

St. Paul's Emergency Hospital

St. Paul's response to the Great Catastrophe of December 6, 1917

*St. Paul's and
the Great War
"The Halifax
Explosion"*



Roome Street, after the explosion represents the devastation wrought on the residential streets of the Richmond area of Halifax, so close to the Narrows.

At the top of the picture is the shell of Richmond School. Also there is a connection with the Funeral List in that Armitage recorded the burials - in one small casket all that was mortal of a mother and four children - Cora Moxon and four children between 8 months and 4 years old. All that was left of their bodies was "charred remains" because of the fires that finished the destruction of the houses on Roome Street.

Nova Scotia Archives



The Senior Medical Staff of St. Paul's Emergency Hospital, photographed with the Reverend Samuel Henry Prince in a room formerly used as a gymnasium. They were closely supervised by officers of the Halifax Relief Commission with regular demands for information on their plans to fight fire, the number of patients treated (in the first four days: 400) their names, ages, condition. A constant watch was required for signs of diphtheria. On 5 January 1918 a letter informed Mr. J. E. Parker, Superintendent, St. Paul's Shelter, of the immediate closure of the "dressing station". Supplies to be turned into the Red Cross, Technical College, and patients instructed to go to the Halifax Visiting Dispensary or the YMCA Emergency Hospital.

St. Paul's Archives



The New York Times, December 16, 1917

General view of the narrows at Halifax, N.S.

Where the explosion of the French Line steamship *Mont Blanc* took place. Showing a portion of the waterfront with its wrecked buildings, railway cars and tracks in the foreground, and, in the background, the Belgian Relief Ship *Imo*, which rammed the *Mt. Blanc*, causing the explosion, beached on the Dartmouth shore, as well as the American Warship which rushed to the aid of the stricken City, its Commander having heard the explosion 52 miles at sea.
International Film Service.

Group of Rescue Workers, operating under the direction of the City and Red Cross Officials, seeking dead and wounded in the debris of water-front tenements. The tented city on Halifax Commons, hastily erected to accommodate the soldiers who gave up their barracks to homeless women and children.

Throngs of Citizens' Relief Committees and the Red Cross Organizations. Sleighs employed to remove whole families and bedding from roofless dwellings to Public buildings and tents provided for the homeless.

Wrecked church and school on the Richmond waterfront, Halifax.

Halifax Harbor, looking up the narrows from the Richmond or Northern section of the city, showing complete destruction of every building in this part of the city.

Premier Borden Of Canada, with members of the American Red Cross Expedition sent from Boston to aid rescue work in Halifax.

In the Group, Left to Right, Are: John F. Moors of Boston, Major Giddings, U. S. A.; Canadian Prime Minister Sir Robert Borden, and A. C. Rathesky.

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LEFT
Explosion aftermath: St. Joseph's Convent, located on the southeast corner of Gottingen and Kaye streets

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RIGHT
Sled bearing victims of the explosion in the harbor of Halifax, Nova Scotia, of 6 December 1917.

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HALIFAX
EXPLOSION

100