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

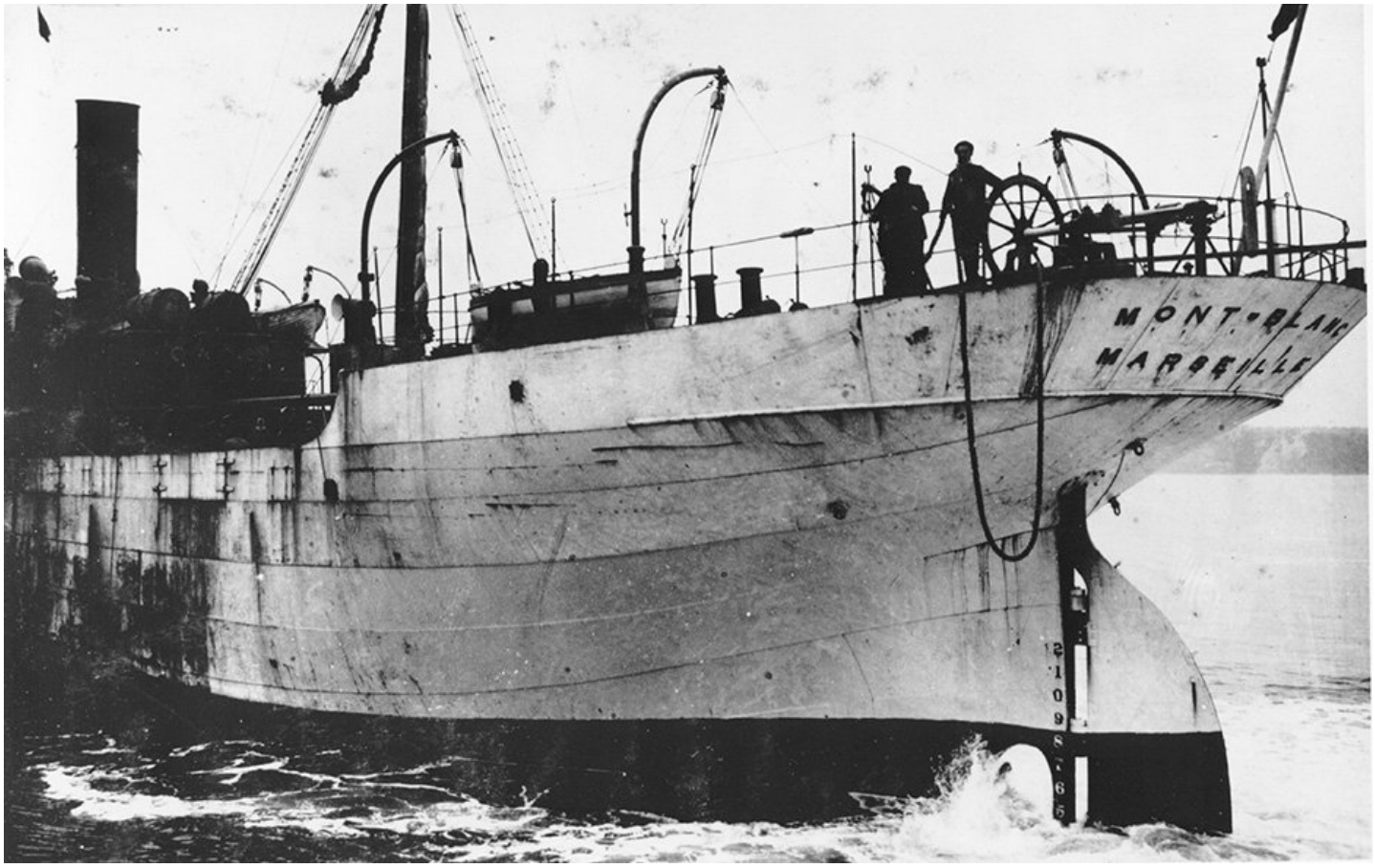


December 6, 1917, Railway Dispatcher Vincent Coleman goes to work from his home on Russell St in Halifax's North End. He left his wife Frances & their 2 year old daughter Eileen, dressed in a cheerful blue dress handmade by Frances.



#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
#HalifaxExplosionhttps://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

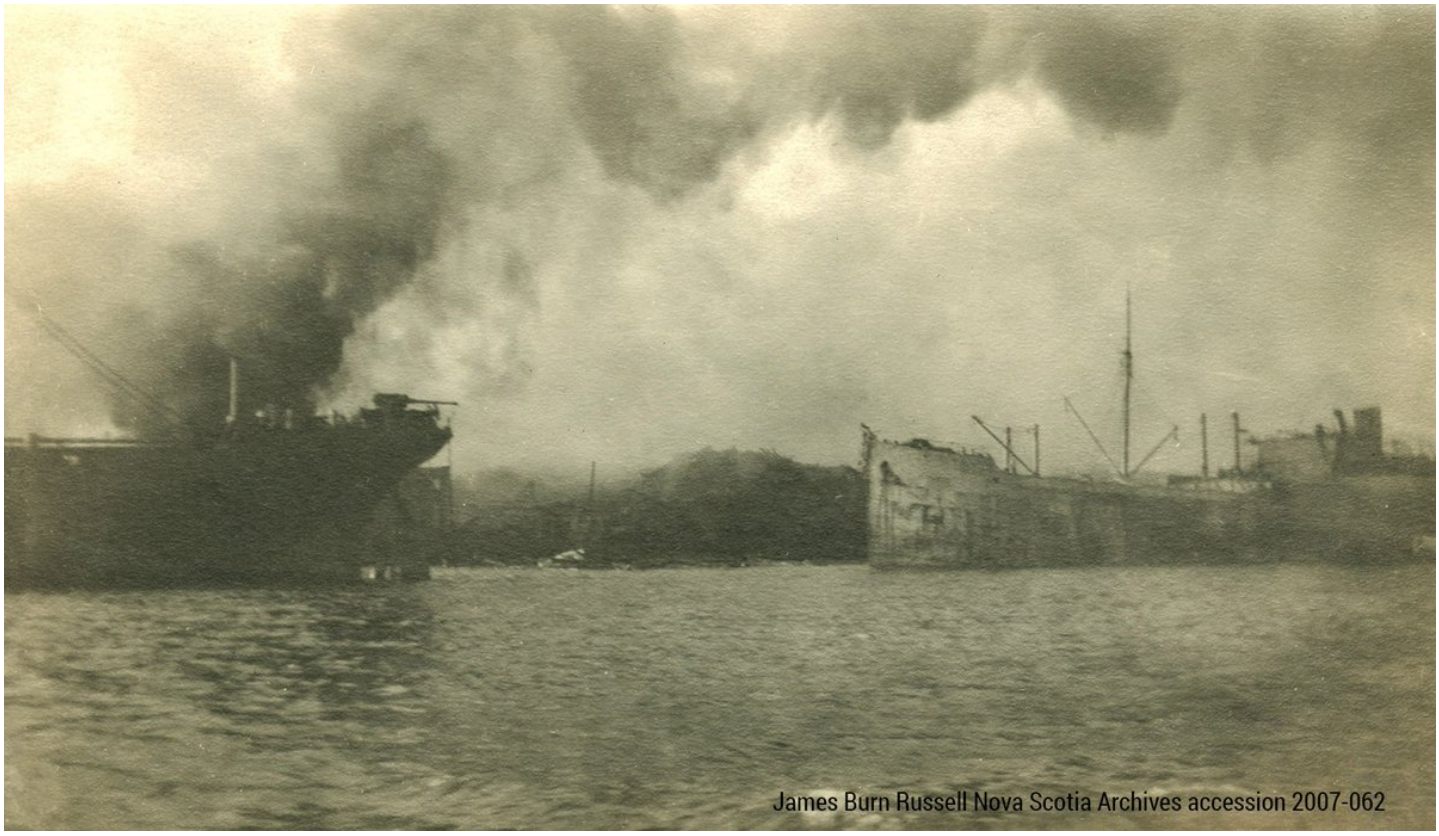


At the same time the Norwegian vessel Imo, in ballast, set off from the Basin bound for New York #HalifaxExplosion

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

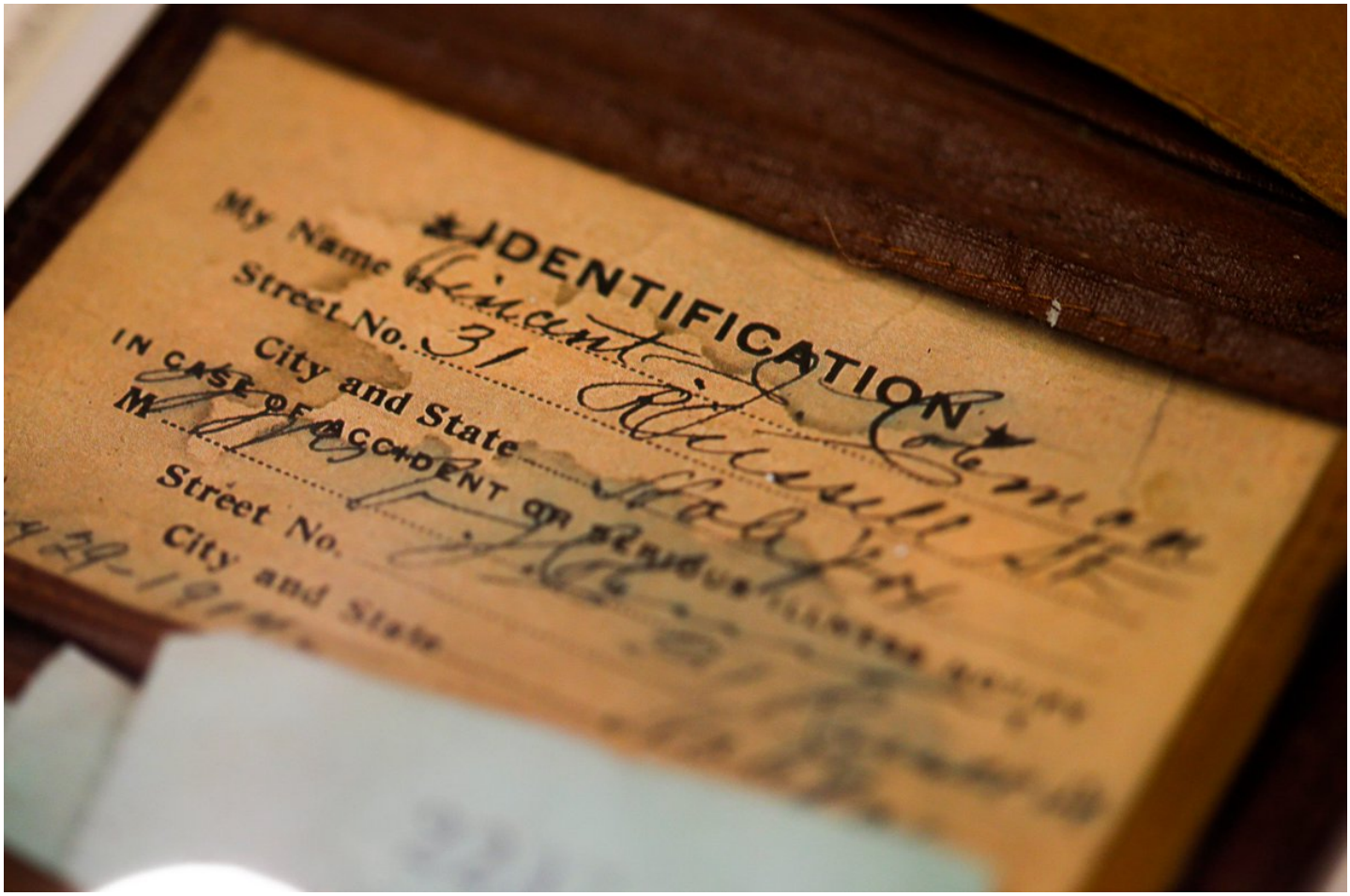


The collision was not severe, fire immediately broke out on board the Mont-Blanc. The captain, pilot and crew, left the ship. #HalifaxExplosion



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

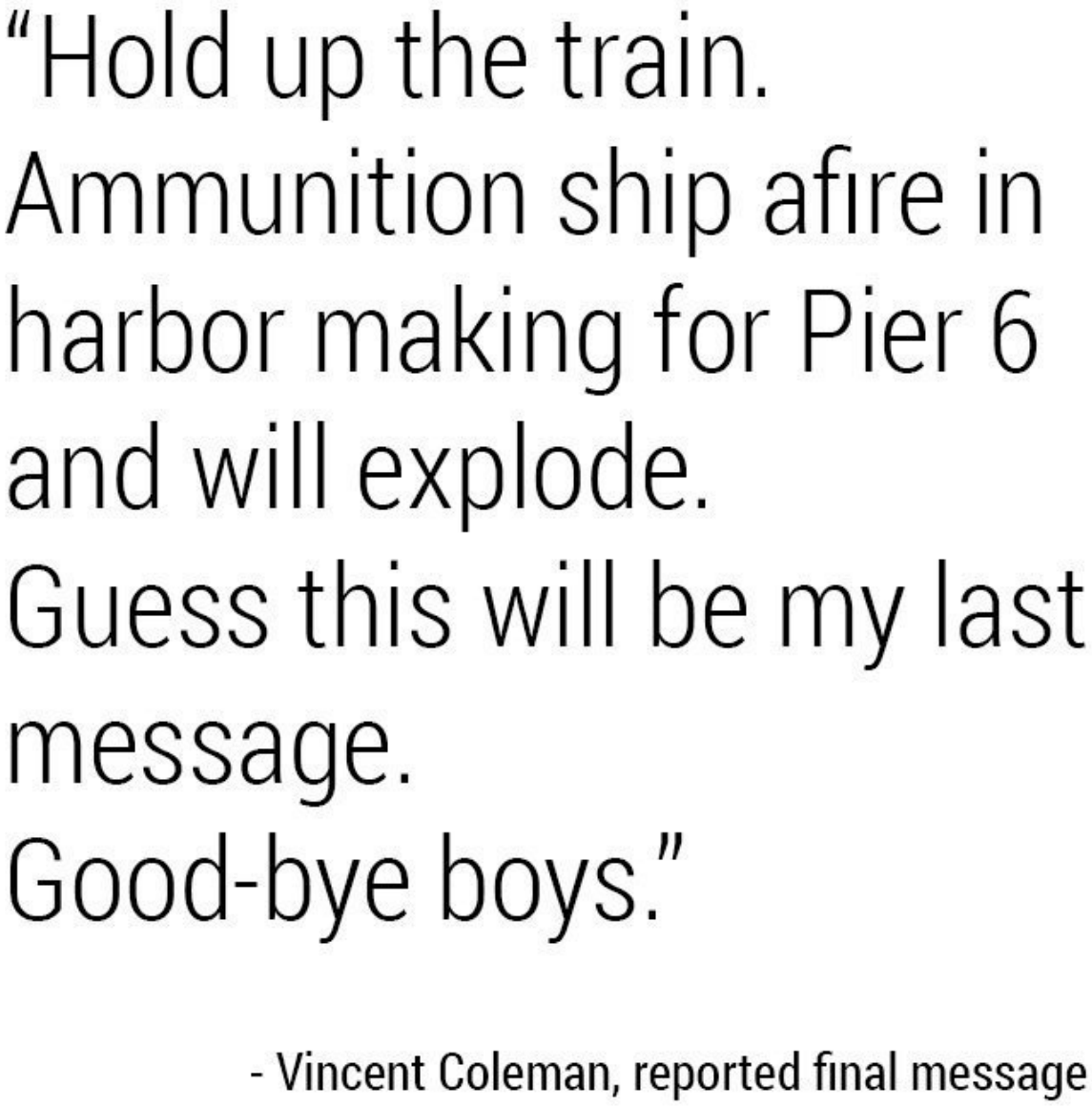
Only a handful of naval officers & a railway dispatcher had learned of Mont-Blanc's explosive cargo with little time for warning #HalifaxExplosion



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



Vincent Coleman sends his final message. His station 750 ft from the centre of the blast, disappeared. #HalifaxExplosion



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



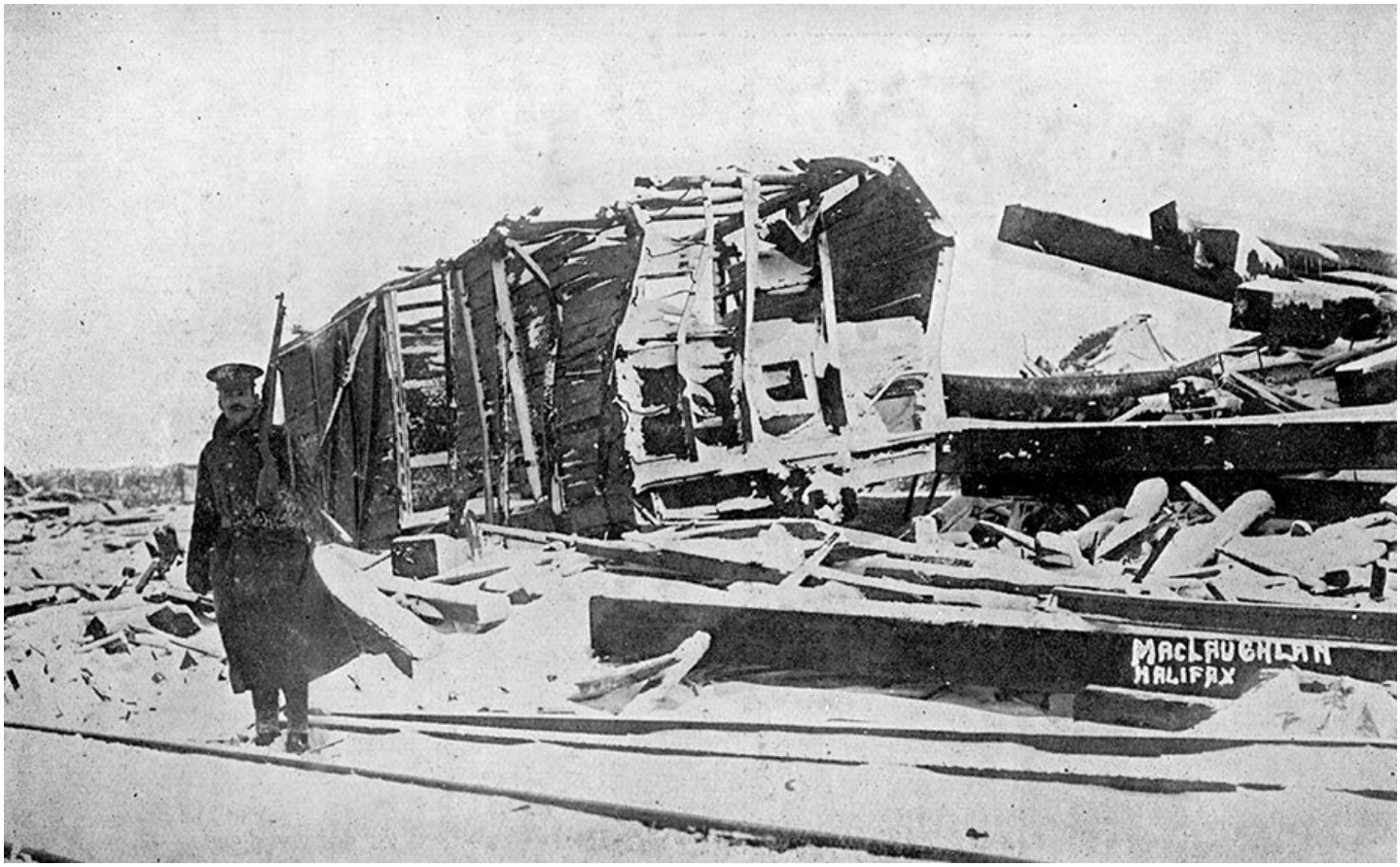
Our hero, Vincent Coleman, dies sending his final message. It was received in Truro, Nova Scotia. They filled a relief train & were in Halifax within an hour. #HalifaxExplosion



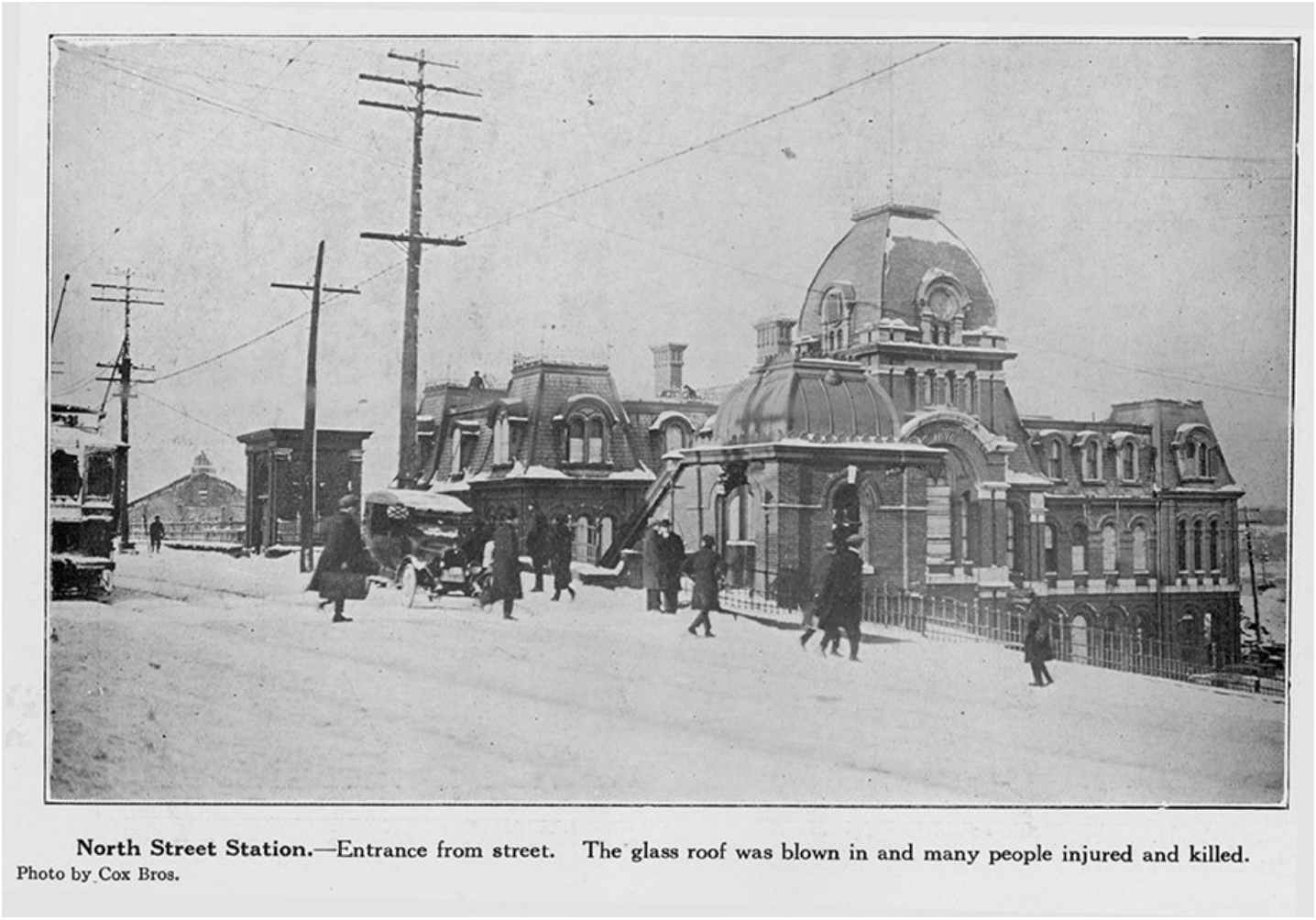
The explosion destroyed 2.59 sq km, including 1,630 buildings and 7 ships. 12,000 buildings were damaged #HalifaxExplosion



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

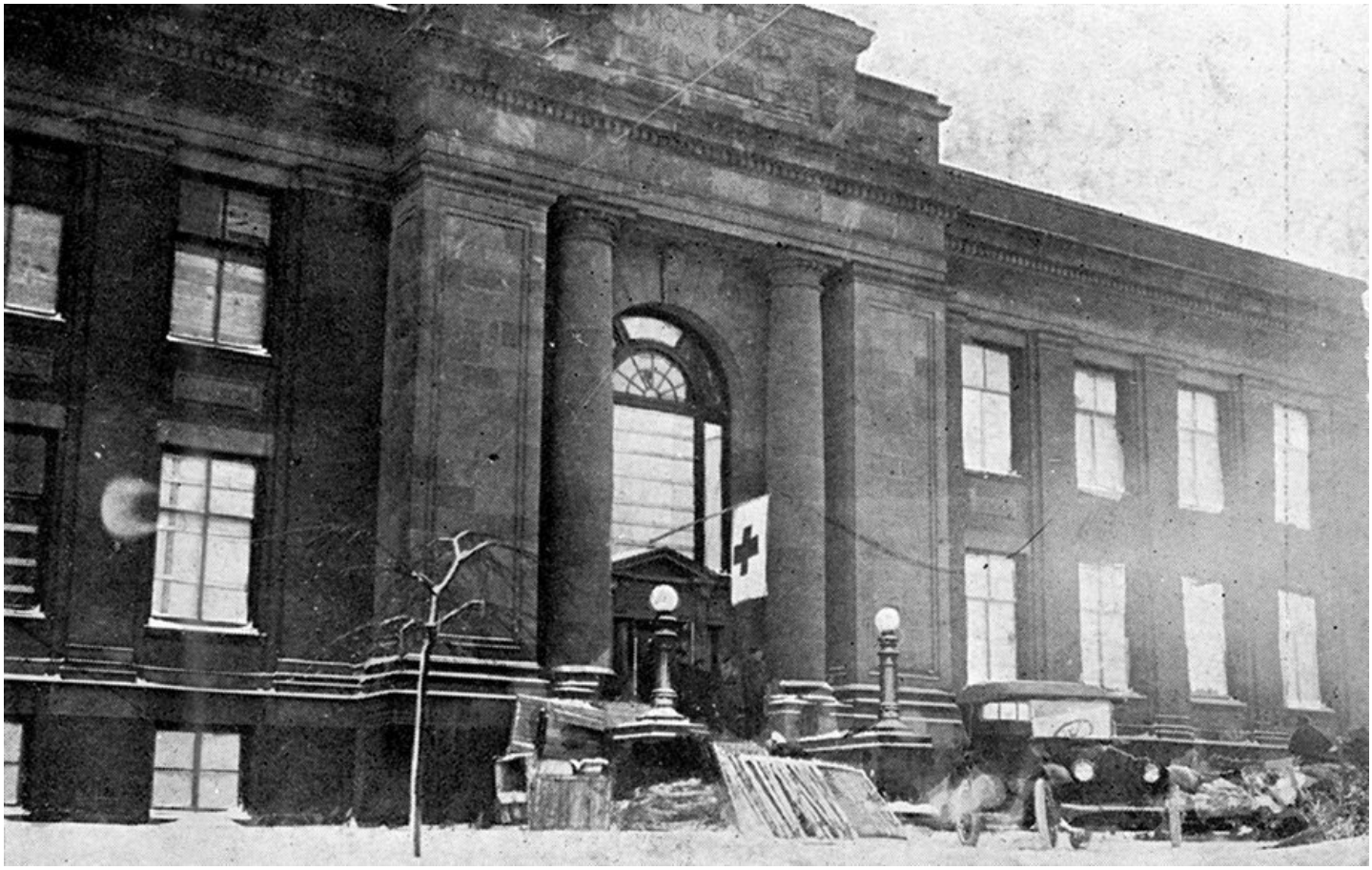
Frances Coleman and all four of her children survived and recovered. A few days later, searchers found Vincent Coleman's body in the wreckage of the Richmond rail yards. #HalifaxExplosion



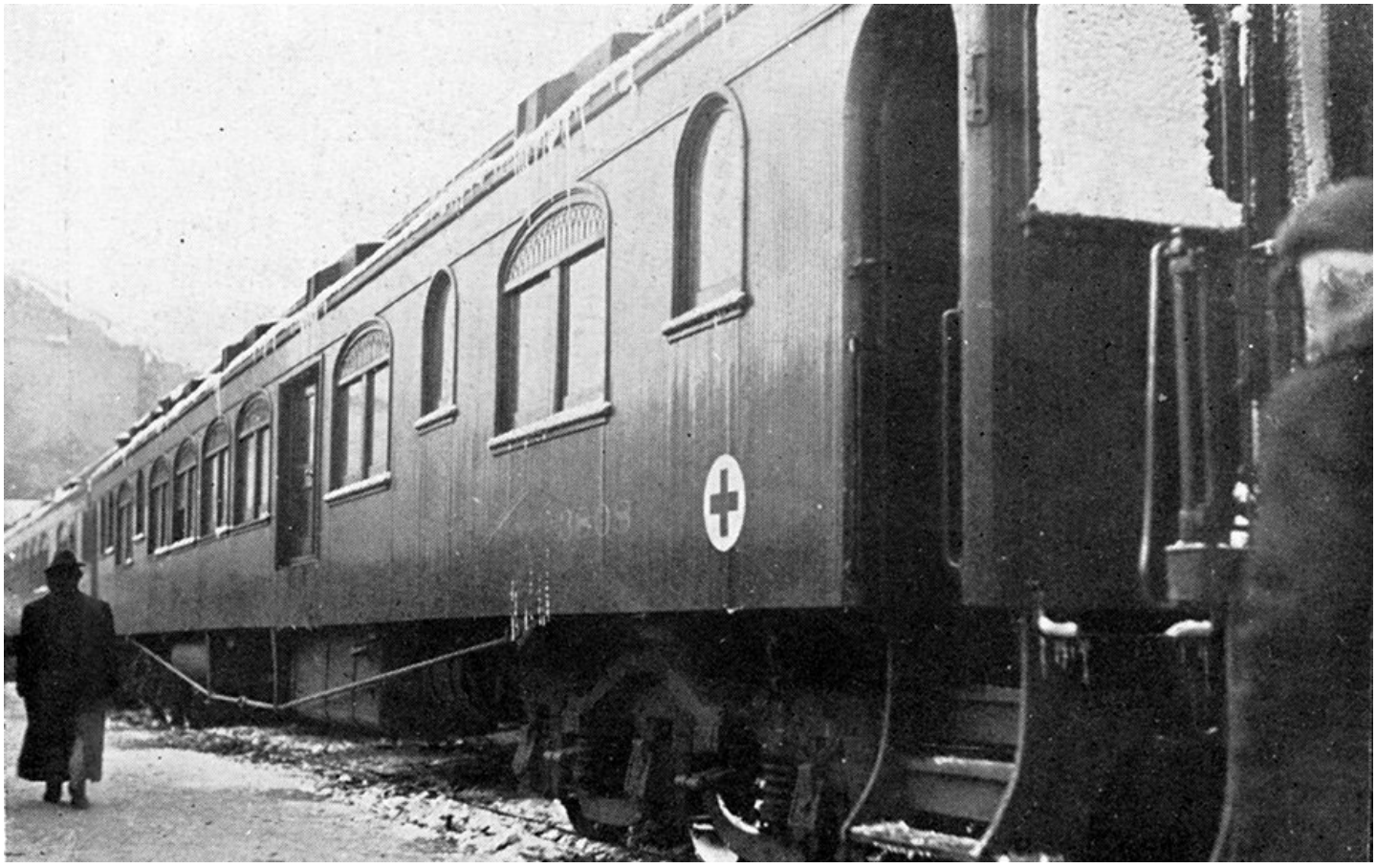
Frances was presented with the telegraph key, the watch and the pen of her husband. The Coleman artifacts form a special part of @ns_mma permanent exhibit on the 1917 Halifax Harbour Explosion https://t.co/bCVVydTEhm #HalifaxExplosion



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 Barrinton
Stratton Willie 1351 Barrington
Stratton Winifred 1351 Barrington
Stratton Wm 1351 Barrington
Sturmey 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 https://t.co/AmDvF7McBi @NS_Archives



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/pqK2Dw9bLn