

HALIFAX NOW COUNTS ITS DEAD AT 4,000; 1,000 BODIES RECOVERED, 200 OFF PIERS; FIRST AMERICAN RELIEF TRAIN ARRIVES

SEARCH EXHAUSTS WORKERS

Hundreds of Victims
Entombed in the Rich-
mond District.

TOLL OF CHILDREN HEAVY

Scores Dead in Barracks or
Missing—Twenty-eight Men
Lost on Cruiser Niobe.

HOMELESS IN DIRE NEED

American Surgeons and Nurses
Take Hold Swiftly in the
Crowded Hospitals.

Special to The New York Times.

HALIFAX, N. S., Dec. 8.—With the continuance of the search in the ruins of the devastated northern part of the city, estimates of the dead from Thursday's disastrous explosion were raised tonight to 4,000. The Coroner has already ordered that number of coffins.

The loss of life was put too low in earlier estimates because of the belief that the loss of life in public schools, institutions, and other places where many were congregated was less than it proved when the examination of debris was resumed after the heavy snowstorm subsided today.

It was found today that a large number of children were killed in two schools which were torn to pieces by the explosion. Of 550 boys and girls who had just entered the building when the explosion took place only seven, it is said, escaped with their lives.

Great loss of life is reported at the Naval College also.

It was ascertained today that the bodies of fully 200 children remained in the ruins of the Dartmouth School.

In the Protestant Orphan's Home the matron and every child was killed.

Railway men at work were killed in large numbers, and hundreds were killed on the waterfront near the place of the explosion.

Of the dead a total of only 1,000 bodies has been recovered so far, and not half of these have been identified.

More than 4,000 homes were completely demolished or rendered uninhabitable by the blast of explosives. Their 25,000 inmates thus became homeless.

Every house affording the least shelter has been thrown open to refugees. Hundreds of the homes, which escaped with the least damage, are crowded to their capacity.

The suffering of the survivors has been increased greatly from lack of warm clothing. Many had their clothing torn to shreds or whisked completely from their bodies by the explosion. Others ran from tottering homes without hats or coats. Many of these were compelled to stay indoors for warmth. Others more vigorous came out with blankets wrapped about their bodies and worked in the ruins today.

Scores Are Made Blind.

The scenes in the hospitals today were beyond words. The proportion of those blinded is very high. The blast of trinitrotoluol and guncotton sent thousands of pieces of glass flying through the air with the velocity of lead from a shotgun, embedding them frequently in the face and eyes. Catapulting beams and chunks of wood inflicted many injuries. In some cases, either by the direct concussion or by missiles, eyes were completely torn from the head.

Many persons were brought to hospitals with their faces cut to ribbons. One peculiar injury was a throat cut from ear to ear on a man who was shaving when the explosion took place.

When the weather cleared today after the forty-mile gale of yesterday, snow lay on the ground two and a half feet deep in some places. All through the night shaky wrecks of houses toppled over. The search of the ruins was rendered dangerous today because roofs would fall through and leaning houses would tumble from time to time under the weight of the snow.

Surveys made by builders of the devastated area today placed the property loss in the burned region two miles square in the area at more than \$20,000,000.

Six large piers were destroyed, but the great new piers in the southern part of the city, which provide facilities for Government service in loading freighters and transport ships, passed through the explosion practically untouched. The business section escaped with comparatively light damage. The smashing of glass and plaster and the scattering and injuring of stock were the main losses here. The business section can be quickly restored when workmen and materials are available.

Thousands of painful stories of individual sorrow and bereavement are merged in the general disaster. One man who arrived on the train from New Glasgow today to look after his

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HALIFAX DEAD, 4,000; RELIEF TRAINS THERE

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family found his wife, his five children, and his mother all dead.

One man lost his wife, two daughters, 18 and 22 years old, and his gallant son, home from the front on a furlough after three years of fighting.

A soldier, starting before the disaster on his way to this city to see his sweetheart, found her blinded for life.

Relief Trains Still Delayed.

The gale and snow have been delaying relief trains. A special train from St. John was eighteen hours en route. With the snow on the ground and the high wind continuing further delays are feared.

Requests have been sent to neighboring cities for gaziers, carpenters, and other workmen, whose early arrival is hoped for, in order that emergency hospitals, and later emergency housing buildings, may be put into inhabitable condition, because of the increasing cold and the storms that are certain to come before any permanent rebuilding can be undertaken.

Many carloads of clothing and blankets can be used, because practically none of the persons in the area swept by the fire and explosion is left with proper equipment of this kind. After the explosion, the military authorities ordered the population to evacuate even such buildings as were then standing, as the fear was then felt that explosions of magazines might follow that of the ship. Survivors hurried away without waiting for their belongings which, for the most part, were later consumed in the fire.

The things most urgently needed are glass, putty, clothing, especially children's clothing, and blankets. There was plenty of food today, although bread and some other articles were scanty. A St. John Relief Committee arrived tonight with a trainload of supplies and met with a pathetically eager reception.

One of the miracles of the day was the rescue by Frank Leonard of St. John of a little child and a puppy, who were found, both uninjured, in a room, the walls of which had remained intact, although most of the rest of the house had collapsed about it. They had been there two whole days without food. The child, snuggled up close to the dog, was near exhaustion from cold, hunger, and fear.

Crowds composed largely of weeping women and children, shivering in soaked clothing, filled the outgoing trains today on their way to other towns, where they can be taken care of. Many of the homeless population may be sent elsewhere until the city can be partly restored.

Effective help has been rendered by an American ship in the harbor, although its ability to relieve suffering was limited. Many of the worst cases of injuries near the waterfront were treated on the ship, the patients being carried out in motorboats.

Stories of German plots are afloat here. One tale said a man, supposedly German, was seen to steer the blazing Mont Blanc in toward Pier 6 before he and hundreds of others were blown out of existence.

Other accounts of the collision given today vary from the earlier ones. One version was that the Mont Blanc, after catching afire and being abandoned, drifted into the relief ship Imo.

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