Halifax explosion 1917

In preparation
Halifax explosion 1917

- A French munitions ship, Mont Blanc, caught fire and exploded when it collided with the Norwegian ship, Imo, chartered to carry Belgian relief supplies.

- The collision occurred in Halifax, Nova Scotia at 09.04 on Thursday 6 December 1917.

- It killed 2000 people and injured thousands more.

- The explosion caused a tsunami and a pressure wave of air that snapped trees, demolished buildings and carried debris for kilometers.
Halifax explosion - timeline

**Dec 6th**
- 07.30 Mont Blanc enters the harbour. IMO weighs anchor in Bedford basin
- 08.30 Vessels sight each other.
- 08.45 collision. Alarm sent into West Street engine house
- 09.06 Explosion. Rescue work begins. Picton cut loose
- 10.00 Sound alarm and panic
- 10.30 Truro sends aid
- 13.00 Train of wounded leave for Truro
- 18.00 Morgue and various shelters open

**Dec 7th**
- Morning. Blizzard begins
- 19.00 Relief train arrives from Montreal

**Dec 9th**
- 02.00 Storm begins

**Dec 12th**
- First published list of unidentified bodies in morgue
- Cable of sympathy from King George. Mounted guard placed over devastated area. Living man exhumed from ruins

**Dec 13th**
- Court of Inquiry opened

**Dec 14th**
- Severe storm

**Dec 17th**
- Gas turned on for first time. Civic activities completely resumed
Halifax explosion – ship movements
Halifax explosion – fire fighting

GOTTINGEN STREET LOOKING SOUTH FROM WELLINGTON BARRACKS
Halifax explosion - tsunami
Figure 2. Map with Submarine Nets and Details of Richmond. On December 6th, just before five minutes past nine, all was changed.
Halifax explosion – Refinery ruins

The Acadia Sugar Refinery—Was reduced to a heap of ruins.
Halifax explosion – smoke plume

- Horizontal cloud may be from benzene burning before explosion.
- Vertical plume is fire after explosion. Time unknown.