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# The Weekly Monitor

Featuring the  
News of  
Annapolis and  
Digby  
Counties

VOL. XLV—No. 36

BRIDGETOWN, ANNAPOLIS COUNTY, N. S., WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 12, 1917

TERMS:—\$1.50 per Year in Advance. Single Copies 3 cents

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We have a good stock of

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## KARL FREEMAN

QUEEN STREET BRIDGETOWN

## HALIFAX IN RUINS

Over 3,000 Killed, 5,000 Seriously In-  
jured and 25,000 Homeless

The City Was Shocked to Its Very Heart at Five Min-  
utes Past Nine O'clock Thursday Morning by an  
Explosion Which Left a Trail of Death and Ruin  
Unparalleled in the History of This or any Other  
Canadian City.

On Thursday morning the French steamer Mont Blanc was steaming up the harbor with Pilot Frank Mackey in charge and reached a point opposite the northern terminals of the C. G. R., while the Belgian Relief steamer, Imo, was proceeding out in charge of Pilot William Hayes and they were approaching each other. For some inscrutable reason the Belgian steamer violated the rules of navigation and the result was that she collided with the Mont Blanc. Soon the Frenchman burst into flames. She was loaded with 5000 tons of high explosives. The crew abandoned her and all escaped safely to the Dartmouth shore.

Then, came the terrific explosion which destroyed the extreme north-eastern part of Halifax, caused the death of more than 2,000 persons, and perhaps double that number, rendered 25,000 people homeless; and involved a property loss of from \$15,000,000 to \$20,000,000—all it would seem, because some one had blundered, or worse.

Behind all, as responsible for disaster, is that arch criminal, the Kaiser of Germany, who forced our Empire and her allies into this fearful war.

### COLLISION WAS TERRIFIC

The collision was a terrific one, the munition boat being pierced on the port-side practically to the engine room. The relief vessel which was practically uninjured kept going ahead with the wounded craft and when fire was seen to break out aboard her, backed away as the crew started to abandon her.

The Mont Blanc drifted away a burning wreck, while the relief boat beached near Tuft's Cove on the Dartmouth side of the harbor. Seventeen minutes after the collision, the explosion occurred. Under the force of the explosion, houses crumbled like decks of cards, while the unfortunate residents were swept to death in the debris.

In the main portion of the city, where the buildings are more or less of stone or concrete, the damage was confined to the blowing in of windows and the injuries sustained by the citizens were due in the main to cuts owing to flying glass. Proceeding south to the extreme end of the city the same thing was observed.

### HOUSES BLOWN TO ATOMS

In the west end, and north west the damage was more extensive and the walls of houses were in places blown to atoms and the plaster and laths strewn on the streets more like a shell torn section of Flanders than a town or city of Canada.

The main damage, however, was done in the north end of the city, known as Richmond, which was opposite the point of the vessels' collision.

Here, the damage is so extensive as to be totally beyond the field of description. Street after street is in ruins and flames swept over the district.

In this section many of the larger buildings are a smouldering heap of ruins and the ordinary frame houses are a mere heap of shattered, flattened debris.

### TERROR-STRICKEN PEOPLE

Five minutes after the explosion occurred, the streets were filled with a terror-stricken mob of people, each one trying to make his or her way as best they might to the outskirts in order to get away out of the range of what they thought to be a German raid.

Women rushed in terror-stricken mobs through the streets, many of them with children clasped to their breasts. In their eyes was a look of terror as they struggled in mobs through the streets with blood-stained faces, horror-stricken, while they endeavored to get anywhere from the falling masonry and crumbling walls.

By the wire and lath-littered road-sides as they were passed, there could be seen the remains of what had once been human beings, now horribly cut to pieces, but beyond realization of

what had occurred. Here and there by a cracked and shattered telegraph pole was the cloth wrapped body of a tiny tot, scarred and twisted in the force of the horrible explosion which had wrenched all in its path.

By the side of many of the burning ruins, were women, who watched with horror, the flames as they consumed the houses which in many cases held the bodies of loved ones who would never more be seen.

### SAW NOTHING ON BATTLE FRONT LIKE IT

Colonel McKelvie Bell, who was over two years on the firing line in Flanders, says he never saw anything on the battle front to equal the scenes in Halifax today.

### FIRE CHIEF KILLED

In the early morning before the collision, fire broke out and the department apparatus was rushed to the scene. They were preceded by the fire chief, Edward Condon, Deputy Chief William Brunt and Peter Broderick, in the chief's automobile.

While on their way, the explosion occurred, instantly killing all of the occupants.

The flame-swept belt begins at what is known as the North street station and extends northward to Pier 8, Richmond, on the waterfront, and backward to a point running practically parallel with Gottingen street.

This embraces about two or two and a half square miles of territory.

In this portion of the city there is nothing recognizable.

A Friday's despatch says: A terrible northeast blizzard adds horror to the Halifax holocaust. The dead are being taken out crusted with snow and charred by fire. The estimate of 2,800 is believed to be correct. A child was found living today in the ruins, unhurt, and it is feared, this means that many have been burned alive. Two hundred children's bodies remain in the Dartmouth school. There are indescribable scenes at the morgue. One man saw all that remained of two beautiful daughters, twenty-two and eighteen, in one small box; also his gallant son recently home from the front after three years' fighting, and his wife with bodies terribly mutilated, legs, arms and heads missing. A soldier on the train coming to the city was crying over the picture of his sweetheart taken two weeks ago, and who now has both eyes gouged out by the awful concussion. There are many cases like this.

All that could be seen for miles in circumference was burning buildings, bricks and iron lying in the streets, dead bodies strewn along the sidewalks, men, women and children lying dying on the streets, some with fractured skulls, others with broken limbs.

It is estimated that fully sixty per cent of the buildings of the city had been affected and at least forty per cent of them wrecked. Stores of all kinds were vacated, fruit, clothing, groceries and hundreds of other lines of goods were all over the streets and roads.

On a special train made up outside of Richmond and sent with wounded and refugees to Truro, people were dying in cars like flies. Some of them came to the place with noses shot off, eyes put out, faces slashed in all directions with flying glass, limbs torn and distorted. One man came in with blood streaming from what was originally his face. On one occasion while working around a wrecked building, a little baby was noticed fifty feet or more in and underneath burning masses, crying for aid. No one could get within thirty feet of him and they had to watch while he was burned to death.

Men, women and children were lying on the streets and hundreds are buried beneath wreckage who have not yet been accounted for.

Sunday's despatch says: Three days have passed since the blow struck and Halifax has hardly been able to grasp the magnitude of the calamity. More

dead are still in the ruins and the hospitals, filled with the serious cases, hourly add their toll to the gruesome rows in the morgue and mortuary chambers. It is realized that the correct total of dead may never be known but, it is believed, the approximate total will, at least reach 3,000, and that the property loss will run well up to but will not exceed \$20,000,000.

### GALLANT WORK OF VOLUNTEERS

An act of supreme duty was that of the 72nd battalion of Ottawa in charge of the magazine here. When the explosion occurred, the first thought of everybody was: "It will be the turn of the magazine next."

Had it been detonated or fired it would have meant the end of Halifax and everybody in it.

Anticipating the explosion of the magazine thousands of people who had rushed into the streets on hearing the first roar from the Mont Blanc flocked to the open spaces and waited trembling.

The area set on fire was on three sides of the magazine and the heat in from the blazing buildings soon became intense. The thing to do was to flood the magazine, though this would take time.

Lieutenant Olmstead, the officer in charge, called for volunteers to pump in the water and stand by until the work was completed. Every man in the battery volunteered.

Not until all danger of the explosion of the magazine was over did they leave their posts to take part in the general rescue work.

### A FEW OF THE MANY DAMAGED BUILDINGS

The business section from North street station south is not irreparably damaged nor is the damage confined to the mere breaking of windows. The floors in the new Casino are gone, and the interior of many fine stores is a total wreck. Drug stores supplies were pretty well broken up. The city hall itself is something of a wreck. The clock is smashed in, doors downstairs are wrenched off or hanging from one hinge. The King Edward Hotel is a total wreck and is unoccupied, the walls are standing. The Maritime Merchant plant is badly wrecked. Clayton's big clothing factory presents a picturesque appearance with every window gone. The city market, further up the hill, is in much the same condition.

The roof of St. Patrick's church is caved in on one side of the ridge pole and there is great damage in the interior. Looking across to the C.G.R. elevator it is seen this structure had a narrow squeak. Pretty well up on the northern end the whole wall between two floors is missing and the remainder of the way up, has buckled out.

A portion of the roof of the station itself fell in and casualties there were heavy, only two of the people in the station at the time escaping without serious injury.

General Manager George Graham, of the Dominion Atlantic, with his wife and daughter, were breakfasting in their car at North street but escaped uninjured.

Superintendent J. I. Hallisey, of the C. G. R., was in his official car at North street at the time and was severely cut about the head and face.

The Dry Dock plant was wrecked and two steamers lying at the Dry Dock pier had their superstructures swept away and were riddled with fragments of flying steel. There was only one casualty on one of these steamers but on the other not a man of the crew of forty was found alive.

The Captain, Pilot, officers and crew of the Mont Blanc abandoned their ship after the collision and reached the Dartmouth shore with the loss of only one man. The tale of the crew of the Imo is still in doubt, but a newspaper reporter who boarded the steamer Sunday afternoon found the bodies of three men on the deck. The boat was found bottom up, and it is believed the crew were caught by the explosion as they were attempting to reach the shore.

Pilot William Hayes, who was on the Imo, is also missing. Pilot Frank Mackey, who was on the Mont Blanc, escaped unhurt.

The survivors of the Belgian relief ship Imo, which collided with the Mont Blanc, and Pilot McKay and Captain Lamedue, of the French vessel, are being detained by the British Admiralty authorities pending the official enquiry.

### HORRIBLE SIGHTS

There are horrible sights at Camp Hill Hospital. One young woman lies in agony, an attenuated form, both legs burned off close to the body. A soldier was brought here. His skin

had gone with his clothes but he was breathing and living and joking.

### ALMOST UNBELIEVABLE

Unbelievable things happened when the munition ship exploded. But the case of Third Officer Mayers, of the British Transport Middleton Castle, stands out as the most remarkable. The transport was not more than two hundred yards away from the Mont Blanc when the crash came. At that moment Mayers was on the deck, ready to step into a small boat to go ashore.

When Mayers came to he was prone on the high ground half a mile away, stark naked. There was not a piece of clothing on his body, when he was picked up and removed to a house near by.

The Middleton Castle was wrecked beyond repair and most of her crew and mechanics from the city at work in her engine room, were killed.

### STORIES OF THE CATASTROPHE

Stories of the incidental episodes connected with the catastrophe continue to pour in. At the Richmond school, where hundreds of children are believed to have been either killed by concussion or smothered beneath the roof and walls, a little boy was blown through the collapsing ruins and is practically unhurt.

As far as can be learned there were between fifty and sixty men at the Acadia Sugar Refinery when it collapsed. V. P. Patterson, the superintendent, is reported to be saved, and he is at one of the hospitals, it is thought.

One man came up on the street and asked to see if his wrist was broken because he could not feel anything in his hand. When a reporter took hold of the hand it came off; it had been hanging by the skin alone, which is only a sample of the terrible injuries that have befallen many of the citizens of Halifax, and unless a man saw it all, he could not form any idea of it.

At the Wellington street barracks, which were destroyed, nobody in the interior of the building was injured, though it contained more than 600 men. Six guards on the outside were killed by concussion.

Sunday, men of the naval forces here dredged the water front and recovered 200 bodies of sailors, soldiers and men working there.

### NO CHURCH SERVICES

At the suggestion of the mayor no church services were held Sunday in order to give the citizens an opportunity to render relief work. All the stores were kept open to facilitate the distribution of foodstuffs.

### HARBOR AROSE AND FELL TWENTY FEET.

When the explosion took place the water in the harbor was swept down twenty feet, and when it flowed back it caused a great deal of damage by sweeping over the wharves.

All the men who came off the ships which collided were perfectly black. They got soaking wet getting ashore.

### USING NEW TERMINALS

They are now using the new terminals in Halifax since the North street depot was destroyed and the trains are not run in as they arrive, but are relayed, two cars at a time.

### SHOCK FELT FOR MANY MILES

The shock was felt at Charlottetown, P. E. I., 125 miles away and panes of glass were broken in Truro 60 miles distant.

### PROMPT RELIEF

A relief train left Truro one hour after the disaster, containing doctors, nurses and medical supplies together with food and clothing.

Soon after, relief trains arrived from Moncton and St. John, and have continued to arrive from Boston, New York, Washington, D. C., Toronto, Montreal and Vancouver, B. C.

A splendid spirit was shown by the towns of the province by the assistance so promptly given.

All outside towns contributing relief are requested to furnish as far as possible, the following articles: Glass, beaver board, tarred paper, lumber, putty, bedding and blankets.

### PRACTICALLY ALL THE GERMANS IN HALIFAX ARE TO BE ARRESTED

No information has been given out as to the reasons for the arrest, and the authorities refuse to say if it was done through any evidence they had secured in regard to the explosion.

### The Victory Loan

Canada's Victory Loan was a tremendous success. The Finance Minister asked for \$150,000,000 and got \$408,475,400. There were 707,113 subscribers or about one in every 11 of the population of Canada.

Ontario raised just about half of the total. Nova Scotia raised over \$18,000,000. Annapolis county subscribed about \$500,000. Digby county \$287,000 from 800 subscribers. Halifax city and county took five millions of the bonds. But Cumberland county perhaps deserves the honor for Nova Scotia, taking two millions, one in every eight of her population becoming a subscriber.

### U. S. Declares War on Austria Hungary

President Wilson has called a special meeting of Congress to officially declare war on Austria-Hungary, and he adds that any peace that America makes must include delivery of the peoples of Austria-Hungary, Turkey and the Balkans, as well as Northern France and Belgium, from Prussian domination.