

## 1917 Halifax Explosion Quick Facts:

- December 6, 1917, 9:04 a.m.
- Halifax was a major wartime port, with the Bedford Basin providing shelter for convoys heading overseas and soldiers waiting to be deployed to the front.
- Ships Involved: Belgian Relief Ship, the *Imo*, and the *Mont Blanc*, a munitions ship. The two collided in The Narrows, the tightest part of the harbour channel, and the *Mont Blanc* caught fire.
- The highly volatile munitions on board ignited and created the largest manmade explosion in history until the detonation of the atom bomb in 1945.
- There were over 1700 deaths with 9000 injured and 25000 left without adequate shelter in a population of approx. 50,000.
- The north end, working-class community of Richmond took the brunt of the blast, with most of it completely leveled.
- Camp Hill Hospital had newly opened as a convalescent hospital for wounded soldiers. Max capacity was under 300; on the day of the explosion, it received over 1300 wounded.
- There was a staggering number of eye injuries as many stood at windows to see the “ship on fire”, and received injuries from the glass when the explosion blew out windows.
- Relief efforts from afar were quick to be deployed—from nearby cities in Nova Scotia and Atlantic Canada, but also from Boston, who sent a ship of relief items as well as a full medical unit from Harvard.
- This gesture is still rewarded today as Halifax sends the city of Boston a Christmas tree each year.

For more information, visit

<https://www.thecanadianencyclopedia.ca/en/article/halifax-explosion>