

the disaster and wended her way alone to this place, a distance of about four miles. She had no hat or coat but her little school bag was on her shoulder. I took her away and placed her at the house with her sister. The meeting of the two little girls was delightful to watch.

This made No. 3 of my family that I had found, so I was still in hopes of the other two children, but as weeks have gone by my hopes are waning. The ruins of my home have been searched by the Military authorities but no trace can be found.

So I am still grieving for my little boy Freddie, aged 3 years, and baby Laura, aged 14 months. I can only suppose that the fire had been so fierce and the children young every visage would be consumed.

At the time of writing my wife is still in hospital improving, and does not know of the loss of the two younger children. This has to be broken later.

On asking my wife what she remembered of the accident, she stated that she had gone upstairs to straighten the bedrooms, and opening the staircase window, noticed the ship burning. She called to her friend next door, a Mrs. Chubb, and she also came up and watched the sight with her. A few seconds after she noticed a big column of smoke ascend, and then nothing more until she recovered in hospital three weeks later. Mrs. Chubb was the person who escaped from the house and told me my wife had perished.

In closing I may add that I lost the whole of my worldly possessions by the explosion, also the lives of two of my children, and have had to depend on the relief which has been so kindly provided by various sources, etc.

The whole proceeding has been so impressed on my mind that it appears like a hideous dream.

Mrs. Gammon came to Halifax eight months before the outbreak of the war from Plymouth, England.

I came to this country in the H.M.C.S. "Niobe," transferring from the Imperial Navy.

I was at Malta in 1908 when the Messina earthquake happened. We left Malta to render aid to the stricken populace. That was terrible to witness, but for so short a notice I think the Halifax disaster was more so.

JOHN T. GAMMON,
H.M.C.S. "Niobe,"
Halifax, N. S.,
25th January, 1918.