630 buildings and 7 ships. 12,000 buildings were damaged  
#HalifaxExplosion





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

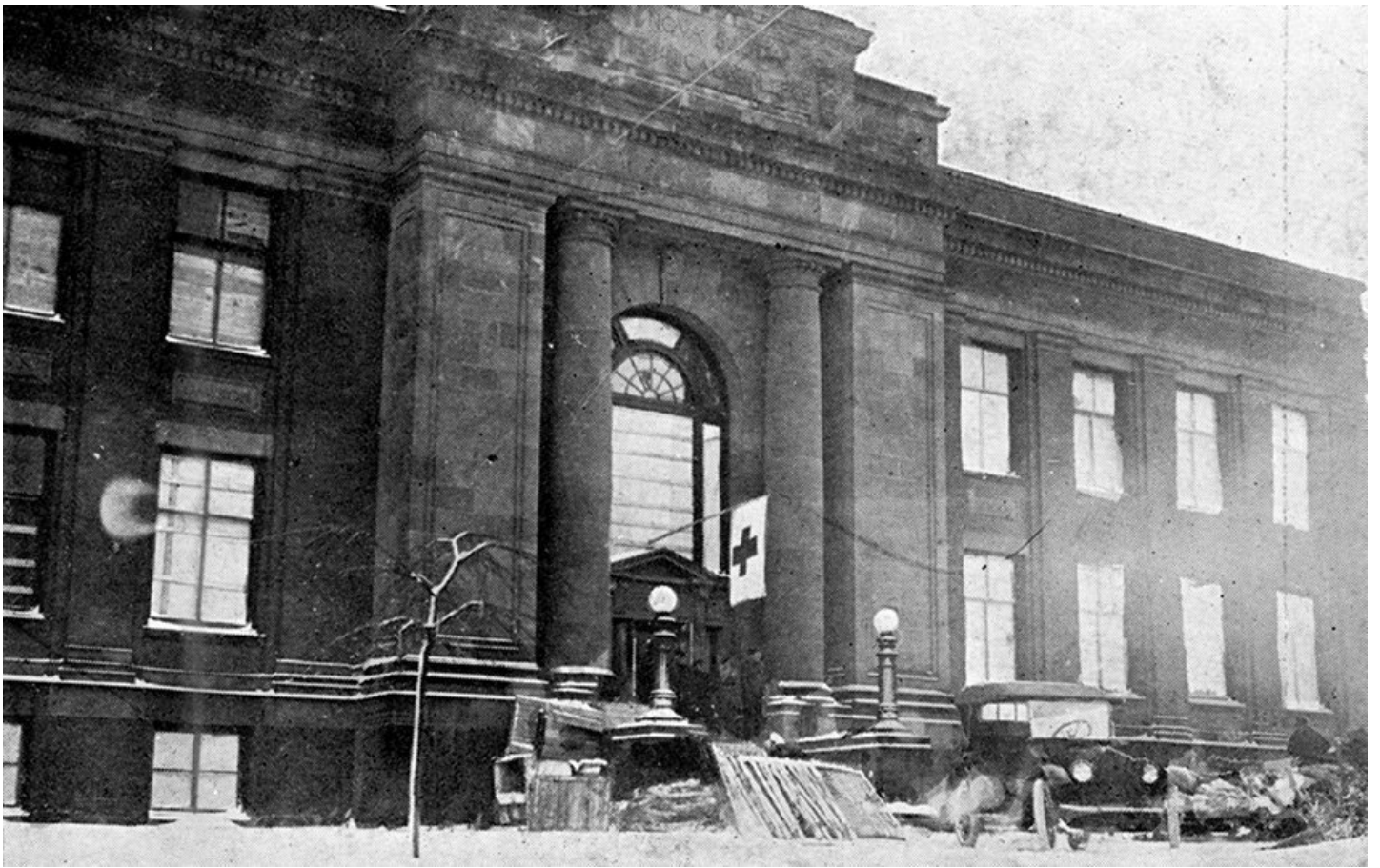




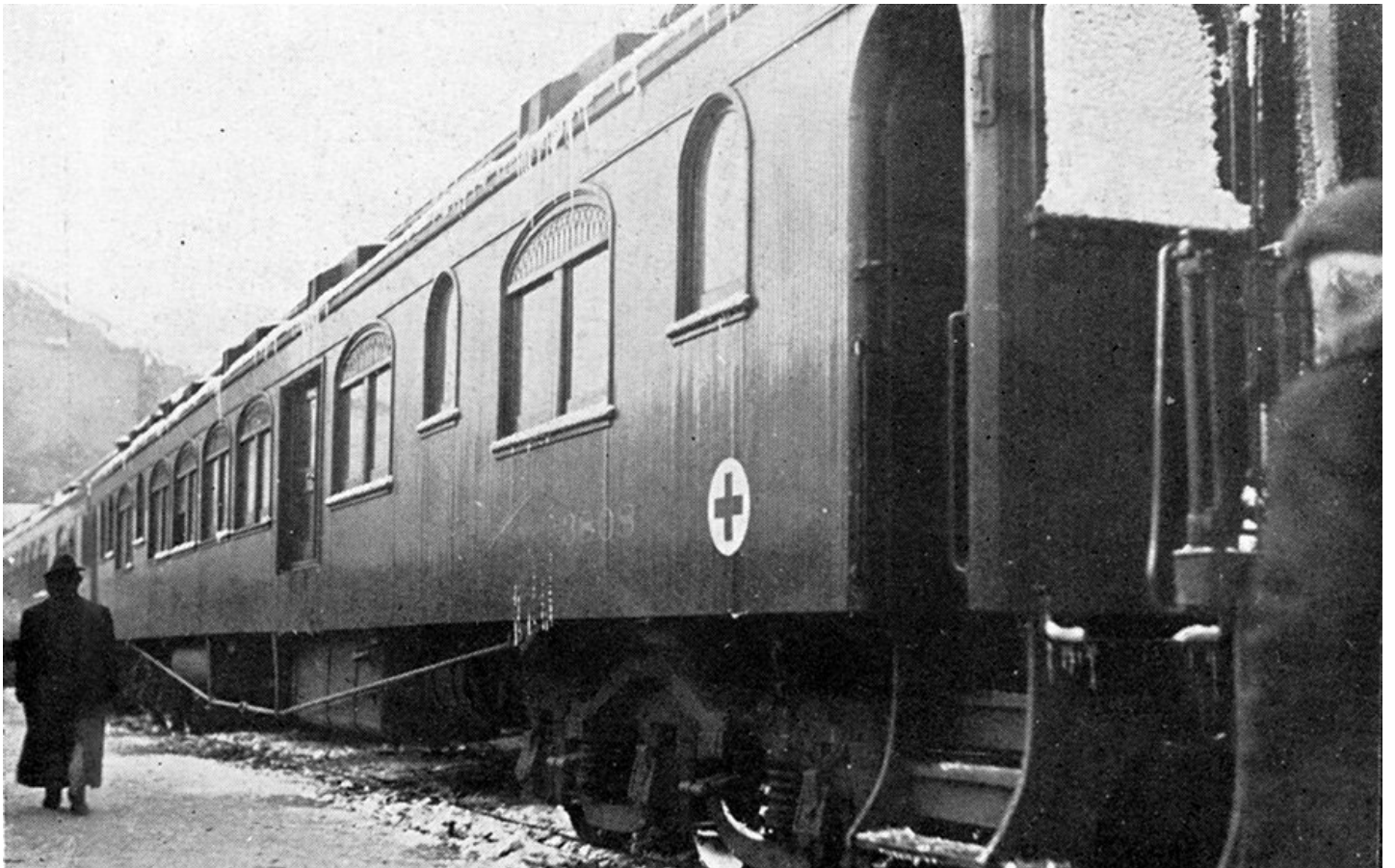
Frances was presented with the telegraph key, the watch and the pen of her husband. The Coleman artifacts form a special part of [@ns\\_mma](#) permanent exhibit on the 1917 Halifax Harbour Explosion <https://t.co/bCVVydTEhm> #HalifaxExplosion



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>